

## University Senate Meeting Minutes

### February 1, 2021, 3:30-5:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from December 7, 2020 carried.

#### Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President

- Welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the University Senate for Spring 2021.
- Announced that Provost will not attend the meeting today due to an emergency.

#### Report from President Maurie McInnis

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
  - Thanked the team doing COVID-19 testing in South P-lot and those who assisted in vaccination.
  - Many of our healthcare workers received their vaccination.
  - Some left over doses, from those who chose not to get vaccinated, were used to vaccinate faculty who will be teaching in person classes.
  - Students living on campus either came two weeks earlier to quarantine or have to provide PCR negative test result.
  - Surveillance testing of residential students will be twice a week in Spring.
  - Chancellor has been very supportive and was able to secure flexible tuition and reduction of regulation on approval of new academic programs for us in the governor's budget.
  - Thanked Dr. Kaushansky for his service and introduced William Wertheim as Interim Dean of SOM.
  - Senior Vice President and the Dean of the School of Medicine will split into the two separate roles.
  - All the Deans will be reporting to the provost including the Dean of Medicine who will jointly report to Senior Vice President and to the Provost.
  - New Executive Vice President and Provost will start on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Thanked faculty and staff involved in task forces.
  - Search process for Senior Vice President and Vice President for advancement will start soon.
  - February 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of Black History month.
- Question: P. Bingham – Should our teaching students and faculty, some over 65, go through State website in competition with everybody over 65 on long island for an appointment to get vaccinated? Or there are ways through the university to get them signed up?

- Answer - The allocation of vaccine doses is entirely at the State Department of Health discretion and we don't control it. Watch your emails because any time, we have the ability to extend it to the university community, we will.

### **Interim Provost Sotiropoulos's Report**

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).

### **Sr. VP for Health Sciences Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky**

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- 180 Covid-19 patients are admitted which is down from about 220 patients at the top of round 2. Mortality rate has dropped 50%
- It's very important to get vaccinated.
- SOM curriculum committee has reports for our overall curriculum for the four years in medical school.
- School of Nursing received another top 10 ranking in their distance learning.
- We are working to fix our shortage on clinical placements for students applying in medical fields.
- Search for School of Social welfare's Dean is in progress.
  
- Question – R. Larson: Tell us about development of vaccines and anti-viral, and where you see things going in the general picture over the next semester?
  - Answer – Study shows that anti-bodies from natural infection and from vaccine induced immunity are very similar. Also, it appears that still the vaccine is going to be effective on different mutations of the virus.
- Question – R. Larson: What spectrum of mutations are we seeing in Suffolk county, and are you testing to identify them?
  - Answer – We have seen some mutants in Suffolk county that are more contagious. We don't test to identify them.
- Question – R. Larson: Can you speculate about the curve that we're seeing in terms of infection rate for the next semester?
  - Answer – Test positivity is between seven to 9% in Suffolk, which is higher than State. We have to be increasingly vigilant in testing our students and staff. In Spring, testing will be twice per week.
- Question – E. Feldman: Can you tell us about Novavax trial?
  - Answer – I believe it has begun to enroll individuals, the Novavax's vaccine differs in mechanism from Pfizer and Moderna.
- Question –H. Nekvasil: There were healthcare professionals in hospital lobby with no mask and no social distancing during their break time which gives the public a very bad impression. I was told they are allowed not to wear mask during their break and as there is not enough room in break rooms, they can be in the lobby.

- Answer – If I see someone without mask who is not eating or drinking, I will speak with them about not wearing a mask. I'll discuss it with hospital CEO to change the policy.

### **Reports from UUP:**

- Carolyn Kube (Ed Quinn not present, attending another meeting):
  - UUP can promote mask wearing.
  - Several online workshops will be provided in February including orientation for new employees. Links will be in UUP newsletter.
  - The CLEFR Program assists employees with the cost of attaining initial certifications, licenses or designations which are related to their profession or necessary for promotional opportunities and career mobility within the State University of New York (SUNY). Examination fees to renew certifications, licenses, or designations previously obtained by an employee are not reimbursable. Highlights of NYS/UUP CLEFR Program:
    - Reimbursement is provided for the cost of examinations for first time certification, licensure, or designation of UUP-represented employees.
    - Reimbursement is for exams that begin during the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
    - Maximum reimbursement is \$1,000 for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
    - Reimbursement requires submission of a completed application and supporting documentation confirming a passing exam grade and provider eligibility.
  - The individual professional development awards should be announced shortly.
  - Pre-retirement workshops being run every month.
  - Chapter elections will happen shortly and this is the nomination period. if you are interested to run, you can go to UUP offices and put your name on nomination form to show up in the ballot in March. From March to April will be the voting period for the new chapter election.

### **Old Business**

- No old business.

### **New Business:**

- The statewide plenary happened last Friday and the statewide representatives forwarded resolution over to us to be brought to the Senate for a vote.
  - Poll results for UFS Resolution 187.01.1 (Shared Governance in These Times of Extraordinary Challenges):  
Endorse as written 96%

**Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.**