

Meeting Minutes of the Faculty Student Council  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 2:30pm – 4:30pm  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium

**Call to Order and Approval of the Minutes**

Andrew Maroko, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm. He requested and received approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2019.

Andrew reported on the status of the review and revision of SPH's Governance Plan and By-laws. The Faculty Task Force has just submitted its recommended revisions to the senior leadership. The administration and the Faculty Task Force will meet early in the new year and the FSC will have the opportunity to review the draft revisions at their first meeting of the new semester. Andrew thanked everyone for participating in the process.

Andrew welcomed the newly elected student representatives to their first FSC meeting. Following introductions, Andrew reminded the student representatives that they are voting members of the FSC.

Andrew said that he will be on sabbatical in the spring semester, six months before his term as FSC chair ends. He thanked the staff and faculty for helping to make his time as chair interesting and enjoyable. He said that there is only one nominee for interim chair, Dr. Luisa Borrell, who, if elected, will complete his term. Paper ballots were then distributed to FSC members to vote on Luisa's election. Following the Dean's remarks, Andrew announced that Luisa was elected as interim chair by an overwhelming majority (30 yes votes, one no vote and one abstention).

**Dean's Report**

Ayman noted that the administration will meet with the Faculty Task Force in early January to discuss the governance plan revisions, which will then be reviewed and voted on at the February and March FSC meetings, and then be submitted to the University for approval by the Board of Trustees. He also noted that the strategic planning process is underway and he expects the process to be completed in June. He thanked those who contributed to SPH on Giving Tuesday and he encouraged all staff and faculty to participate in the school's fundraising drive. Turning to updates from CUNY Central, he said that the Board of Trustees is expected to approve the PSC agreement, which has been ratified by CUNY's faculty, at its meeting next week. CUNY Central is working to make sure that the CUNYFirst process for implementing raises and retroactive payments is smoother than the last go round. Improving systems is an important strategic priority for the university. The university's budget, which this year is tied to specific projects, has been submitted to the State. One of these projects will affect CUNY SPH—the improvement of mental health services across the university. Professor Nick Freudenberg will have an important role in this project. Ayman then reported on SPH news. The university has approved the acquisition of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor space and is now working on the contract, and the ground floor student/community space should be ready for occupancy by late February/early March. The Graduate Center has e-mailed the link to the report prepared for the Middle

States Accreditation process. Middle States will visit SPH next March and details will be shared with the community as they become available. Finally, Ayman noted that SPH just received NYSED approval for the new online MS in Health Communication for Social Change, and he congratulated Chris Palmedo who was instrumental in making this happen. He also said that this is the third and last new online degree program until the CEPH site visit in 2023, as the school needs at least two years of enrollment to satisfactorily evaluate the new programs.

### **Curriculum Committee Report**

*Sean Haley, Curriculum Committee Chair*

Sean requested and received unanimous approval for the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics to remove the two separate epidemiology and bio statistics tracks from their MPH degree as the degree awarded is an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He also reviewed the proposed curriculum submission schedule, which is intended to create a window for sufficient time for review and feedback.

### **Admissions Committee Report**

*Ghada Soliman, Admissions Committee Chair*

Ghada reported that the Admission Committee members voted unanimously to extend the validity of the GRE scores from the current 5 years to 8 years for PhD applicants as students are allowed to complete the MPH in 8 years, and they usually take the GRE prior to starting the graduate program. She also reported that the spring 2020 application deadline has been extended to January 1, 2020 for all masters and certificate programs, and she encouraged the faculty to continue to review the applications in a timely manner.

### **Assessment Committee Report**

*Nevin Cohen, Assessment Committee Member*

Nevin Cohen delivered the Assessment Committee report on behalf of Ilias Kavouras. He said that the SPH Assessment Committee members are members of the CUNY-wide COACHE Task Force. Their role is to review and evaluate the findings of this faculty job satisfaction survey and report back to the FSC. He then reported on the survey and questionnaire that the Committee plans to undertake to evaluate the use of SPH's student support services in writing and quantitative skills. The goals of this endeavor is to increase awareness of the resources available and to assess effectiveness and satisfaction. In the discussion that followed, students indicated their satisfaction with these services but requested increased hours and availability. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that Senior Associate Dean Joshi will develop a proposal to enhance and better distribute these services and report back at a future meeting of the FSC.

### **Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs' Report**

*Ashish Joshi, Senior Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs*

Ashish reported on recent activities in his office. The next dissertation boot camp for PhD students will be held on January 21, 2020. For the first time this January, there will be an adjunct faculty orientation, which will be developed and led by Marilyn Auerbach. Midterm evaluations for new core courses will be

submitted to the faculty. Finally, the faculty workload project is nearing conclusion, and he thanked the faculty for their responses.

### **Dean for Research's Report**

*Michele Kiely, Associate Dean for Research, SPaR*

Michele referred the faculty to her written report and highlighted three items. Malini Lall is the new Research Program Manager; she will start later this month. The final date to complete requests for summer salary is February 22. The Research Foundation is sponsoring a conference on international collaboration with researchers from Japan in January and she urged faculty interested in potential collaboration with Japan to attend.

### **Senior Associate Dean of Administration's Report**

*Susan Klitzman, Senior Associate Dean of Administration*

Susan reported on a few additional details regarding the new PSC contract including that CUNY Central has indicated that faculty and staff should receive retroactive pay by their March 12 paycheck. The contract also provides for eyeglass benefits annually instead of every two years, and includes paid office hours for adjunct faculty. She also noted that, in light of the recent active shooter training held at SPH, a group of staff will meet to review SPH's emergency plans and make recommendations for improvements. She also encouraged all to sign up for the CUNY Alert system. Mohit then provided the FSC with IT updates. All computers need to be updated to support Windows 10 by the end of the calendar year, and he encouraged the faculty to contact IT for support on backing up files.

### **Report on Environmental Sustainability at CUNY SPH**

*Heidi Jones, Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Heidi said a committee of faculty, students and staff has been established to recommend ideas and policies to make the campus more sustainable. She encouraged everyone to send their ideas to the committee.

### **Thanks to FSC Chair Andrew Maroko and Farewell to Professor Mimi Fahs**

Ayman thanked Andrew for the excellent job he did as Chair of the FSC and the FSC gave him a vigorous round of applause.

Ayman said that Mimi Fahs is retiring from SPH in the spring. An internationally recognized health economist and health services researcher, she has been a powerhouse in the school. Mimi has been a true academic, a committed teacher, a prodigious publisher—her list of publications is remarkable—and a dedicated servant to CUNY SPH and CUNY for many years. Ayman noted that Mimi has many interests, one of which is playing the fiddle with a group of musicians who regularly perform in Northport. Ayman introduced Mimi's wife Elizabeth, who also is a member of this group. Accompanied by Chris Palmedo, they will play a few tunes following the meeting.

Mimi thanked her colleagues for a great 40 years in public health. She congratulated Ayman and her colleagues for taking the school to the top in an amazing climb and wished everyone the best. She said that

her plans are to become a full-time musician, playing traditional American music—blues and Appalachian music—on her fiddle. She invited Elizabeth and Chris to join her to perform two tunes. The FSC then gave Mimi an enthusiastic round of applause in thanks for her years of scholarship, service and dedication to CUNY and CUNY SPH.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Andrew adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doris Suarez