

University Senate Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2021, 3:30-5:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from March 1, 2021 carried.

Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President

- University Senate nominations are opening this week.

Report from President Maurie McInnis

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- 120,000 shots delivered at the R&D Park.
- Giving shots to Long Islanders at R&D Park, Southampton, and pop-up sites.
- Will be moving back to a mostly regular fall semester and in person learning, working, and research.
- Will remain consistent with the guidance from the CDC and state officials, and final decisions will await until we are closer to the fall semester.
- About 80% of our fall classes are planned to be in person.
- A number of our larger classes due to renovation of Javits cannot be offered in person.
- Virtual interactions have been very effective, i.e. advising-no-shows have decline from 50% to 10%, more people join the departmental meetings.
- Thanked faculty and staff who served in task forces.
- Commencement is planned to take place in person, 10 ceremonies over three days, with a live streaming and recording.
- Federal relief act has given more than \$12.5 billion to state, and money to a variety of other entities in the State, including higher education.
- The Chancellor invited me to come speak to the board and tomorrow I will be in Albany to address the Finance Committee and explaining we need funding that is different from what is currently provided to us.
- We will have a virtual stony brook foundation Gala to raise money in support of scholarships for our students.

- Question: R. Larson – Regarding strategic budget initiative, committees and taskforces are done now and decision-making phase will happen during summer when we would mostly not be around or be distracted. How will you keep us posted?
 - Answer – Those who are interested in knowing the results can read our communications we send out.
- Question: J. Sanders: Can we prioritize vaccinating graduate students who will teach in fall on campus? Also, if we become the sole dispenser of Marijuana, we

can make a lot of money that can be used for student scholarship and student research. What are your thoughts?

- Answer – We'd love to vaccinate students who are or will teach, and students have had many opportunities to sign up. Right now, on Marijuana we are governed by federal law and State law.

- Question: A. Flescher: If CDC says about how frequently we need to be rebooted, will stony brook make those shots immediately available to us and there won't be any kind of bureaucratic snag? Some professors have difficulty using mask while teaching as their voice may not be clear. Will Stony Brook provide us with microphones or what would be SB policy if CDC let professors not to wear mask while teaching?
 - Answer: Regulations will come from state and I can't make any promises regarding future vaccinations. I don't know what CDC guidance is going to be related to the fall, we have to kind of wait and see where we are by fall.

- Comment – H. Nekvasil: Last year students and their parents liked zoom departmental graduation ceremonies, as every one of our students was highlighted. We talked about each student accomplishments and their awards.

- Question: N. Goodman: Are ventilation system in all the classrooms updated and watched to stay relative to the CDC requirements? As we assume that they will be in proper order by fall semester.
 - Answer: We were able to upgrade nearly every building. We will be following all health and safety guidance in advance of the fall.

- Question: E. Feldman: Will Stony Brook mandate vaccines for our students?
 - Answer: I think until SUNY says you can mandate vaccination for students, we legally are not in a position to do so.

Report from Provost Paul Goldbart

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).

- Introduced himself as a theoretical physicist and mentioned he looks forward to a vibrant vital partnership to make this great university even greater.

- Comment: M. Schedel: I think those of us in the Arts and Humanities often feel a little bit overlooked by the fact that we're being seen as a STEM university, but I just want to remind everyone that there is a depth of talent and excellence in history and arts as well at stony brook.

- Comment: H. Nekvasil: I think Stony Brook is excellent at collaborative research, and it extends all the way from the highest levels down to the undergraduate level. As provost, please fully incorporate the fact that our undergraduates are having an incredible exposure, beside faculty, graduate students and post docs.

- Question – M. Bowman: Can we get off fossil fuels fast enough?
 - Answer – I don't know enough to say.

Report from Sr. VP for Health Sciences Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Covid cases has gone up and we continue to be one of the most highly infected regions of the US, with high levels of test positivity, number of hospitalized patients, and clusters of outbreaks and demographics of our patients is actually getting a bit younger.
- The Joint Commission reviewed our diabetes care program last week, and having sat in on the site-visitors' evaluation of the program, the exit interview was marked by an incredible listing of very best practices with very few suggestions, not demands, for slight procedural change.
- The Renaissance School of Medicine graduating class of 2021 held a virtual match day in mid-March.
- The School of Social Welfare dean search is in its final phase.
- The School of Dental Medicine clinic is back in operation.
- Dr. David Lam was appointed Associate Dean for SDM Clinical Operations.
- The School of Nursing is now accepting applicants for a PhD in nursing.
- The School of Health Technology and Management Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted a series of seminars last month.
- The Program in Public health is working with the SOMAS to create a dual degree program.

Reports from UUP:

- Carolyn Kube, Stony brook HSC report:
 - IDA is open for the period of July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021.
 - Telecommuting policy extended until July 2, 2021.
 - UUP had an exclusive town Hall with Senator Chuck Schumer. The senator spoke about what the Rescue act delivered to NYS which is a total of 64B of the total 1.9 trillion. 35B went directly to state agencies, CUNY and SUNY being two of the state agencies. 2.6B higher education, half to going for student financial aid, the other half to campus administrations.
 - Student Debt forgiveness on income tax.
 - Increases in the Pell grants.
 - State Budget still not settled as of 2:00 pm today. Increases in taxes on the wealthy approximately generating in \$5M in revenue, mobile sports betting, and no increase to capital gains tax and estate taxes. No word on funding for higher Ed except a three-year freeze on tuition for SUNY and CUNY.
- Ed Quinn:
 - IDA is open for the period of July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021.
 - Telecommuting policy extended until July 2, 2021.
 - The revenue raises we're pushing estimated to raise \$7 billion for the state.

- We are looking to have SUNY fully funded, fixing the tab gap, fund our contractual raises, and hazard pay for our healthcare workers.

Old Business

- No old business.

New Business:

- [“TIAA Divestment Resolution”](#) by Justin Johnston
 - T. Wilson and A. Greco: Since our university senate represents both faculty and professional staff who invested in TIAA, we’d like to see the resolution say “University Senate”, rather than “faculty members”.
Yes: 81% (voting on the amended resolution)
- J. Sanders proposed that the above endorsed resolution be sent to stony brook foundation and urge them to follow it and do the same.
Yes: 85%
- John Clecker: Graduate students’ teaching and research has been impacted by financial situation and they don't think their stipend is enough. They want to assure that they as significant portion of the research and instructional workforce on campus will receive a livable wage.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.