Agenda of the Faculty Senate Meeting
May 5, 2020
WebEx, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

I.   Convening of the Meeting – Ellen Thomas, President

II.   Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 21st

III.   Report of the Faculty Senate President

        a.   IFM debriefing
        b.   Covid-19 Advisory Committee
        c.   Meeting through the summer
        d.   Extending the Tenure Clock
        e.   Waiving Spring 2020 Student Evaluations
        f.   Faculty Profile Pages
        g.   Scheduling Simulation

IV.   FS Vice President and Executive Committee Elections

V.   CFRR motion – see attached (Gordon Thomas)

VI.   New BS in Financial Technology program (Alan Yan)

VII.   CUE report – see attached (David Horntrop)

VIII.   OARS (Tony Rosato)

IX.   New business

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
May 5, 2020
WebEx, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

I.   Convening of the Meeting – Ellen Thomas, President
     The meeting started at 11:32AM

II. Voting members present: A. Zhou, M. Bandelt, L. Rodriguez-Freire, D. Blackmore, D. Bunker, E. Farinas, I. Gatley, H. Grebel, R. Goodman, Q. Jones, B. Khusid, P. Armenante, N. Steffen-Fluhr, E. Michalopoulou, R. Dent, A. Borgaonkar, R. Rojas-Cessa, A. Rosato, U. Roshan, A. Anandarajan, M. Schwartz, R. Sodhi, D. Sollohub, G. Thomas, Y. Perl, A. Gerbessiotis, A. Lee

III. Non-voting members present: J. Bedient, K. Belfield, R. Lazer, O. Tukel, A. Hoang, M. Stanko, K. Riismandel, S. Mongelli, B. Kolarevic, B. Baltzis, J. Yuan.

IV. Guests present: David Horntrop (CUE), Alan Yan (MTSM), Wayne Fox (MTSM), Sotirios Ziavras (Graduate Studies), Cheickna Sylla (MTSM), Hindy Schacter (MTSM)

V.   Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 21st
     Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 21st were unanimously approved with 20 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions

VI. Report of the Faculty Senate President
     a. IFM debriefing
     b. Covid-19 Advisory Committee
         Committee, which includes FS Pres. and VP, to continue working throughout the summer. Committee is going to be more focused on the recovery process.
     c. Meeting through the summer
         FS to continue to meet in the summer as needed.
     d. Extending the Tenure Clock
         Tenure clock has been extended by 1 year, unless faculty member chooses to opt out (by May 22, 2020). All impacted faculty, Deans, and Chairs have been notified.
     e. Waiving Spring 2020 Student Evaluations
         Still under discussion internally.
     f. Faculty Profile Pages
         Listing of Courses: Norma Rubio will look at the different options Senate suggested and prepare a draft outlining what can and cannot done by the end of next month
     g. Scheduling Simulation
         Before the lockdown, Registrar created course blocks for upperclassmen and was on schedule for conducting the analysis. Worked with Office of Institutional Effectiveness to develop a faculty survey that is ready for review. Suggested delay analysis until Spring 2021, when things are closer to being back to normal.

VII. FS Vice President and Executive Committee Elections
     Anthony Rosato was elected as the new Vice President of Faculty Senate. Ellen Thomas, Gordon Thomas, and Unman Roshan were all elected as the new members of the Executive Committee.

VIII. CFRR motion – see attached (Gordon Thomas)
     E. Thomas: CFRR motion to give ~~adjuncts~~ instructional staff voting positions on search committees. Dr. Deek supports with a few changes to language. Motion to approve by G. Thomas. Seconded by D. Blackmore. Motion was approved with 1 abstention and 0 no.

IX.   New BS in Financial Technology program (Alan Yan)

A. Yan: Currently a concentration. For students with strong interest in applying technology and innovation with finance. Different careers: Insurance, Wealth Management, Mortgage/Real Estate etc. Rise in demand for people within this field with high salary. Testimony from Jordan Hu (Board of Trustee member): NJIT's FinTech is well positioned. Enrollment projections: organic growth with joint undergraduate program in FinTech with Shanghai Lixin Univ. of Accounting and Finance. Unique qualities: will be the first BS in FinTech degree program in the state and region, grow NJ's FinTech ecosystem, and attractive program for NJ high school students.

Next steps: consultant will be hired to review program, NJIT will make program announcement, consultant will submit report in the summer, then prepare an institutional response, and finally the complete package will be submitted to FS for final approval. Motion to support the process going forward by E. Michalopoulou. Seconded by D. Blackmore.

Discussion followed. D. Blackmore: Recommend run program by math department, developing some data analytics courses. A. Rosato: Is this program a merger of a Business and IT degree? A. Yan: FinTech offers courses in finance and cutting-edge technology that can be applied to traditional finance and innovations. Not just about writing codes, but taking advantage of the technology and reducing friction in financial markets. A. Rosato: Then is this a coupling of a degree in business with the technology that people are using today in the financial market? A. Yan: This program is about understanding the financial markets, where the technologies are and how to apply them for business purposes. The motion was approved with 0 no and 0 abstentions.

X.   CUE report – see attached (David Horntrop)

B.S. in Science, Technology, and Society

Motion to approve by N. Steffen-Fluhr. Seconded by D. Blackmore. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Biomechanics track

Motion to approve by E. Michalopoulou. Seconded by L. Rodriguez-Freire. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Biomaterials track

Motion to approve by A. Borgaonkar. Seconded by E. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Medical Device and Imaging track

Motion to approve by A. Rosato. Seconded by D. Blackmore. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

Minor in Biomedical Engineering

Motion to approve E. Thomas. Seconded by E. Michalopoulou. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

Minor in Nanotechnology

Motion to approve by A. Borgaonkar. Seconded by E. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.S. in Business

Motion to approve by L. Rodriguez-Freire. Seconded by E. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.S. in Business, International Business concentration

Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.A. in History

Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

B.A. in Law, Technology, and Culture

Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

Accelerated History/J.D. program, Accelerated L aw, Technology, and Culture/J.D. program
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
Accelerated History/M.D. program, Accelerated History/D.M.D.,O.D., Accelerated History/D.P.T.
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
Double major in Biology and Law, Technology, and Culture
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
Double major in Chemistry and Law, Technology, and Culture
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
B.S. in Chemistry
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
B.S. in General Engineering
Motion to approve, G. Thomas. Seconded by A. Borgaonkar. Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, Mathematical Biology concentration
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
Double major in Biology/Mathematical Sciences
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
Accelerated program in Mathematical Sciences/M.D.
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)
GER Subcommittee
Motion to approve by E. Thomas. Seconded by G. Thomas Approved (0 no and 0 abstentions)

XI. OARS (Tony Rosato)
A. Rosato: Previously had discussion with OARS department about issues. OARS is unable to notify instructors in advance or at beginning of course because of large number of students. Instructors should be notified who is registered with OARS. Propose FS write and send to Provost a resolution on this issue. Possibility of registrar putting an asterisk on the name of students who are registered with OARS.
Discussion followed. Chat: Not the only issue, sometimes students are diagnosed in the middle of the semester. A. Borgaonkar: Currently the responsibility is on the students to get in contact with OARS to specify which courses they need help with. Even if the student has been in contact with the office, it does not necessarily mean that all courses every semester are going to be affected. The issue is that students do not wake up until the exam is announced or they really need extra time/help to do well in the course. Unless the student needs help in the course, it does not trigger the process that then notifies the instructor. A. Rosato: OARS used to notify the instructors and the process went very smoothly. But now the process has changed and it is because OARS cannot keep up with the increasing number of students. Not an acceptable reason for an office to not be able to notify the instructor in advance. M. Schwartz: The problem with an asterisk on banner is that it is a confidentiality issue. The other issue is to know the kind of accommodations that are necessary for students. I have had students who have filled out their own accommodations. With the new system, and no notification from OARS, it is not possible for me to know if the accommodations on the sheet are written/typed by the student or are directly from what OARS has determined are the appropriate accommodations. That is a big concern. M. Stanko: Should be advocating for more staffing for that office. The OARS office has not grown in accordance with the number of students they serve, and as the faculty we should be advocating for that kind of growth. A. Gerbessiotis: Does OARS accommodations apply to PhD students? How do you handle those cases that are consistent with federal regulations? Do accommodations only apply to exams? If so, what kind of exams? Not getting information for accommodations early enough, and difficult to handle if teaching multiple sections of a course. Y. Perl: Is it possible to require OARS students to let the instructor know they need help ahead of time? Maybe the Office should set up some rules that the student has to let the instructor know

10 days ahead of time before the exam, and if they do not do it then the student will learn that they have to do it on time. L. Rodriguez-Freire wrote in the chat: experience with students who don't realize they need help until they are struggling in the course. A. Borgaonkar: What kind of outreach does OARS do for students? How can Faculty help promote OARS to students? D. Blackmore: OARS should work with experts in the university to use technology to improve their systems and office efficiency. By using innovations in programming and communications, they should be able to improve the situation.

FS will develop a list of comments in order to develop a resolution. Send any additional comments to E. Thomas.

XII. New Business-Pandemic Recovery Plan

I. Gatley: Has anyone taught a converged learning class? K. Riismandel: Highly dependent on accessibility to technology and reliability of internet connection. I. Gatley: Not many faculty have taught a converged online course. Possibility that instructor might not be in the classroom? B. Baltzis: Converged, does not mean online. The instructor delivers the class in the classroom and the classroom has technology that simultaneously transmits the information to the students that are in and not in the classroom. Do not know the requirements of space, so the idea is that some are attending in person and some remotely, therefore not much different from regular classes. B. Khusid: It seems that only a limited amount of rooms is available to accommodate converged learning. B. Baltzis: Yes, we are looking into the possibility of having the required equipment on carts that can be delivered to each room. The costs of these carts could be covered by FEMA. A proposal will be brought up. D. Blackmore: With the current financial situation, it sounds like this kind of undertaking is expensive and impractical on a large scale. G. Thomas: Do Faculty members have any choice? I. Gatley: Document is silent on that, but imagine we would get a chance. D. Sollohub: How about attendance in a converged learning environment? Anything recorded will be deleted and there are privacy issues as well. Y. Perl: Worried about what the students will have in terms of classes. Might increase enrollment. K. Riismandel: All issues need to continue to be brought up. Issue of being forced to go back to work, especially people who are immunocompromised or living with immunocompromised people. HR said they would handle it on a case by case basis. P. Armenante: What is the objective of converged learning? B. Baltzis: Message from Provost that was already sent will be going to parents and students to share the same information. A number of issues to deal with. Huge dissatisfaction from freshmen and sophomores, but higher satisfaction at the graduate level with online learning. D. Sollohub: Bring Fadi into the discussion. N. Steffen-Fluhr: Lucia brought up testing in chat. Joel also brought up testing. Testing is problematic.

It was decided to invite Provost Deek and Andrew Christ to an FS meeting to be held in two weeks to answer questions on the Plan.

XIII. The meeting ended at 1:21PM with a motion by D. Blackmore, and seconded by A. Rosato