**Executive Committee Report – September 10, 2021**

Good afternoon, colleagues, and welcome to the first Senate meeting of the 2021-22 academic year. I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their service over the summer months.

We would also like to welcome Melissa Wert, the new Senate GA. Melissa is a graduate student in the Museum Professions program.

We thank Provost Passerini for attending and addressing our questions.

Before we start our hard work today, I would like to pause for a moment of reflection and calm, so we can gather our thoughts and better focus on the work at hand and one another.

I would also like to follow a tradition that is practiced by our own SGA and by an increasing number of groups, and acknowledge that we hold this meeting on land that is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Lenape people. We pay respect to Lenape peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora.

On 6/4/21 the Executive Committee met with President Nyre and Provost Passerini and discussed the following matters:

* The June 2021 Board of Regents meeting
* The university’s vaccine approach
* Update on the University Strategic Plan
* APSA and restructuring as being aimed to reduce admin spend and invest in academics
* The letter from the head of the New Jersey AAUP
* The extension to June 30 for school/college responses to the restructuring proposals
* Progress on the fundraising campaign, which is still in the silent phase
* The restoration of the pay cut for the past year and TIAA matching
* Enrollments
* The campus master planning group, which is considering what the campus could look like 10/15/20 years out
* The next federal stimulus payment

Our next meeting with the President and Provost was this morning, 9/10/21. I will give any updates orally.

On 6/7/21 the Executive Committee met with Provost Passerini and the Deans to update them about the work of the Senate on 6/4/21.

On 6/8/21 I attended the meeting of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee to report on the work of the Senate and faculty issues. The latter included concerns about the restructuring proposals, decisions about teaching modality, and a need for tenure-track hires.

On 7/26/21 the Senate Executive Committee met with the new AAUP leadership to discuss ways to work cooperatively moving forward.

On 8/9/21 I attended the Benefits Advisory Committee meeting with Sona Patel and Anne Hewitt. The results of that meeting will be shared in the Compensation and Welfare Committee report.

On 8/11/21 the members of the Executive Committee met with Provost Passerini to discuss a variety of matters: to make a case for having faculty representation at the Board meeting, the status of the Structure Committee, and the increase to our benefits and the impact on faculty. The Provost agreed to schedule a meeting with representatives from HR and the Senate representatives on the Benefits Advisory Committee so she can better understand the situation.

On 8/27/21 I attended a special meeting of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee where the Provost gave a report on restructuring. I requested that the Provost give her presentation here at today’s Senate meeting, but she declined. She will be giving an update at the October meeting. My summary of the meeting is attached. I was not present for any recommendations the Provost made to the Board based on her report and so cannot report on those.

On 6/10/21 and 8/18/21, Judy Lothian, Sona Patel, Mark Holtzman, and I attended meetings of the University Budget Committee. We learned that, as the fiscal year closed, the university was approaching $8.5M to the good after anticipating a budget shortfall of $13M, which is how 2020-21 salary cuts were restored as well as the TIAA matching. This was largely due to federal stimulus funds (about $9M) that the university received. For FY 2022 there is a $2.5M reserve set aside for strategic initiatives. The university is looking to restore base salaries for 2021-22. The incoming class exceeded budget plans for 1450, but retention in the upper levels was down, as were transfer and graduate numbers, the latter significantly in many areas. They will be revisiting the "tax" on schools for facilities and so on that is part of the RCM model, and will continue to review this annually. There was a Board-approved 3 ½% tuition increase for 2021-22 for undergraduates and 3.25 increase on graduate tuition.

N.B.: We meet bi-weekly with Amy Newcomb and Erik Lillquist for updates.

On 9/1/21 the Executive Committee received a group of questions about Covid protocols that the AAUP had gathered from faculty members. We shared these questions (plus two others received on 9/3/21) with Amy Newcombe and Erik Lillquist of the Provost’s Office and the HICT co-chairs, Matt Borowick and Monica Burnett. The questions and responses we received are attached to this report.

The Executive Committee has received a variety of emails since the start of the semester about the expectation of in-person office hours, about faculty teaching in person not switching to remote teaching if they test positive, about the apparent rising numbers of students testing positive in classes, and other Covid-related issues. In each case, we have reached out to the Provost’s Office for additional information or confirmation, as well as to the HICT. In many cases we have seen policies clarified in the HICT weekly updates, as well as in special meetings for chairs and deans; however, there is still considerable confusion around processes. We have asked Judy Lothian, who serves on the HICT, to give a report at each Senate meeting and to take questions from the body back to the HICT. We are pursuing other process questions with the Provost’s Office.

On 8/18/21 the Executive Committee received a request from Dr. Martin Edwards to support the university’s joining Scholars at Risk; we emailed the Provost indicating our support. We also learned that the university has recently become a member institution of the Institute of International Education (IIE), which does similar work in support of scholars in at-risk situations.

I was asked by Michele Nelson, Vice-President for Board Affairs and University Strategy, to join the University Strategic Plan Implementation Steering Committee as Senate Chair. After conferring with the other members of the Executive Committee, I accepted the invitation, but with the following understanding: that I be able to share the work of the committee with the Senate, and that I be able to identify an alternate (Sona Patel) in case I am unable to attend a meeting. Dr. Nelson agreed to both requests. We will be inviting Dr. Nelson to the October Senate meeting so she can provide an update on implementation of the strategic plan.

On 9/1/21 the Senate sent an invitation to all faculty at the university to join a list of volunteers for future committees for which we are asked to identify members. Applications were due 9/8/21. We will use this list, as well as the Senate roster, to identify potential committee members. According to the Faculty Guide 12.5.c:

The Faculty Senate shall send to the president and to the provost a slate of twice as many names of full-time faculty members as needed to serve on major campus-wide committees and task forces appointed by these administrators, including the University budget committee. The administration will give consideration to those nominees before appointing campus-wide committees and task forces.

Our goal is to have the list of potential volunteers that we send to the provost be as diverse as possible in terms of school, rank, and discipline, and to take full advantage of the expertise of our colleagues.

The Executive Committee has asked the Faculty Guide Committee to officially take up the matter of the way membership on Senate committees is constituted. This year it became evident that some committees are simply too large to function efficiently, often conducting their work without a quorum and with too little Senate representation. The challenge to find Senators to chair some of the committees was evidence of this latter problem.

Convocation will be both live streamed and recorded, and there will be a tribute to Al Hakim, for whom the faculty service award is named, and who recently passed away. I’d like to thank Roseanne Mirabella and Amar D. Amar for the latter suggestion.

The Executive Committee has asked the Library Committee to follow up on questions about the library budget and funding for course and research materials, as well as the place of the Library in the Strategic Plan.

The Executive Committee has asked the Faculty Development Committee to look into the matter of compensating undergraduate students as research assistants. The committee has a one-question survey, which they are asking the body to agree to send out.

In July 2021, the Executive Committee was asked to review and endorse the Provost Office’s materials and documents for those proposing new programs. The APC reviewed these materials and sent recommendations, most of which were incorporated. The Executive Committee, acting during the summer recess, endorsed the materials, but its response noted that the APC’s suggestions in regards to the financial model were not included in the revisions.

Two communications are on the agenda. In both cases, the Executive Committee acknowledged receipt but did not provide feedback. We encourage you to send comments to Mary Ellen Roberts and Melissa Wert via the Senate email: senate [senate@shu.edu](mailto:senate@shu.edu)

Outstanding Resolutions:

* Faculty Guide 3.3.c, 6, 7, 8, and 10: will be reviewed with the Faculty Guide Working Group.
* APC: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program: Approved with Caveats
* Online MA in Theology
* Online MPA
* DH Certificate
* Writing Major

Today, we have three actionable items on the agenda and two communications:

Resolutions:

* A resolution about the Provost’s report to the Board of Regents
* A resolution about the search for a Dean for the School of Diplomacy
* A resolution about the tuition remission policy

Communications:

Diversity Statement

 Academic Freedom Beyond the Classroom

Thank you, as always, for all your work on behalf of the Senate. On a final note, we will continue to run Senate meetings as HyFlex as long as there is an interest in meeting in person. We will also track in-person attendance and may pivot to fully online if attendance warrants it.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun

Chairperson