

## Minutes of the CAS Faculty Senate Meeting of September 19, 2022

September 19, 2022; 4:00 PM ET - 4:58 PM ET

Attending: Olivia Amzallag; James Angelini; Jennifer Barker; Nonie Bell; Wendy Bellion; Patricia Burt; Suzanne Burton; William Chain; Jon Cox; Theodore Davis, Jr.; Darryl Flaherty; Deni Galileo; John Gizis; Daniel Green; Christine Grogan; Katie Gwaltney; Alenka Hlousek-Radojic, Jenny Lobasz; Dilia López-Gydosh; Bernard McKenna; John Morgan; Nina Owczarek Herrera; John Pelesko; Rakesh; Thomas Rocek; Kimberly Schroeder; Brandon Stanford; Jenn Trivedi; Shawna Vican; Robert West; Polly Zavadivker; Neal Zondlo

President John Gizis welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new Senators, and took a moment to remind everyone of procedures in use during the meetings. All meetings this year will be on Zoom, we will use Robert's Rules of Order, voting will be done via Zoom polls, and only Senators or their substitutes can vote. He issues a reminder to use the chat to type "I have a comment/question" and wait for President-Elect Neal Zondlo to call on people at the appropriate time, as needed, rather than using the hand raising function or interrupting.

Senators were polled showing that there were 23 present along with President Gizis. 18 are needed for quorum.

The agenda was adopted by a vote of 24-0.

The minutes from the May 2022 meeting were approved by a vote of 23-0 with no comments or corrections.

President Gizis then gave remarks, thanking people for being involved in shared governance and noting that the CAS Faculty Senate is empowered to make recommendations to the college and the Dean, to approve and establish curriculum changes, and taking many votes throughout the year. He asked Senators to ensure that if they cannot attend to designate someone to come in their stead.

Dean John Pelesko then gave remarks. [A copy of his slides is available at this link.](#)

The new incoming first year class at UD is the largest incoming class in history. There are over 1,400 students in the CAS Freshman class, while 1,365 was the target. There was, however, a significant summer melt. In May there were deposits for 1,574, resulting in a summer melt of about 9.5%, much larger than normal.

A new cycle has now begun and the college enrollment management team began meeting in August with more details being sent to the departments, which people can get from their chairs. Blue and Golden Saturdays start this month for interested students, largely following the new format from last year which has led to increased applications both to CAS and UD as a whole.

Undergraduate Academic Services has been renamed to the CAS Student Success Center and reorganized with added support for students, split into 2 main teams.

Peer-to-peer mentoring for incoming Freshmen has begun. Over 750 Freshmen were interested and have been paired with over 200 upperclassmen.

The Alumni mentoring program has been quite successful and is beginning a third cycle of recruiting to juniors and seniors who may be interested.

There is a new internship coordinator as part of new programs and organization. Internships have been recognized as an essential opportunity for many students, but this coordination will help more students find them through a better system than just random luck. There are 3 coordinator positions (2 have been filled) which are dedicated full time to students finding internship opportunities, getting students ready for them, and related activities.

Faculty hiring for this year is the most robust it has ever been with 53 searches underway, roughly 10% of the current faculty size with around 270 faculty members serving on search committees. This is also a chance to diversify the faculty and faculty involved in searches especially are being asked to pay close attention to diversity, to take part in UD Advance training, and to make job ads as broad and inclusive as possible. This will vary by disciplines, so the Dean's office is discussing how this might work with different departments.

In Q&A, Dean Pelesko clarified that these 53 searches do not include any temporary faculty positions, but it does include a handful at more senior levels like full professors. Most are at the assistant professor level with a few being CT positions.

The point was raised that Covid-19 is not over, viruses propagate in colder weather, and risks remain real for people on campus.

A question was raised about the use of all caps on websites and the accessibility issues this poses for screen readers. Dean Pelesko said that last year there was a review of all webpages for accessibility, but he will look into this specifically.

It was also asked if Convocation would be the same in 2023 as it had been in 2022, keeping the changes that had been made? Dean Pelesko noted that he has spoken with Beth Brand who is putting a committee together. He has recommended department chairs to be on it and they will come back with a decision.

It was clarified that the new internship office is a clearing house to keep opportunities accessible to all students across all departments. There are cases where it is already done well in specific departments and this is not intended to disrupt that, but this is designed to build an infrastructure where all students can get support and different departments and disciplines can plug into that infrastructure as needed.

The issue of information about the college that goes into job search ads was raised, with the question of if it could be hyperlinked instead, but Dean Pelesko noted that it is important that candidates know something about the department and a hyperlink might not work for that.

Educational Affairs Committee Chair James Angelini then gave a report, saying he had sent an email to all department chairs and coordinators emphasizing 2 important due dates. Anything in Curriculog for courses needs to be at the committee level by October 28. For programs this date is November 4.

There was then a discussion about revisions to the bylaws, led by COCAN Chair John Morgan. This is a continuation of discussions in the May 2022 meeting. The CAS Faculty Senate approved minor changes to the bylaws nearly unanimously, removing references to the Biden School and returning to the older and clearer numbering system. However, these changes are not yet reflected in the online documents. In May the larger discussion stalled on the point of in what circumstances committee chairs should be able to meet with the Executive Committee.

In the meantime, other issues have emerged, including questions of if there should be a formal written provision by which the CAS Faculty Senate as a whole votes to decide on the modality of the meetings (in person, online, or both). The pandemic continues to evolve, so while the Senate has been meeting online, it may need a provision by which non-members can more easily observe what happens in Senate meetings, including how to let them know about and join these online meetings.

If anyone else has any ideas about things that need to be revised in the bylaws, they should send them to the Executive Committee who can write them up and bring them back to the Senate as a whole.

In Q&A, it was asked how we proceed now since parts of this had already been proposed. Senator Morgan clarified that all senators should try to read the bylaws and send any proposals for changes to all of the members of the Executive Committee (President John Gizis, Former President Jennifer Barker, President Elect Neal Zondlo, Ed Affairs Committee Chair James Angelini, COCAN Chair John Morgan, and Secretary Jenn Trivedi). These can be in the language of motions already or the Executive Committee can adjust them as needed.

Regarding making the meetings more open and accessible to other faculty members, it was suggested that while there is no formal procedure, it is fine to share the link and password for the meetings with other faculty members in CAS departments when Senators receive it. It was also clarified that there is a password on the meetings per University protocols to avoid Zoom bombing incidents and there is a waiting room to allow the Executive Committee to meet briefly before the meetings begin to make sure things are ready and technology like screen sharing is running appropriately.

Concerns were raised regarding ensuring only Senators were able to vote if meetings were opened up more. In Academic Year 2021-22 the University Faculty Senate used the green checks and red Xs in the Reactions feature of Zoom for voting.

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM ET.