

**April 16, 2018**  
**Arts & Sciences Senate Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

**3:30-3:45** (Darren Chase)

1. Remarks

**3:45-4:15** (Sacha Kopp)

1. CAS Dean Report

**4:15-4:30**

1. New Business

**4:30-5:00** (Michael Bernstein)

1. Provost report on CAS Interim Dean search

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A&S Senate  
Minutes  
March 19, 2018

I. Approval of agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes – deferred.

III. Presidents Report (D. Chase)

- Senate Elections: If you are currently a member of a standing committee, you've received a note from Laurie reminding you that if your term is ending, I'm asking you to indicate if you are going to run for another term. Relating to that, who wants to be President of the A&S Senate? It's a lot of work but it's a worthy job. Contact me if you are interested.
- We are having a hard time putting the minutes together because it's hard to hear the recording that we have. Related to that we gathered comments and feedback to the CAS Self-Study and the eventual strategic planning that will come out of the self-study that Sacha introduced at the last meeting. So much thoughtful feedback and comments were captured at the last meeting on the recording. When the minutes are ready I will also be able to take those and put them in a document that Laurie will share with you after today's meeting that will invite additional comments.

- The way that it will work with the hiring during the hiring time freeze, which will last for an undefined period of time, is that the President is putting together a panel of administrators who will review every recommendation to make an exception to the hiring freeze. They then will go to the President for final the final decision. The President mentioned that health related and Public safety hires would take priority.

H. Nekvasil: Do you happen to have the timeline when you can start putting requests in to hire?

D. Chase: The question was do I have a sense of how long you should wait or if there is any waiting to be done before you put forward a request to make an exception to the hiring freeze and how long will the process be while it's reviewed by this administrative body before you can expect a decision. I do not know about how long it will take. The President did not say in the EC meeting this afternoon. I feel you should go ahead and prepare that document. I will follow up with Ed Feldman, President of the University Senate, to see if he can get from Judy any indication of when that body will get together and prepare to begin reviewing.

B. Collins: You describe the process for new hires, but what about hires that are already in?

D. Chase: If I implied that it's just for new hire, understand that it's for all hires including hires that were in motion.

B. Collins: Will those in progress have to wait until this administrative panel starts or will there be a separate process to accelerate that [indistinct]?

D. Chase: I don't believe that there is a separate or accelerated process. My understanding from what the President just said to the University Senate Executive Committee is that this administrative body will review all hires. The case has to be made, submitted to that body and based on their approval go to the President.

B. Collins: Is there a process for having that hire being considered quickly rather than waiting for this group to be put together and the administrative process be put in place.

D. Chase: I believe the group is together. I'm not sure if they have received any requests or what work they are doing but go ahead and put it together.

N. Goodman: He didn't talk about a panel of administrators unless the President meant the two Provosts (from East and West Campus).

D. Chase: That suggests that this question needs to go back to the President for clarification. I can take that back to Judy and get some clarification on what that is. Incidentally, he didn't mention this thing you just mentioned that in meeting with the Provost that the Provost would be managing the different processes. This is not what the President described [indistinct].

D. Dwyer: Sacha made a request of the Provost that the College of Arts and Sciences be given a set budget of what they are trying to save and allow us to be able to make those decisions for the exceptions rather than have to go through this inefficient lengthy process. D. Chase: I can follow up from Sacha to see if he has heard back from the Provost on this.

M. Schedel: What are we doing about the decisions that have been made of the administration that led to Sacha resigning? Are we just going to sit by and say that we accept these closures and non-tenure track positions being non-renewed? I'm wondering if that is all that's moving forward or if we are going to try and overturn any of that.

D. Chase: There needs to be an approach where we can have a conversation with the Provost about this. It's been hard to have a conversation with him. I've invited him to discuss and he has not wanted to discuss it. He has said in terms of one of at least one of the cases that you just mentioned involving the PTC and following procedures, the Provost has said that the Union and Labor Relations are dealing with it so he won't comment on it.

F. Walter: The Provost has been ducking the issues and so has the Dean because once the Union finds out about it, they say their hands are tied even though they caused the problem. The Senate is responsible for overseeing academic priorities on this and all campuses. That comes from the Board of trustees. We have been negligent. We have ceded our ability to do this to the administration over the past twenty or thirty years. There hasn't been a crisis and we haven't needed to be quite as vigilant as we do now. I think it's high time for us to seriously consider making a strong statement about what does it mean to be hired in a tenure track line, what does it mean in terms of academic freedom, things that are not contractual, things the Union cannot deal with. If you do not get tenure, the Union is impotent. It's not in the contract and the administration can do anything they want. The faculty need to have a voice in this and stand up for the junior faculty. We need to see what the AAUP has written about this.

D. Chase: A faculty handbook would be enormously useful. Fred and I were talking about drafting a faculty handbook. It didn't have a lot of traction but that doesn't mean the time hasn't come and this body can take up the challenge of beginning to draft a faculty handbook. We can do that as a start.

F. Walter: I would like to see a statement that we believe that the offer of a tenure track position means that that person will be judged on their merits. The Dean has taken it upon himself to not do that and to send files back unread. We should state that it violates our rights as faculty members.

D. Chase: I think as a doorway to a conversation with the Provost about this is what I can report is that after I shared the resolution that this body had [indistinct] at the last meeting addressing this topic that Fred has brought up just now that these are the policies and procedures and that they must be followed. The Provost responded by saying that he doesn't argue with the procedures and they need to be followed. The question is, was the file appropriately submitted to the PTC.

A. Flescher: Fred's question kind of brings up something which I've wondered about besides verification. Your comments assume we have no power at all. What power does this body have at all? Second of all, when we're dealing with a situation which when we want something from us it's a family but when we want something from them it's a business. It seems to me that this kind of appeal needs to be made if we are powerless in terms of which they will see as tangibly favorable to them. It's devastating to the reputation of a university to make promises of employment. It's a two part question: what power does this body have precisely, it seems to me none and second of all, if so can such a letter be written that the self-interest of the administrators be made to them?

D. Chase: A bit of that was in the resolution making the case for self-interest of the administrators in terms of what this means for the reputation of Stony Brook and what it means for the viability of future hires and recruitment in general. What power does this body have? I don't know. We are not an enforcement body so we can be [indistinct] in our resolutions and in the language we use and we can try to use that language and craft our language into a

pointed [indistinct] but ultimately can't really enforce anything. There are other structures on campus that we can ally ourselves with. Understanding the roles of those other bodies will help us take more effective action.

A. Flescher: I think a group of us needs to get together and think about how a case can be made under trying circumstances to work together in terms that are self-interestedly appealing to them. D. Chase: What I invite you to do is begin drafting a statement or document and share it with me, we can talk about it in the Executive Committee and then it can go before the entire senate.

F. Walter: it is true that we are just advisory. Everybody understands that but if you don't make the effort to take some power, we will get absolutely nothing. The SUNY Board of Trustees Policies state in Article 7.1.1 is: "The Senate shall be the official agency to which the university faculty engages in the governance of the university. The Senate shall be concerned with effective educational policies and other professional matters within the university". This is for the State-Wide Senate University as a whole but I think the implication is true for the various campuses too. We are part of the running of this university. D. Chase: It appears that there might be a strategy on the part of some of the administrators in sort of picking and choosing which faculty governance they are more comfortable with. I'll follow up with Ed and the University Senate Executive Committee and the A&S Executive Committee

?: In talking about the search for Sacha's replacement, it sounds like we don't play much of a role in this process. Is there a way to insert ourselves to have our voices heard through that process? It strikes me that in the past, certainly for the external search, the applicants either didn't ask the right questions about the budgetary situation or did not bargain sufficiently with the President do I feel we should have a much stronger voice especially with external candidates. The concern is bringing in someone from the outside who doesn't know very much about our long and troubled history financially in the College.

D. Chase: In terms of a timeline for hiring Sacha's permanent replacement not the Interim Dean, there is no information on that. That doesn't stop us from coming up with a strategy that we can share with the Provost and including concerns and questions that we'd like to ask at the interview or other strategies that involve engaging in the process. I will bring it to the A&S Executive Committee, follow up and report back to this body. The Provost is selecting an Interim Dean from among the CAS faculty and he has met with a few candidates already.

Meeting adjourned,

Submitted by:

Laurie Cullen  
Secretary