

Michael J. Grant Campus

# Academic Assembly

**February 23, 2021 Zoom Meeting Minutes**

1. Alexander Kasiukov called the meeting to order at 3:31pm
2. Approval of [December 1, 2020 meeting minutes](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-12-01/assembly-2020-12-01-minutes-draft.docx) - approved unanimously without correction.
3. [Chair's Report](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/index.html#Grant-Campus-Academic-Assembly) (Alexander Kasiukov)
4. College and Campus Update (Donna Ciampa)
   1. Dr. Jerome has been working with 6 Grant Campus students who have been awarded NSF/Noyce scholarships to attend LIU under graduation from Suffolk. 18 students were awarded scholarships College-wide.
   2. Congratulations to the Kid’s Cottage director, Vicki Calderon and her team. The Grant Campus Kid’s Cottage was one of 5 childcare centers (out of 900 total) recognized as a top childcare center in NYS and earned a 5 star rating. The Kid’s Cottage was toured by NYS Assemblyman Keith Brown and NYS Senator Phil Boyle. Vicki continues to raise awareness about the need for quality child care and early childhood education.
   3. Congratulations to Assistant Chair for Business Technology and Industry, Jim Leopard for his successful acquisition of industrial-grade equipment for the HVAC program. He also received a grant for the installation of the equipment.
   4. Assistant Chair for the Arts, John Cyr has been working with Newsday to cover our 13th Annual High School Student Arts Competition.
   5. The Vet Sci program has new co-coordinators, Dr. Elia Colon-Mallah and Dr. William Phelps. Thank to Dr. Dennis Doherty for his years of service in the role.
   6. We are closer to being able to offer 2 new degree programs in the fall: Sports Management and Performing Arts has been approved by SUNY, we are awaiting approval from NYS DOE.
   7. SUNY Climate Survey has been sent out – please complete it.
   8. The FA did a phenomenal job on their teaching and working survey.
   9. COVID – we continue with the required weekly COVID testing. This includes students each week they are on campus. We are using SARS to track who is on campus. Captree Café has been turned into the clinical area. HR tracks employees, Dr. Pina Britton is tracking students with classes on campus. Dr. Babanchuk has been put in charge of tracking all other students. There are about 450 people per week being tested. Traffic patterns for entry to campus are still being worked on. We are a County site for vaccinations. Until recently we were unable to participate in the Country vaccination program, but thanks to President Petrizzo, if you have a qualifying underlying condition, follow the instructions in College Brief #83.
   10. STEM building – We are ready to break ground. The funds were released and approvals received. Building should begin in the spring with a completion date of fall 2022. Programs to be provided in the STEM building are being looked at.
5. College Update and Fall 2021 Plans (Paul Beaudin)
   1. The enrollment for the spring semester is at about 82% FTE over last year. Thank you to the students Affairs staff to help provide students the help they need. At one point we were down 40%, so there has been a dramatic improvement. Compared with our SUNY colleagues, our decline is about average. We reduced sections across the College. This was done methodically with the help of the Chairs, so that faculty could get their full-time load on their home campus with very little exception. There are a few bright spots with regard to enrollment: there was a sharp increase in enrollment last summer. Last summer’s enrollment was up 22% over the previous year. The academic success of students was consistent with the prior 2 summers with about 80% of students receiving a C or better. To address enrollment issues a robust late start program was developed, which attracted students new to the College and those that wished to continue their studies. For the spring we have about 2,000 students enrolled in late start sections. That number includes 85 students that are new to or returning to the College. Dean Spagnola managed the late start program for the College for the spring and I am grateful to her and the Chairs at Grant for their work. Our winter session also went very well. We welcomed 800 more students this January, than last January, an enrollment increase of 78%. Dual enrollment continues to do very well. Both Beacon and Early College has been consistent with last year’s numbers. I am grateful to Lisa Calla and Ray Martinez at the Grant Campus, and to those who have worked with them.
   2. During the current semester, approximately 15% of sections have an on campus presence, mainly in science, nursing, automotive, culinary, PTA, OTA and the clinicals. On campus classes are being held with social distancing.
   3. COVID testing is continuing pursuant to the SUNY mandate and if a positive test comes back for in person class, that class is moved to a remote modality for 7-10 days. I am so grateful to the faculty who have had to do this. It is not easy to have planned for F2F to have to go remote. In addition to the 15% of the sections with an on campus component, we have 29% that are real time online, 16% combined online and 40% asynchronous. I am requesting student success rates for each of the modalities to see what works for the students and if the modality has an effect on grades.
   4. I meet with the Governance leaders every Friday, so I know everyone wants to know about the plans for the fall semester. Last Thursday Mr. Petrizzo told the Trustees we are preparing the fall schedule in pencil with a very large eraser. To help us with the fall, I am grateful to you, Dante, and your team. The FA put out a wonderful survey yesterday and we have well over 400 hundred responses already. It is very important that we received your input by Friday at 9am. Decisions about the fall will be made by the governor, the chancellor, the College President, BoT members, with your input and after careful review of public health considerations this summer, including infection rates, vaccination rates, the need for masks, social distancing, pool testing, etc. I am working daily on trying to come up with our plan for the fall. I remind myself of 3 things each time I think about planning for the fall: it requires that the College prioritizes the health and safety of the faculty and students, it requires that College be able to pivot as seamlessly as possible to more F2F classes or more remote classes as we are advised to do, it requires us to consider the psychological and educational impact of the pandemic on students who are learning or attempting to learn remotely. In preparation for the fall we will carefully consider the results of the FA survey. I am going to work with the Exec. Deans to gather feedback from faculty who have been teaching on campus to determine what we need to do so that faculty feel as comfortable as possible being on campus. We have already identified 170 larger classrooms for 30 or more in addition to the 30 or so theaters and lecture halls. We will not put 30 students in a classroom but we need to know how large they are for social distancing in F2F instruction. Measuring of the classrooms will begin this Thursday to help us set class caps on these classrooms. Current F2F labs and classes will remain. We hope to introduce video streaming class lectures to complement the F2F instruction. We hope to offer a very large % of F2F classes. We will increase the number of sections and seat limits, if permissions and conditions allow us as we move into the summer and are registering the wave of new students as opposed to those coming to us through priority registration. I reiterate that we need to prioritize the health and safety of faculty and students, follow the directives of the governor and the chancellor and we need to remind ourselves of the toll that remote instruction is taking on the lives of some of our students. It is my desire to get as many students as is safe and healthful on campus.
   5. Tat Sang So – To sum up some up some of the main points of the resolution: priority reg is coming up very quickly, in most semesters, fulltime faculty would already know their schedule for the fall. When the schedule is released, a lot of things will be put into motion. You talked about pivoting nimbly and I believe that we have to do that but it is very difficult to pivot from online to classroom. It is much easier to pivot from classroom to online, so the resolution asks that we assume an online schedule as broadly as possible. 2 issues about the governor and the chancellor making decision, one thing I’m worried about is that the governor will ask SUNY to open up as much as possible and we will have a schedule that makes it very difficult to open up. Especially if come September, social distancing is measures have been rescinded and SUNYs open up more than they are now. As you know many SUNYs are having F2F classes right now. In the K-12 system the majority of them are in school part of the week and many are considering 5 day a week schedules for the remainder of the spring. One thing I’m concerned with and is reflected in the resolution, is that come August with mass vaccinations, the governor may decide that SUNY needs to open and we won’t be in a position to do that and then there is a mad scramble to move online classes to the classroom. That’s the nature of the resolution.
   6. Paul Beaudin – Quick question, Tat, I’m not sure why you are presuming that. Why are you presuming that we will be largely online?
   7. Tat Sang So – I don’t think that there is much clarity right now for what we are going to do for priority registration. But several weeks ago, the people I talked implied that we would be largely online in the fall. That’s when the discussion the resolution began. I’m not asking for a particular % of classes be in the classroom, I don’t think it makes sense to put a number on it. What I ‘m asking in the resolution is to put as many classroom sections as possible and not consider social distancing. Later in the summer we can shift classroom sections online and put social distancing in place as needed. But when we publish the schedule for priority reg it would be better to assume more classroom sections. If you can explain your thinking regarding the priority reg schedule, maybe it would help us.
   8. Paul Beaudin – I can’t give you a number. We have identified the 170 classrooms and lecture halls and theaters in which faculty may or may not feel comfortable teaching. I don’t think that we can assume that we won’t have social distancing. We have to set class caps for priority reg. Students register for specific, days, times and modalities. If I put a class cap of 35 and we have to social distance, the counselors will have to move students around in August to comply with the social distancing requirement. So I think that we first need to identify the spaces, the reasonable cap for those spaces and then go forward. It is easier to go from F2F to remote but that requires us to go back to all 15-20K students and say this is what you signed up for, but we can’t deliver. What do you prefer to do? We might be able to move you in 2 or 3 weeks from F2F to a remote modality you chose. Also, if we don’t give faculty some input in the modality they would like to teach in, it would mean in August, should conditions require us to go more remote, faculty that want to teach combine online or fully asynchronous who are scheduled F2F would only now have the choice for real time online. I think we need to be sensitive to the students who are making choices about the modality they want to learn in. That would not be an easy thing to do in August. A number of our counselors and chairs worked all last summer to assist in order to reach out to students. I think we need to have some sense of where we might be and then make the transitions as necessary. On the priority schedule that caveat that the modality chosen may not be the modality the class is given in. Again at the end of the day, the chancellor, governor, college president, BoT, and the health and safety of the faculty and students is going to make this determination. I don’t thinks it’s easy to go fully F2F to any of the other modalities.
   9. Tat Sang So – A disclaimer is appropriate but I don’t see why a student would think we wouldn’t uphold the state regulations. We also already did the move from fully open to fully online. I know it’s not easy to do and I don’t envy the people involved with these changes. We have seen the deficits in our students’ learning from the pandemic and not giving our students the ability to come back to campus would cripple our college for a very long time.
   10. Paul Beaudin – I assure you that we will do everything in our power to do just that.
   11. Alexander Kasiukov – I want to stress the support, in the strongest terms, of something that VP Beaudin said in his earlier remarks. I think that the important part is choice. We have to accommodate the personal choice to the maximum extent and that is of the people working here and the students coming here. No matter how well the vaccines roll out, some people will still have health risks. Vaccines will not completely solve the problem. Some people even with the most optimistic roll out of the vaccinations, will still have psychological issues related to the risk of coming back on campus. This all needs to be taken into account while we are making the plans for reopening the College. In my opinion, the best option is to accommodate the personal choice to the maximum extent. The choice will be split across the spectrum – F2F v online. By accommodating the choice we can provide the best outcome for those involved. I think having a plan B if we can’t go F2F is also appropriate. I don’t think that all of the great ideas that were discussed on Friday were brought up here. VP Beaudin would you like to talk about doing an incremental schedule? I agree with Tat that our students are suffering. Students are asking me to meet with them. I think that it might be a little too optimistic to think it is easy to convert F2F classes to online. I think the idea of the incremental build id a good one.
   12. Paul Beaudin – In May, June, July, we will have a better sense of what the fall will look like. We need to prepare a significant # of sections for priority reg but that doesn’t mean we have to make all sections live. We need to consider the health conditions at the time and as we have the second wave of students that come to us in June, July and August. That will give us more time to know will more F2F classes be desirable and permitted, so we offer more F2F or if it looks like it is going in the other direction, how do we offer what the students want. We do this every summer. But this time we are also considering the appropriate modality for the coming semester. I hope we can add a majority # of F2F, we just can’t guarantee that.
   13. Tat Sang So – Our schedules always had choice. FT faculty can teach up to 2 sections online. Dante is here and can speak to the contractual requirements. But that is one thing I am concerned about – making sure FT faculty get their full load. It was a big issue in the spring. Many people had their schedules turned upside down. I don’t know if an incremental schedule helps with that problem. Students can drop/add. As you release new classes students can switch and then the plan might not work out. We’ve had about 15% of the classes be online, so students could choose that if they want. I’m asking that we have a schedule for as many students and faculty that want F2F to be able to choose that. Especially if it’s possible that come August we return to an improved health status.
   14. Marc Fellenz – Paul, your point about an incremental schedule, the decisions that would be made in later stages would be informed mostly by information about the health situation at the time. I think there are problems building the schedule based upon the early registrants. Students that are choosing an online schedule early in the process may not be making the best decisions. I’m also concerned of the equity concerns of that roll out. Priority reg students are those that have the security and know that they will be here in the fall, they are also the ones that are more likely to succeed in an online environment. If we ended up building the schedule around those students, then our less advantaged students that are making their schedules in August will be facing a largely online schedule. We know that doesn’t really serve their interests. The decisions that are made later in the summer need to be based on the conditions at the time. Using the choices students make as a model for building the schedule is problematic.
   15. Paul Beaudin – That’s not what I am suggesting. As we are continuing to build more sections, as we do every year, and as the health conditions are such that students will be allowed on campus and in our classrooms – those are the preferences. The preference is not to build in more online sections in the summer, it is to build more F2F classes, if we are allowed to do so.
   16. Mark Fellenz – Do you see that we have a moral obligation to make it a high priority to offer more F2F classes? We need to consider student choice and safety, but given the experience that our students have had last year, we need increase the amount of F2F classes to serve the interests of our students that are not served by remote instruction. Would you agree it is a moral obligation?
   17. Paul Beaudin – I am speaking for me, not the College, the moral imperative is the health and safety of our faculty and students. I don’t think the success of our students is not a moral imperative but the health and safety of everyone that works here and learns here I the utmost moral imperative.
   18. Virginia Horan – It was in the chat but are we looking at class sizes to help get everyone back?
   19. Paul Beaudin – We do that now. It could be determine that class with social distancing can only accommodate 14-16 students. But don’t go back to your department with this, saying it’s great.
   20. Virginia Horan – No that’s not at all what I was thinking. I just know that we can get hung up with a lot of contractual things here. It would be better to be back. I’m happy things look to be going in the right direction.
6. [Resolution 2021-02-[01]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/assembly-resolution-2021-02-N_01-calling-for-fall-2021-schedule-allowing-possibility-of-face-to-face.docx) Calling for a Fall 2021 Class Schedule that Allows for the Possibility of Face-to-Face Instruction (Tat Sang So) Approved [33-9-12]
   1. Tat Sang So – The main points of the resolution have been discussed with VP Beaudin already today, but they are: priority reg is fast approaching, under normal circumstances FT faculty would already have there schedule, there’s a lot of uncertainty coming out of Academic Affairs, there’s a possibility that in September social distancing will no longer be mandated, SUNY could mandate that students be vaccinated. The big issue is the likelihood that the governor and SUNY mandate that the campus be more open. If we have a number of online section we will be scrambling to put students into classrooms. The resolution won’t force anyone to act but it is part of the conversation. VP Beaudin’s agreement to speak is probably because of the work of the Assembly.
   2. Virginia Horan – First thank you to Joshua Wolfson for all of his help with Blackboard. My sense was that we were talking around something, around a sense that stems from VP Beaudin’s previous hard pushes for online. It is seen as profitable and they want to proceed with it. That’s why I liked your resolution. It seems that you feel that they were being too conservative or another agenda item to advance online education.
   3. Tat Sang So – I was responding to the feeling of uncertainty. Even in the spring semester we knew our schedule earlier. We heard from our Chairs weeks ago to start thinking about our fall schedule. The resolution is prompting Academic Affairs to work on this problem.
   4. Alexander Kasiukov – I want to address the issue of pushing online classes, it’s a SUNY agenda item. It might not be true with Suffolk, but SUNY has the SUNY Online Initiative. I believe it’s a misguided effort and we need to watch it carefully. I believe it’s a complete disservice to our students and a betrayal of the SUNY mission.
   5. Joshua Wolfson – I agree in principle with the resolution. We need to do everything we scan to get back on campus but, I don’t believe that we will ever return to a pre-pandemic schedule. Faculty and student skills have evolved, I’m not sure we should be thinking of this as an all-or-nothing situation. We should look at the data. It may be that students that hadn’t taken an online course before, have now and like it. Students may want a hybrid schedule. Options are key and how we weight our classes between F2F and online to be able to provide those options is important. With regard to the ease of moving F2F to online, if the governor says we need to have 70% of classes online, who goes online? How is that determined? And it would have to be done in a shorten timeframe. I agree we should try to get on campus. To me, reverting to a 2019 schedule, I can argue is somewhat regressive and not progressive.
   6. Mark Fellenz – On Josh’s point there are a lot of data out that we don’t have. I’ll share my data points: a 20% drop in student success in the fall semester. It’s not because I didn’t do everything I could, I did QbD, and SUNY training. I think it’s overly optimistic to think there has been a great jump in skill and now everything is great with online learning. The modality doesn’t work for a majority of Grant Campus students, the community we are supposed to be serving. There are uncertainties, but that’s the reason we need a plan and the plan needs to have a goal.
   7. Lynn Liebert-Marx – I’m very concerned because I believe that students are longing for F2F classes, to be back on campus, to have the social aspect. It’s a worse disservice to show them a schedule with F2F and then pull that option from them. I think the solution is to provide more blended classes. I think we will lose more students if we plan for F2F and then have to switch to remote. We need to plan very carefully to be able to provide social distancing and have people feel comfortable with the return to campus.
   8. Virginia Horan – I understand what Josh is saying but I feel strongly about using educational technology appropriately in F2F classes at a community college. Blackboard and Zoom provide tools and opportunities. But all of the research about community college students, especially students with a socio-economic disadvantage says that F2F classes are needed. I start to build my FT schedules as Mon-Th and then add classes and sections as needed. Lastly, this college has never had a structured approach to online education. Until we have a cohesive plan regarding online education, we should go back to basics.
   9. Alyssa Kaufman – My question is about the schedule and acknowledging what Lynn said. Are we saying to students that we are rolling out this schedule with a pencil and a big eraser?
   10. Lynn Liebert-Marx – No I don’t think that’s what was said. It’s what President Petrizzo said to the BoT. I don’t think it’s right to roll out the schedule to students with such uncertainty. I think we put out what we can offer F2F and with on campus activities but be very judicious in the planning so that we don’t have to pull the rug out. They have already had a tough transition once.
   11. Alyssa Kaufman – I just want to say that I was really proud that we announced early what our plans would be for the fall. Taking a transparent stand will help the students. I am so proud we were one of the firs college’s to announce our plans.
   12. Dawn Tracy-Hanley – Can we call the question? I am in favor of the resolution, it’s well-written and covers what I believe we are all thinking. It lets the administration know that where there’s a will there’s a way. It lets them know we need to be part of the conversation.
   13. Tat Sang So – I second. I appreciate that fact that we don’t want to misguide the students, but I think they understand that there are health and safety concerns that we can’t control.
7. Resolution and update from the [College-wide Academic Standards Committee](https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/governance/academic-standards/index.jsp) (Jill Giresi​):
   1. [Resolution 2021-02-[02]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/assembly-resolution-2021-02-N_02-casc-physical-education-graduation-requirement-waiver-elimination.docx) Approving the College-wide Academic Standards Committee Proposal to Eliminate the Policy to Waive the Physical Education Graduation Requirement for Part-time and Full-time Evening Students Approve [40-7-6]
   2. [Draft Proposal](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/collegewide-academic-standards-2021-02-11-draft-proposal-physical-education-as-unrestricted-elective.docx) to Include One and Two Credit Physical Education Courses in Unrestricted Electives Course Offerings List
8. Resolutions from the [College-wide Curriculum Committee](https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/governance/college-curriculum/index.jsp): (Janet Simpson, Bruce Seger)
   1. [Resolution 2021-02-[03]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/assembly-resolution-2021-02-N_03-course-adoption-eng-100-enhanced-freshman-composition.docx) Approving the ENG100 Enhanced Freshman Composition [Course Adoption Proposal (AEG)](https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/governance/college-curriculum/documents/2020-2021/eng100-enhanced-freshman-composition-course-adoption-proposal.pdf) Approved [45-1-3]
   2. [~~Resolution 2021-02-[04]~~](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2021-02-23/assembly-resolution-2021-02-N_04-curriculum-revision-aa-liberal-arts-and-sciences-social-sciences.docx) ~~Approving the A. A. Liberal Arts and Sciences – Social Sciences~~ [~~Curriculum Revision Proposal (AEG)~~](https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/governance/college-curriculum/documents/2020-2021/a.s.-las-social-sciences-curriculum-revision-proposal-updated.pdf)Postponed
9. For the Good of the Assembly

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm