

Minutes of the CAS Faculty Senate Meeting of May 17, 2021

Monday May 17, 2021, 4:04-4:45 PM

Attending: Bernard McKenna, Alan Fox, Lydia Timmins, Talley Ridgeway, Jennifer Barker, Thomas Rocek, Jorge Serrano, Jenn Trivedi, Steve Sidebotham, James Angelini, Kimberly Clark, Lawrence Duggan, Phil Penix-Tadsen, John Pelesko, Dominique Guillot, Jon Cox, Peter Feng, Erin Cassese, Jia Song, Gunner Taylor, Dilia Lopez-Gydosh, Deni Galileo, Mark Greene, Christine Grogan, John Morgan, Adele Hayes, Neal Zondlo, Kimberly Schroeder, Patricia Burt, Nonie Bell, Shawna Vican

President Alan Fox provided a technical introduction and a poll of senators.

Those present and eligible to vote unanimously adopted the agenda.

Those present and eligible to vote unanimously approved the minutes of the April 26 meeting.

Alan Fox thanked the CAS senators, the CAS Executive Committee, Kimberly Clark, Coleen Popp and Cheri Jones for their service during AY20-21.

Alan Fox stressed the need for more faculty involvement in the CAS Faculty Senate, the UD Faculty Senate and shared governance in general.

Dean Pelesko thanked Alan Fox for all his service and cited him as a good example of faculty participating in shared governance.

Dean Pelesko made a power point presentation about the Doctoral hooding ceremony (Thursday, May 27 at 3:30 PM), the time for the CAS commencement (Friday, May 28 at 8:30 AM) and the time for commencement for all of UD (Sunday, May 30). He also discussed the search for the Associate Dean for the Social Sciences portfolio, undergraduate recruiting (including UD's change to Early Action for admissions), the transition to the shared services model for staff support, and projections for FY22. In "looking ahead" to Academic Year 2021-22 (the last image on his power point) he listed items including UD's new budget model, the re-opening of campus buildings, the development of UD's new Strategic Plan, the upcoming review of UD by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, whose visit is scheduled for November 2021, the scheduling of Academic Program Reviews of 1/3 of the departments in our college, and the development of a Strategic Plan for our college. Here is a link to his presentation:

[Dean Pelesko's presentation of May 17](#)

John Morgan suggested that because UD is now admitting a higher percentage of applicants (80% vs. 70%), many of them from disadvantaged backgrounds who tend to be admitted not to the Newark campus but to the Associate in Arts Program, it would be a good idea to provide more resources for support services for the students in that program. Dean Pelesko responded that he hoped by the Fall semester to have good news to share. John Morgan also said that he is a member of the University Faculty Senate's Budget Committee, which earlier that day had sent a list of concerns about the draft of the new budget model, and said in his opinion it would be a good idea not to rush to finalize the new budget model for UD because of uncertainties about enrollments of students and other issues caused by the pandemic.

Jorge Serrano asked about diversity in the entering freshman class. Dean Pelesko responded that he did not have specific information, but said that the incoming class (AY21-22) to both the CAS and to UD in general was more diverse. Alan Fox added that the top 100 candidates for admission who compete for UD's top scholarships were notably more diverse than in previous years.

John Morgan then discussed COCAN business. He reported that except for a couple of still-moving parts all the college's committees have been fully staffed for the next academic year, and that the election of 3 at-large CAS senators had resulted in the re-election of Arild Hestvik and the election of Ted Davis, who had been the President of the CAS Senate a decade ago, and Kelly Cobb. He noted that repeated emails soliciting volunteers to be candidates for CAS Senate officer positions for AY21-22 had resulted in only one volunteer for each position: Eric Rise for President-Elect, Jenn Trivedi for Secretary, and himself for COCAN Chair. Three subsequent ballots approved these candidates to fill these positions.

On the regular agenda those present and eligible to vote approved dates for meetings of the CAS Faculty Senate in AY 21-22 which are the 3rd Monday of each month during the Fall and Spring semesters, except for December 13, since December 20 will fall after the end of the Fall semester.

Under new business, Kimberly Schroeder asked whether CAS Faculty Senate meetings in AY 21-22 should be conducted via Zoom or in-person. Alan Fox expressed his preference for continuing to have Zoom meetings, and said it would be hard to conduct meetings in a hybrid format. Peter Feng made a motion that the CAS Senate meetings next academic year be conducted via Zoom. Alan Fox asked John Morgan to conduct a non-binding Survey Monkey poll on the issue, and he agreed to do so. [*The result of the poll was that for CAS Senate meetings in the Fall 2021 semester, 24 senators preferred Zoom meetings, only one senator preferred in-person meetings, and 4 senators expressed no preference.*]

John Morgan reported that the previous Friday he had started with Survey Monkey an election of a representative of our college on the University Faculty Senate's COCAN which would close at 11:00 PM Thursday night, and that so far over 200 people had voted, and the vote so far was very close. He urged everyone to vote if they hadn't already done so. [*The final result was that Alan Fox received 111 votes and Nike Olabisi 109 votes.*]

There was no other new business, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.