

## UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Maxwell Auditorium, 4:00 pm

The Chair, Ramesh Raina, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the last meeting of the fall semester. The chair also acknowledged the Onondaga Nation, the indigenous people on whose ancestral lands Syracuse University now stands. The Chair reminded attendees that if they wish to speak, they should raise their voting clickers to signify that they are a senator, and they should state their name for the record.

The first order of business is the Approval of the minutes from the November Senate meeting. The Chair called for any questions or corrections. As there were none, the Chair made a motion to approve the minutes, the vote was held and the motion carries. The minutes were approved.

The Chair raised the next order of business, the Agenda Committee motions regarding committee membership. The Agenda Committee membership is currently in violation of the Senate bylaws in there are more than four members from a single school or college. For the purpose of the Senate, the College of Arts & Sciences and the Maxwell School are the same unit. When the Agenda Committee was preparing the ballot for recently vacated seats on the committee, the committee was under the impression that the two schools were separate units.

Discussion followed regarding the two motions before the Senate and the repercussions of said motions. It was noted that the Bylaws Committee supported, in spirit, the two motions as written by the Parliamentarian. After further discussion regarding the implications of the motions and committee membership, a motion was made to call the vote. The motion was seconded. A vote was held to end debate on the issue and call the vote. The motion carries and the debate is ended.

A vote was held on Agenda Committee Motion 1. The motion carried by majority vote. The Chair read aloud Agenda Committee Motion 2 and asked for any questions or comments. As there were none, a vote was taken on Motion 2. The motion carries by majority vote.

The Chair raised the next issue regarding the Agenda Committee - Election of an ex officio member to the committee. The nominees for the ex officio seat are Senators Diane Murphy and Rochelle Ford. Each nominee was invited to make a statement to the Senate body.

The nominees gave brief statements to the membership and a vote was held to elect an ex officio member. Rochelle Ford was elected by majority to the Agenda Committee.

The Chair introduced Senator John Dannenhoffer of the Shared Competencies committee. Senator Dannenhoffer announced that the committee will be holding a meeting next week and would like to collect as many responses as possible to the survey that was sent to senators in November. He asked for everyone to respond by the end of the week so the committee could review everyone's input. A request was made to resend the link to the Shared Competencies survey to Senate members.

The Chair introduced Chancellor Kent Syverud to give his remarks. The Chancellor opened his remarks with a few words regarding the topics he briefly wanted to cover in today's meeting, including disabilities issues, sexual harassment and workplace environment, and the federal tax bills.

The Chancellor noted that Syracuse University has been working hard, in multiple ways, to show respect for the Onondaga Nation and the Haudenosaunee, as is appropriate and which he noted is long overdue. The Chancellor thanked all who are continuing to help in that effort. The Chancellor then announced that on Thursday, the community lost a leader of the Onondaga Nation, Chief Irving Powless, Jr., who passed away at the age of 88.

“Chief Powless was the chief of the Beaver Clan of the Onondaga Nation. He was a leader within and beyond the Onondaga Nation as a lecturer, author, teacher, lacrosse player and protector of the environment. He was a friend to this university and to this community. He served as secretary of the Onondaga Council of Chiefs for more than 30 years, and was a historian of his people. He received an honorary doctor of laws degree in 2009 from Syracuse University.

I ask that the minutes of the Senate show our University's collective respect for Chief Irving Powless, Jr., one who embodied the wisdom of the land, a historian, ambassador, actor, musician, veteran, defender of the environment and champion of justice.”

The Chancellor went on to discuss the recent tax reform legislation being worked on by Congress. The Chancellor noted that as a citizen and as steward of the university, he is gravely concerned how portions of the bill unfairly target university community. There are serious tax implications for our faculty, staff, and especially graduate students. The Chancellor added that he would be meeting after today's Senate with the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and Peter Vanable.

The Chancellor noted that the legislation has serious financial implications for our students and employees, and serious budgetary impact for the University as a whole. The Chancellor stated that sixty percent of our students receive some sort of student loan, and under the proposed legislation, those students will no longer be able to deduct interest on those loans. Faculty and staff who use our remitted tuition programs will be impacted by proposed cuts. In addition, our graduate students are seriously threatened by the treatment of remitted tuition as taxable income.

The Chancellor stated that there is a very large team working on the issues here and in Washington DC. The Chancellor noted that he has also reached out to Congressman John Katko to communicate the potential impact to the University community. The Chancellor indicated that the Congressman has signed a letter that will benefit our community if implemented as stated. The administration will continue to monitor the situation, including during the holiday break and Green Days.

The Chancellor moved on to disability issues, stating that he has been troubled this semester by an apparent disconnect between two narratives on the issue.

- One narrative celebrates our accomplishments
- Second narrative illustrates the misunderstood or misrepresented issues that still remain
- Further progress is needed

The Chancellor announced that the University has approved the new Information and Communication Technology Accessibility Policy. The Chancellor added that he approves of the new policy and stated that it has many implications for the University and the Senate.

The Chancellor noted that the University is at a point where it's reasonable to expect the University to conduct an evaluation of our disability services and related policies, including:

- medical leaves
- service animals
- academic accommodations
- student housing and other areas

The Chancellor would like to start the evaluation in the coming semester. The evaluation should look at:

- whether we are in compliance
- where and when we are going beyond compliance
- whether we are creating a more positive /welcoming campus for people with disabilities

Some additional questions:

- where should our office of disability services be located
- what should our organization and reporting structure be
- what level of resources are necessary

The Chancellor added that it should be a transparent process. It should include our disabled people all along the way. The message that the Chancellor has repeatedly heard this semester is “nothing about us, without us.” The Chancellor noted that he believes these are the right first actions to address the disconnect and to get everyone together on the same page, with one narrative as a university.

The Chancellor moved on to the issue of harassment. Due to recent evidence of sexual harassment in the workplace, and the long-term harm it causes, the Chancellor stated that he believes at this point in time, we are required to re-examine all our programs and policies to make sure we are doing the best we can to prevent and respond to this issue. One aspect, in particular, involves the Senate.

There have been many among the faculty that believe it's time to re-examine the Faculty Manual. Currently, the Faculty Manual does not prohibit faculty/undergraduate relations, except those sexual relationships between faculty and students they teach.

The University should re-evaluate this policy. To that end, the Chancellor has asked the Provost's Office to work with the deans, and the appropriate Senate committees to conduct a re-evaluation in the coming semester. The Chancellor added that Syracuse University is committed to maintaining a healthy, safe, respectful and productive working, learning and teaching environment.

The Chancellor moved on to issues that fall under Provost Wheatly. The Chancellor noted that the Provost is traveling and was unable to attend today's meeting, however, she asked that the Chancellor communicate a few items of interest on her behalf.

First, the University's Ombuds Office will be established sometime this semester. The Provost will brief the Senate on the project's progress when the Senate reconvenes in January. Second, the Faculty Salary Survey will be released next week.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the Chancellor asked everyone to join him in congratulating our student, Cameron McPherson on his selection as Syracuse University's first George Mitchell Scholar, noting that we all wish Cameron well in his graduate studies at Trinity College in Dublin.

The Chancellor closed his remarks with an invitation for the University community to join him on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Senor Auditorium for Winter Convocation, welcoming new, first-year, transfer, discovery, and exchange students.

The Chancellor took a few moments to answer some questions from Senate members.

Regarding the proposed tax legislation, Senator Dana Cloud asked if the tax bill passes, what is the backup plan or plans that the University is considering to deal with this.

The Chancellor responded that the majority of time has been spent on prevention. There are many versions of the tax bill, but some of them are effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have to look for options how to deal with this, during Green Days, for those that have effective dates of January.

Right now, we're focusing on the affected individuals. We're getting lots of options on the table, but not focusing on any particular one. All options are on the table, but all options have implications. There are faculty and staff who have made decades of financial planning for students who are currently high school seniors. It's more complicated than it sounds and we're looking for suggestions. This would be a good time to let us know your personal experience. We have students that may not be able to register next semester.

Senator Sam Gorovitz noted that on Myslice he can see how many students have registered for a course, but he can't tell who the students are. Usually, he goes to staff members to assist him. Senator Gorovitz asked why can't faculty see who the students are.

The Chancellor had no ready answer for this question, but he also added that he will look into finding the answer.

The Chair introduced Senator Kira Reed to present the Committee on Curricula report. Senator Reed noted that two amendments had been made to the report, and that the amended report had been circulated to Senate member. Senator Reed asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the December report. As there were none, she asked that any editorial changes should be sent to Kelly Bogart as curriculum coordinator, for any updates.

Senator Reed also took a moment to thank the committee's members for their work on the significantly increased volume of curriculum proposals this year. The senator then made a motion to approve the curriculum report. The vote was taken and the report was approved.

The Chair introduced Senator Emily Duke to present the Committee on LGBT Concerns motion and amendment to the bylaws from the November meeting, to revise the committee name and charge. A vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried. The committee name and charge will be revised.

The Chair introduced Senator Sinead Mac Namara to present the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Affairs report. The report can be found on the Senate website at: <http://universitysenate.syr.edu/agendas-minutes/senate-archives/senate-reports-archives/committee-on-budget-fiscal-affairs-reports/>.

The full report covers the following:

- Revenue and Uses
- Trends in sources
- Growth in online programs
- Trends over time 2013-2018

The committee will be presenting another report to the Senate in February, as well as a final committee report in April that will include 2019 planning assumptions.

A question was asked regarding the recent change in health care carrier. It was noted that such changes are decided by Syracuse University and not by the carrier administrator. It was added that nationally insurance premiums are growing by 6 to 7%; SU is keeping premium increases to under 5%.

Another question was raised regarding the discount rate. As the percentage of international students has been increasing, however, the population receives little to no discount. Any disruption in the influx of the international student population, would drastically impact our ability to support domestic students. The international students are inappropriately supporting domestic students.

Senator Mac Namara noted that the Budget & Fiscal Affairs committee shares these concerns. The Slutzker Center hasn't had a budget increase in many years. Discussion followed regarding the discount rate and international students.

Senator Tom Sherman noted that he was interested in the relative size of the Department of Public Safety unit. He asked if the committee sees that kind of information, and when can senators expect to see that information. He would like to see the size of DPS in relation across campus. Senator Mac Namara reiterated that the spring reports will have more detailed information and they can easily add a look at DPS.

At the conclusion of the committee reports, the Chair announced that the Agenda Committee is still looking for student senators. If any students are interested in potentially serving on the committee, please contact Kelly Bogart. Discussion followed regarding the schedule of classes in relation to the schedule of Senate and committee meetings. The suggestion was made that, similar to other institutions, the schedule of classes could be set so there is community time that would enable people to attend meetings, especially undergraduate students. It was also suggested that the issue be looked at by the joint calendar committee.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair asked if there was any old business to address. As there was none, the Chair asked for any new business. No new business was raised. The Chair made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded. The Chair thanked everyone and wished everyone happy holidays and the meeting adjourned.

## Attendees

Adebite Adebimpe	Samuel Gorovitz	Rafael Ramos
Douglas Armstrong	Roy Gutterman	LaVonda Reed
Philip Arnold	Marcelle Haddix	Kira Reed
Suzanne Baldwin	Marianne Hanley	Alex Rouhandeh
Thomas Barkley	Kate Hanson	Bonnie Ryan
Lynn Brann	Dusty Herbig	Michelle Scheider
Amanda Brown	Sharon Hollenback	Eileen Schell
Gail Bulman	Jenny Howell	Ralf Schneider
Pat Burak	Azra Hromadzic	Derek Seward
Chris Camesas	Can Isik	Kirti Sharma
Bruce Carter	Carrie Jefferson Smith	Brian Sheehan
David Chandler	Dawn Johnson	Tom Sherman
Shiu-Kai Chin	Eileen Julian	Amy Sloane-Garris
Matthew Cleary	Osamah Khalil	John Slosson
Dana Cloud	Carol Liebler	Marcene Sonneborn
John Coggiola	Andrew London	Emily Stokes-Rees
Todd Conover	Sinead Mac Namara	Barbara Stripling
Francine D'Amico	Eleanor Maine	Chancellor Kent Syverud
John Dannenhoffer	Jason Markle	Hunter Thompson
Chris Day	Steve Masiclat	Margaret Thompson
Thom deLara	Katherine McGerr	Maureen Thompson
Steven Diaz	Suzette Melendez	Laura Troendle
James Duah-Agyeman	Alan Middleton	Jodi Upton
Craig Dudczak	Mark Monmonier	Gianfranco Vidali
Emily Duke	Anne Mosher	Padmal Vitharana
Fred Easton	Diane Murphy	Andrew Vogel
Ryan Falkenstein	Cathryn Newton	Michele Wheatly
Josh Fenton	Gabriel Nugent	Jack Wilson
Patti Ford	Jacqueline Orr	Jamie Winders
Rochelle Ford	Anne Osborne	Ruth Yanai
Rashmi Gangamma	Thomas Perreault	John Yinger
Myrna Garcia-Calderson	Ginger Peterman	Dan Zacharia
Tula Goenka	Sarah Pralle	
Bea Gonzalez	Ramesh Raina	