



# Faculty Senate

Meeting No. 1, Fall Semester 2024

(Plenary Session)

22 August 2024, 12:30pm

Room A402

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order. Profs Sim, Houghton, Rameau, Cabuay, Lee, Tran, Estrada were present. Dean Eugene Pak was also present.

## 2. Committee Assignments and Elections

Prof Houghton emphasized the need for progress and more proposals in the Senate's third year.

Prof Lenz was nominated and voted in as Vice Chair. Prof Hsieh will continue in his position as Secretary. Prof Jongseong Choi and Prof Cabuay were nominated by members of the incumbent Executive Committee to serve on the Executive Committee, and those two Senators were voted in by the Senate.

The following committees were determined:

Exec Committee: Profs Houghton, Lenz, Hsieh, Cabuay, and Choi.

APPC: Profs Estrada (chair), Sim, Goeun Cho, and Tran.

Ed Council: Profs Cabuay (chair), Tran, Lee, and Sim.

CEFW: Prof Lenz (chair), Hsieh, Rameau, and Choi.

APES: Prof Rameau (chair), Estrada, Lee, and Cho.

## 3. Roundtable announcements by Senators regarding issues mentioned by their departments' faculty

A lot of the classrooms are not cleaned or cleared properly for fostering the optimal learning environment.

A proposal is made that each professor's office should be equipped with a new office chair, esp. if necessary to replace the ones that are breaking down.

Air conditioning systems and policies should be more faculty-friendly, i.e. allowing faculty to use them during requested 'overtime' hours. (More generally, HVAC system use may need to be the subject of forthcoming contract re-negotiation between SUNY Korea and IGC.)

Orientation sessions for training teaching assistants would be useful for motivating them, esp. in supporting our faculty (including new faculty).

A more ceremonial way to introduce faculty who join our Faculty Senate.

A social evening/'happy hour' for the Senate, for Senators to get to know each other

Updated policies regarding cheating, esp. given that AI technology is making cheating so much easier and efficient these days (and also esp. for those classes which are very big, where monitoring and recording of cheating can be so difficult for an instructor and/or proctor). Some guidance regarding what faculty can tell students to relinquish (i.e. smartphones, backpacks) before exams would be helpful.

Some kind of student photo roster system that could help instructors keep track of their students, for upholding a community environment. (One possibility would be to require students to update their Brightspace profile photo during Orientation. Dean Pak mentioned that he would look into the feasibility of using/refining the existing systems to create a photo roster system usable by faculty... Prof Cabuay mentioned that he doesn't give recommendation letters for those students who don't make the strong effort to get his attention while taking his courses. In other words, if students ask him for recommendation letters but didn't try hard enough to make an impression on him, then he does not grant letters to those students, and there's no reason to keep track of them for recommendation purposes.)

An incentive system for high-level, high-impact journal hits. (Current Leadership has not yet been convinced with this kind of proposal, as of last semester.)

Some kind of recording equipment for professors to use to record their own lectures, not only for students to go over, but also for faculty to review about their own lectures (i.e. to make improvements).

SUNY Korea templates for exams or recommendation letters. (Prof Cabuay added that he creates a "statement of professionalism" for each of his classes, where students must sign it so that they have greater accountability for his behavioral expectations.)

Alumni engagement, e.g. how we can make the alumni more engaged with the next generation of graduates.

#### **4. Plan of action**

The next meetings would be held as follows:

- 13 September
- 11 October
- 8 November
- The December schedule will need adjusting due to commencement

The discussion held that allowing for some Senators to join over Zoom generally doesn't work, from technological and interactional standpoints; thus meetings should either be held entirely in-person or entirely on Zoom. (Dean Pak did remark that Room A402 is capable of holding in-person meetings with an additional (and effective) Zoom capability.

#### **5. Other business**

Prof Cabuay described that we should have a framework that better describes SUNY Korea's expectations from professors, students, and administration. He would also like to see some kind of faculty-led differentiation strategy (compared to other SUNY campuses) by which we identify ourselves not only as SUNY Korea but also a "Korea SUNY".

The formation of a Senate kakaotalk group chat (and then additional group chats for the 5 committees) is on the table.