

UNIVERSITY SENATE

A meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **15 January 2014**, in Maxwell Auditorium.

Present were: Senators Abramovsky, Agnew, Alston, Armstrong, Aslan, Bahl, Bhatia, Bulman, Burak, Burstyn, Carter, Coggiola, Davis (L.), Davis (S.), Diem, Dolak, Dong, Dosono, Dudczak, Duke, Easton, El-Amir, Elin, Endreny, Engstrom, Erdman, Fadda-Conrey, Falkum, Garcia-Murillo, Gauri, Gitner, Glidden, Godfrey, Gorovitz, Hoover, Ingram, Isik, Johnson (K.), Judge, Kallander (A.), Kiewe, Ledford, Lee, Lewandowski, Liddy, London, Lore, Marcoccia, Mulvaney, Murphy, Nabatchi, Negussey, Nicholson, Pellow, Perreault, Praino, Raina, Roy, Rubinstein, Rupert, Ryan, Schell, Shane, Sherman, Smith (C.), Stanton, Svetz, Syverud, Thompson, Van Gulick, Van Hollen, Vanable, Vidali, Vitharana, Wadley, Wasylenko, Watts, Winders.

Presiding officer: Prof. Can Isik

The Chairman called the meeting to order, proposed that the minutes of the December 3rd meeting be approved as written, and the body concurred. He continued, with the Agenda Committee report, saying that at the request of the Chancellor there would be a report forthcoming on the Senate's input to the revised mission and vision statements by way of the Academic Affairs committee.

Prof. Isik then called Prof. Terry McConnell to present the report of the Committee on Curricula, which included a motion to approve the new courses and changes (College of Arts and Sciences) listed therein. The motion carried.

Prof. Isik called Prof. Dawit Negussey to present the report of the Budget committee. Prof. Negussey highlighted the report, giving background of the Bain & Co. review of RCM practices at SU and comparison with peer institutions, as well as a brief summary of the committee's work in the three areas the Chancellor had asked them to focus on (RCM, enrollment, and athletics). Prof. Negussey previewed a list of recommendations they would be bringing to the Senate in April, including, e.g., follow-up on the 2015 updates, performance of non-academic responsibility centers and cost pools, and the performance of endowments and reserves. In the discussion, comments made and questions raised included:

- suggestion that the committee look at the implications of President Obama's proposal for tuition-free colleges;
- in response to a question about how the Big East exit fee had been renegotiated, a senator explained that committee members had gone to the Trustees and persuaded them to change their stance on the matter;
- senator requested access to a broader view of budget information as there had been in previous years; he said that currently one could only view the information about her own college/school or non-academic unit.

A member rose to make a motion that the Senate affirm the report of the Budget committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Under new business, Prof. Gorovitz made a motion, as follows:

Whereas the Chancellor has affirmed his commitment both to transparency and to shared governance, the Senate asks the Academic Affairs committee, in keeping with its charge, to clarify the following matters pertaining to academic leadership:

--It was publicly announced that a new appointee to lead Human Resources would be in place reporting directly to the Chancellor by now. That has apparently not happened, yet no clarification has been available.

--We have an interim provost who has agreed to serve until a regular appointment is made. It is rumored that the deans have been told that this is an interim appointment only and that Dean Liddy will not be a candidate once a search is initiated. But this has not been publicly confirmed.

--The search process for a dean in Arts and Sciences led to recommendations made a month ago to the central administration. No information has been made available about the status of that search.

--Dean Liddy is clearly working hard to learn the needs and requirements of her interim assignment, but no information is available yet about who will handle the responsibilities most central to academic and faculty concerns.

--With the semester now well underway, many faculty are eager to learn who the principal players are or will be as we try to meet immediate academic needs and to assist the Chancellor in planning for an academic future consistent with his affirmed values, which we share.

Due to the hour and loss of a quorum, the chairman suggested that the Agenda Committee deal with the matter in February, and the meeting was adjourned.