Faculty Senate Meeting

May 1, 2017

Excused:
Senators Blumberg, Jones, Mattson, McGowan, Saharia

Meeting:
Electronic Information Center Room 041, Walsh Family Library, Rose Hill Campus.

Call to Order

The organizational meeting was called to order by Senate President Anne E. Fernald at 5:13 p.m. in the Electronic Information Center Room 041, Walsh Family Library, Rose Hill Campus.

Nomination of Faculty Senate President

Senator Schwalbenberg nominated Senator Vernon for Senate President, Senator Vernon declined the nomination.

Senator Clark nominated Senator McGee for Senate President, seconded by Senator Rubin.

Senator McGee was elected by acclamation to the position of Faculty Senate President.

Nomination of Faculty Senate Vice President

Senator Rubin nominated Senator Clark for Senate Vice President, seconded by Senator Rodriguez.

Senator Clark was elected by acclamation to the position of Faculty Senate Vice President.

Nomination of Faculty Senate Secretary

Senator Schwalbenberg nominated Senator Cox for re-election to Senate Secretary, seconded by Senator Heyman.

Senator Cox was re-elected by acclamation to the position of Senate Secretary.

Discussion of Administration’s Response to Student Protest

Senator Rubin suggested that the Executive Committee make an appointment with the administration to do fact-finding for the Senate regarding the current state of the University’s response to the student protest incident in the President’s office and the subsequent treatment of students involved in the protest. Conversation ensued. A Senator suggested that the subject of that proposed meeting be expanded to include not just the incident itself, but the role and authority of the Public Safety Office and the principles and guidelines that apply to both the Public Safety Office and the students. Discussion continued in regards to the appropriateness of expanding the parameters of the proposed meeting with the administration to include anything beyond fact-finding, and it was decided that to do so might harm the credibility of the Executive Committee.

Senator Rubin moved, seconded by Senator Chase:

The Senate directs the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to meet with the Administration to discuss the events that resulted in the removal of students from University housing this past Friday evening. The Senate is concerned about the events and the administrative process that led up to the removal of the students from the housing.
The motion was approved (18-0-0).

New Business

Senator Clark introduced a new discussion on the floor, regarding an incoming message he received pertaining to the salary & benefits negotiations underway between the faculty and the administration. Discussion ensued as to whether or not there was actually any new document provided to the Senate by the administration. A request was made to release the administration’s current offer to the rest of the faculty so that the details are more widely available, along with the information that was posted on the RAM feed. Senator Clark noted that providing him access to the faculty list would facilitate easier communication with faculty. It was noted that, as Vice President, Senator Clark would now have that access. A motion was made to have the contract included in the Action Minutes of this meeting.

The Senate moved:

In light of an approved MOA that applies to the period of AY2018-2020 and includes 2.7% salary increases in each year, the Faculty Senate authorizes the Salary and Benefits Committee to allocate a portion of the salary increase for AY2018 for merit in the amount stipulated by the Faculty Senate’s standing motion approved at the November 9, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting on merit increments and their annual increase that states:

Resolution on Merit Minimums (Clark/Jackson) Approved 15-1-0

The Faculty Senate moves to have merit awards (currently granted to 50% of the faculty) fixed to a set amount of $1200 and to be increased each year by the rate of inflation as measured by the CPI for the Metropolitan New York (Manhattan/NJ) area, in order to avoid an arbitrary windfall or shortfall to the recipient of merit in a given year. In years in which budget shortfalls might make paying such a sum impossible, recipients of merit for that given year will be awarded whatever amount is responsibly feasible and the rest of the sum as soon as budget conditions permit it.

The motion was approved (18-0-1).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Aimee Meredith Cox, Secretary