

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Executive Committee

A G E N D A

Cook Student Center, Room 202, Cook Campus

January 10, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.

Chair's Report– Jon Oliver, Senate Chair

Secretary's Report– Mary Mickelsen, Senate Executive Secretary

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the [December 6, 2019 minutes](#) of the Senate Executive Committee Meeting
- Communications:
 - The following policies have been updated/added in the University Policy Library:
 - [University Policy 10.2.11: Code of Student Conduct](#)
 - [University Policy 10.3.12: Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking, and Related Misconduct](#)
 - [University Policy 40.2.14: Investment Policy](#)

Administrative Report– Barbara Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Student Affairs Report – Salvador Mena, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Standing Committees/Panels

Proposed Charges:

Proposed Charge to the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee (ASRAC) on Evaluation of the Minimum Standards for Honors & Admission -Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Evaluate the minimum standards for honors and admission in light of the increasing numbers of applicants and acceptances, in addition to the increase of the Rutgers' status in university rankings. If needed, provide recommendations to the University Senate on heightening these standards.*

Background: Rutgers University rankings have been improving; moreover, there have been more and more applicants and acceptances to the various schools, especially at the undergraduate level.

Proposed Charge to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) on Re-Evaluate Student Fee Consolidations -Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Re-evaluate the consolidation of student fees which occurred before/around the time of TUE and done in accordance with recommendations of the University Senate and its Budget & Finance Committee and the corresponding administrative task force; provide recommendations if needed.*

Background: The university consolidated several different student fees into fewer student fees which appear on student term bills. The consolidation had lead to some potential problems, including: (1) a general lack of transparency in terms of how students fund programs

at Rutgers; (2) confusion among administration in terms of who or which governing body is responsible for managing what component of each fee; (3) difficulty in tracking how money is reallocated through cost pool transfers. For example, when EGC, the undergraduate student government of SOE sought to raise the student activities fee, a component of the school fee which funds student organizations, there was confusion between the Dean's Office and the Budget Office in terms of which party is responsible for recommending increases through the Treasurer and to the Board of Governors. Additionally, Health Services and administrators within the Division of Student Affairs had little information about how the health services fee, a component of the campus fee according to the Office of Student Accounting, Billing, & Cashiering, is divided among different resources. Some students and administrators have also expressed concern that certain programs are funded through multiple fees. It therefore stands to reason that we may need to reassess whether the greater simplification provided in consolidating fees outweighs the confusion and decreased transparency.

Proposed Charge to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) on Review the Prospect of Income Share Agreements. - Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Review the financial viability prospect of student income share agreements as a student loan alternative and whether it would be beneficial to implement such a system, like the one offered at Purdue University. If warranted, provide recommendations to the administration to evaluate the matter further.*

Background: Some colleges and universities are evaluating the merits of income share agreements, where students agree to pay a flat percentage of their income as opposed to a fixed amount under student loans. Purdue was recently implemented such a program. Looking to the Purdue model, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) passed a resolution urging the administration to evaluate the matter further and how (is possible) it could be implemented through the Office of Financial Aid at Rutgers.

Proposed Charge to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) on Challenges Related to Parking and Transportation. - Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Review the ongoing planning and financial status of parking and transportation, including its use of permits and citations as a source of revenue, and the long-term planning as it relates to transportation and parking, including plans to reduce parking on campus and how the administration plans to meet the challenges this will provide.*

Background: Parking and transportation, under DOTS, has considered challenges of transportation on course scheduling and finances. As an auxiliary unit, it is sustained through the campus fees, parking permit fees, and citations, which have come under some scrutiny in recent years, although citations are meant to supplement the unit's income to keep steady the cost of permits. Moreover, under some of the major long-term plans for facilities and operations, the amount of parking is expected to decrease, with some decreases in parking already realized. This will certainly present new problems to the University. Parking, transportation, facility planning, and the finances thereof fall within the standing charge of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Proposed Charge to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) on Finances of the Athletic Department. - Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *The Athletics Department is an auxiliary unit, which is supposed to be self-sustaining. The department has taken intra-university loans, and according to the President, is supposed to provide an additional source of revenue for the university. The Budget & Finance Committee*

should review the financial status of the department, the current status of the loans, and the long-term financial status of the department vis-a-vis its financial obligations, expressed or implied, to the university and the university to it.

Background: The Athletics Department is supposed to be fully self-sustaining and (ideally) provide additional funding to the university to support its academic and research missions. The department has 'borrowed' funds from the rest of the university, and it is imperative that the Senate evaluate the status of the 'loans' with respect to budgetary priorities of the University. Moreover, according to internal budget documents previously supplied to the Budget & Finance Committee, it was implied that the 'loans' would be repaid by increasing student fee revenue, which would lead to an increase in student fees since this was released before the information concerning the incoming class size. Because the financial status of Athletics inexorably affects the overall financial status of Rutgers, the committee ought to review the matter, inform the Senate, and provide any recommendations if the committee feels it necessary.

Proposed Charge to the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) on Student-Alumni Relations -
Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Evaluate alumni engagement and provide recommendations as to what changes could be made, particularly while students are still enrolled, to further Rutgers-Alumni relations.*

Background: Rutgers has a large alumni network which spans across the country and the globe; however, many people, from students, to deans, to vice chancellors have expressed concern in alumni relations. The Student Affairs Committee should look at this issue and see what changes could be made, particularly targeting currently enrolled students, in order to improve long-term Rutgers-Alumni relations. This could benefit alumni and current students in terms of professional networking and could benefit the university in terms of philanthropic donations. RUSA recently looked at undergraduate alumni relations and produced a report containing some recommendations. Further, one dean, as an example, complained that university guidelines limit who can reach out to alumni and that email addresses are deactivated post-graduation, largely severing contact between schools and their alumni. These and other issues could be addressed.

Proposed Charge to the University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC) on Student Government, Faculty Council, and Staff Council Recognition - Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Evaluate the formal and informal processes for the creation of student governing associations and staff and faculty councils, and if appropriate, provide recommendations to university policy for how new SGAs and Councils can be organized and recognized. Provide further recommendations concerning how this information could be published.*

Background: University Policies concerning the University Senate reference student governing associations, and faculty and staff councils. These bodies are also referenced in other parts of university policies. For example, SGAs are referenced in policies enacted in the Board of Governors pertaining to allocating student activities fees, despite SGAs not being defined in the Policy Library. The Senate also previously looked at the lack of recognition within the health science system of councils. It may be beneficial to establish policy (1) recognizing the SGAs and councils exist currently (e.g., in New Brunswick: the NB Faculty Council, the staff council, RUSA as the SAS and campus-wide undergraduate SGA, EGC, MGSAG, RBGA, SGC, PGC, GSA, etc.); (2) to provide for a process for the establishment of such a body (for SGAs, the informal policy has been a student referendum with at least 10%

participation); and (3) protections to ensure that such bodies cannot be dissolved or modified without their consent. It would be prudent for the committee to evaluate the prospect of implementing such a policy.

Proposed Charge to the University Structure and Governance Committee (USGC) on Senate Attendance Procedures and Increasing Attendance - Submitted by Nicholas Tharney, SAS-NB Student Senator

Charge: *Provide recommendations as to what actions can be taken by the Executive Secretary, or other Senate Offices, to collaborate with units to increase senate attendance.*

Background: Attendance issues have been seen as a major issue in terms of representation and both achieving quorum. In addition to notifying sending units of senator attendance, further actions could perhaps be taken so that excessively absent senators could be recalled and replaced. Moreover, some student governing associations were unaware of the University Senate's existence and senator entitlements; and some faculty units are frequently underrepresented in terms of senate attendance.

Proposed Charge to the Instruction, Curricula, and Advising Committee (ICAC) on Faculty Approval Survey of the Implementation of Course Atlas - Submitted by Xiangyue Wang, SAS-NB Faculty Senator

Charge: *To conduct a systematic survey among tenured faculty, nontenured full-time and part-time lecturers in all departments of Rutgers University at all campuses to find out whether, in their opinions, Course Atlas provides adequate flexibility for scheduling.*

Background: Considering the impact an automated scheduling system will have on the student and faculty bodies, the people who are teaching and taking classes, there is a significant need to quantitatively research whether faculty and students find the system beneficial to the Rutgers communities. At the current stage, there is such data.

New Business

Appeal Surrounding the Implementation of Course Atlas - Submitted by Robert Boikess, SAS-NB Faculty Senator

The administration is in the process of implementing Course Atlas. The implementation is a major decision affecting faculty and students. Article VII, Section 3 of the SAS Bylaws read as follows:

Each department shall adopt a set of bylaws in accordance with University Regulations and these bylaws. A copy of the bylaws shall be filed with the Executive Dean of SAS and, where appropriate, with the Dean of the Graduate School. All amendments shall be filed with the Executive Dean of SAS within thirty days of their adoption. Department bylaws shall include:

a. acknowledgement of the department's responsibility to provide a full and diverse curriculum, including appropriate options within the major, and to provide such offerings at a range of times and places for all students;

Since under Course Atlas the assignment of times and places for courses will no longer be done by the department, but rather by a robot; the faculty of the SAS should be been consulted as to whether they were willing to amend their bylaws to permit this change.

University Regulation 50.2.2C States:

Any major decision in any academic or administrative matter affecting the faculty or students made at a departmental, college or any other internal level which requires prior consultation with the affected bodies, under provision of a policy of the Board of Governors, of these Regulations, of State or Federal Law, of a contract to which the University is a party except contracts involving collective bargaining, or of a practice well established in the absence of a Board policy or University Regulation, or which establishes policy in a matter not regulated by any of the foregoing provisions, may be appealed to the University Senate by the faculty or any division thereof or the student governing body of any interested unit of the University on the ground that the faculty or student body was not adequately consulted prior to making the decision. The appeal shall be made in writing, and shall include copies of any relevant document and a short statement of the reasons why the appellant believes this paragraph of University Regulations is applicable and the decision should be reconsidered.

Accordingly, I am appealing to the Senate Executive Committee to implement this procedure.

University Senate January 24, 2020 Agenda

- Regular Senate Meeting on New Brunswick Campus
- RBHS Chancellor's Report to be given by Chancellor Brian Strom
- Report by Kevin Lyons and Robert Kopp on the President's Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience
- USGC Report on S-1907: Composition of the Senate
- USGC Report on S-1607: Committee Structure Review

Adjournment