

Stony Brook University Senate Bulletin

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Welcome to the first issue of the University Senate Bulletin.

This Bulletin will be a monthly publication with the purpose of informing the Senate's constituency of on-going and upcoming Senate business. The Senate leadership believes that an informed and active constituency is vital for keeping the University a favorable learning and working environment.

This Bulletin will be issued one week prior to the monthly meetings of the University Senate. The preliminary Senate agenda will be posted so that anyone who wishes to speak up on any matter may do so. The bulletin will also be used to inform the constituency of upcoming elections, and proposed changes in the by-laws or constitution, and to point to useful documents posted at the University Senate web page (<http://www.stonybrook.edu/univsenate/>).

As this is the first issue, we also include updates on the business of seven of the the University Senate's Standing Committees.

We hope you find this information useful.

For the Executive Committee,
Frederick M Walter, *University Senate President*

University Senate Meeting

The next meeting of the University Senate will be on Monday 4 February at 3:30 PM, in Wang Lecture Hall 2. All members of the university community are welcome to attend. The agenda includes:

- An update on the Massively Open On-Line Courses (MOOCs).
- Further discussion of the new GenEd requirement, with emphasis on the minimum passing grades and the Technology requirement.
- Report on last week's University Faculty Senate meeting.

Standing Committee Updates

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA).

- The committee reviewed and recommended approval for a proposal for a Bachelor of Science program in Technology Systems Management (BS/TSM) as part of SUNY Korea that will start in Spring 2013.
- The committee reviewed and recommended approval for a proposal by the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Student Activities for a "partnership" arrangement with Hofstra University for an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (AROTC) at Stony Brook University that will benefit our students both logistically and financially.

- The committee reviewed a proposal from the administration for a new budget planning model (Responsibility Center Management, RCM), and recommended the inclusion of additional faculty members from several relevant standing committees of the University Senate for the new Finance and Budget Committee developed as part of the RCM; this recommendation was accepted and has been implemented.
- A subcommittee is reviewing the level and use of resources for the University libraries.
- A subcommittee is examining the changes taking place at Stony Brook Medicine, including the implications of its possible association with Southampton Hospital.
- A subcommittee is monitoring the various programs at Stony Brook Southampton in terms of their development and resource needs.
- A subcommittee has been collecting data on and examining the campus budget allocations for the past 4 years.

Educational Services Committee. The development of curricula, what we teach, critically depends upon the learning environment available for education. As a result of advances in the cognitive sciences and communication technologies we have a better understanding of how students learn and can translate ideas on how students learn to our learning environment. The Educational Services Senate Committee focuses on contributing thoughtful ideas for the design and construction of new learning environments both in the physical space at the University and in the virtual online learning space. This academic year we will be addressing the following major issues:

- Ensuring that rehab of old as well as construction of new physical learning environments is done in accordance with best current educational practices and that those who are responsible for delivering education have an opportunity to contribute their needs and desires.
- MOOCs, online learning, and hybrid courses, how they can alter and possibly ease the demand for classroom space.
- Continue to improve awareness of, and access to, teaching and learning resources for all faculty including the Health Sciences Faculty.

Library Services Committee. The Senate Library Services Committee has dealt with several continuing issues during the recent past, including (i) funding for the library, (ii) optimizing the balance between use of funds to purchase books and print media on the one hand, and to purchase and maintain access to electronic resources and databases on the other; (iii) reorganization of the library and increased coordination between the Melville and Health Science Libraries, (iv) optimization of library space, and the related question of how to deal with offsite storage of books and other printed material that have low usage; (v) library personnel issues, such as retraining of personnel for new responsibilities, especially pertaining to digital resources; and (v) criteria for promotion and tenure in the library.

Research Committee. During the fall semester the Senate Research committee focused its effort on developing a joint resolution with the Graduate Council to increase minimum student stipends for the academic year for all RAs commensurate with raises in GA and TA minimum stipends.

For the Spring Semester the Senate Research Committee will be identifying areas where we can support faculty and administrators in advancing research at Stony Brook University. We will begin by exploring opportunities in the three growth areas identified by the Vice President for Research: Clinical Research, Technology Transfer and Faculty Recognition.

Student Life Committee. One theme of the Committee last semester was the cost of education at SBU. Matthew Whelan met with us to discuss the current financial situation of our students and the availability of financial aid. Kevin Kelly also described progress that is being made on the adoption of electronic books and eating services on campus. There was also some discussion about student fees and Chuck Powell, in connection with a presentation on technologies available to students, answered questions about the tech fee.

Other issues, driven by students, concerned student activities such as clubs. Peter Sheh and Derek Cope made an excellent presentation on the Bone Marrow Drive. Emily Edwards and Chris Weber gave a presentation on the National Residence Hall Honorary. Issues concerning the Sport Clubs, particularly the recreational fields, were actively discussed.

Undergraduate Council. The undergraduate council has been (and continues to be) working primarily on GenEd, although we have also considered other issues such as campus-wide standards for graduation honors (cum laude, etc), acknowledging membership in honor societies on the transcript, final exam schedule, etc.

University Affairs Committee. The University Affairs Committee will meet in 2 weeks with Dexter Bailey to discuss the Faculty/staff campaign. We also plan to with the chief of police and the director of Alumni Affairs.

Contacts

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