**Executive Committee Report – December 17, 2021**

We thank Provost Passerini for attending our meeting today and addressing our questions.

On November 23, the members of the Executive Committee attended the monthly post-Senate meeting with Provost Passerini and the members of her office; this was followed by a meeting with the deans of the schools and colleges. The aim of the meeting was to update both groups about Senate actions from the November meeting.

On Dec. 1, I attended the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. The committee saw presentations from members of the Provost’s Office on the Academies, on graduate enrollments, and on grants. They approved the Academic Freedom Beyond the Classroom Statement, which is now going to the Board of Trustees for approval. Instead of the usual Senate presentation, and in order to facilitate dialogue between our two groups and help them better understand faculty interests, I asked them what they wanted to know about the state of the faculty. We discussed the faculty response to the Seeds of Innovation decisions, ways to address faculty and student isolation as a result of the pandemic, current trends in higher education, and ways to engage faculty in the strategic plan and other initiatives. The members of the committee acknowledged the hard work of the faculty and offered their thanks for the extra work faculty had taken on to teach and support our students.

Later in the day on Dec. 1, Dr. Patel, Dr. Roberts, and I met with Erik Lillquist and Amy Newcombe. We discussed the status of changes to the Academic Freedom Beyond the Classroom Statement. They clarified that this is a statement and not a policy. It might provide the basis for future policies, but those would have to go through the usual shared governance processes. Today, Drs. Kristi Stinson and Mark Couch will be reporting on the changes made to the policy as a result of the feedback sent to that committee.

We informed Drs. Lillquist and Newcombe that we will be having an extended discussion of IPAD at the January Senate meeting. They informed us that they will be seeking two additional faculty members for the IPAD committee.

We asked about the status of the Fahy Hall renovations and were told these had not yet been approved by the Board of Regents; the plan is for the renovations to take place in summer 2022.

On Dec. 14, Dr. Patel, Dr. Roberts and I met with Erik Lillquist and Amy Newcombe. We reviewed the possible agenda items for the December Senate meeting and indicated that there would likely be questions about IPAD, since the first round of data had recently been released. Given the latter, we asked about the status of Senate feedback on IPAD and were told that the committee would be using feedback from a variety of sources, including deans and program directors, to see what works and what does not, to assess the criteria, and to make adjustments.

We also asked about the process for the university course evaluation form currently being revised by the APC. We agreed that the form will be approved by the Senate and the Provost but will not be sent to the schools and colleges for approval. They will still have the ability to tailor the common form by adding questions.

On Dec. 14, following a discussion in the pre-Senate meeting, I emailed Provost Passerini about the fact that the proposed SHMS B.S. in Interprofessional Health Sciences is still being advertised on the university web page and is also being promoted during campus tours and in letters to prospective students. We will request an update at our post-Senate meeting with the provost on Dec. 21.

On Dec. 15, 2021, I met with Dr. Passerini, Dr. Michele Nelson, and two consultants—Dr. Anne Franke and Dr. Stephen Portch—who will be coordinating a workshop on shared governance for all Faculty Senators on Monday, January 24, 2:30 – 4:30pm. Additional information and a registration link will be forthcoming.

On Dec. 17, Drs. Patel, Roberts, Hunter, Lothian, and I had our monthly meeting with Dr. Nyre and Dr. Passerini. Dr. Nyre thanked the faculty for its hard work this semester as we moved back to campus. He talked about the university’s response to the rising number of cases, including postponing the holiday party. He shared the presentation he gave to the Board of Regents and to the graduate deans. The main points were:

Stresses on the budget, including:

Tuition dependency

Rising price sensitivity on the part of prospective students regarding tuition costs

Rising inflation and rising costs of running the university and supporting the large entering class

Declining graduate numbers, which are opposite of the national trend of a 2.1% increase

When asked about the connection between the large incoming class (approx. 1690) and the current budget (which was built on an entering class of 1450), Dr. Nyre pointed out that the 2022 budget did not account for the current increasing inflation, the increased costs associated with supporting the larger class, such as tutoring, and the continuing decline in graduate enrollment overall. He also pointed to the salary and TIAA restoration, both done retroactively.

Finally, he discussed several university projects that are intended to help increase the budget and enrollments: the mixed-use building on corner of South Orange Avenue and Centre Street, the University Center renovations, and the overall campus master plan.

The provost also spoke about graduate enrollment numbers; the need for innovative programming, especially in the graduate area; and the increasing competition from local colleges in the health sciences.

We want to acknowledge an additional outcome of Faculty Senate resolution 2021 – FS 23 (see the Sept. Senate agenda) about tuition remission for faculty pursuing their PhD at the university. In an email on Dec. 16, 2021, Provost Passerini wrote:

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| It was announced last month that employees who were hired prior to January 1, 2020 and currently enrolled in doctoral courses (excluding doctoral courses offered by the Seton Hall University School of Law) will continue to receive 100% of the current tuition rate per credit. |

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| **We are pleased to inform you that, beginning Spring 2022, ALL eligible employees will receive 100% of the current tuition rate per credit for doctoral courses (excluding doctoral courses offered by the Seton Hall University School of Law).** |
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| Additionally, in order to maintain the academic quality and sustainability of our doctoral courses and to meet the accreditation standards for our programs, no more than 25% of any cohort will be Seton Hall University employees. |

We want to reiterate our appreciation for the quick and positive response to our resolution.

We also want to thank the provost for her support of our request for a moratorium on the five-year limit on renewals for contract faculty. You will find all the provost’s responses to November’s resolutions posted on the agenda and on the Senate webpage.

With the assent of the body, the Executive Committee charges the following Senate Committees and groups:

Compensation and Welfare:

1. To develop a list of comparison schools in preparation for the forthcoming salary study
2. To research the possibility of university sponsored/subsidized daycare for faculty members

Budget Committee Representatives:

To ask about the amount the university spent on consultant fees in the last five years

Ad Hoc Ombuds Committee:

We call for the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to again look into the establishment of an Ombuds Office at the university, said committee to be headed by Dr. Anthony Haynor. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Mary Ellen Roberts and Dr. Haynor.

Ad Hoc Advancement and Relations Committee:

In January 2020, the Senate voted to create an Ad Hoc Advancement and Relations Committee, which was approved by then-provost Karen Boroff. We will be looking for volunteers for this committee when we return after the break.

[2020-FS-1 – Resolution Approving the Creation of an Ad Hoc Advancement and Relations Committee](https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1033&context=senate-resolutions)

Outstanding Resolutions:

* Faculty Guide articles 6, 7, 8, and 10
* Online MPA
* Writing Major

There are three actionable items on today’s agenda:

* A resolution from the APC about changing the Dean’s List policy on withdrawals
* A resolution from the Admissions Committee to accept the Duolingo exam
* A resolution from the Compensation and Welfare Committee about its role in respect to the forthcoming salary study

There is also a second reading of Faculty Guide Article 11.

There will be reports from faculty representatives on administrative committees, as well as an update from Dr. Patel about the integration of SHMS faculty into the South Orange Faculty Guide.

Thank you, as always, for your hard work on behalf of faculty, and please accept our best wishes for a restful and healthy holiday/break.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun

Chairperson