

Faculty Senate Minutes #7

April 30th, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, C. Badurek, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, S. Clark, R. Coyne, S. Daman, A. DeChellis, P. Donnelly, E. Edlund, D. Fantacone, E. Gallagher, J. Hall, D. Harms, L. Jin, J. Jones, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, R. Powell, T. Punn, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, T. Suzuki, A. Thompson C. Widdall, B. Williams, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: S. Decker, R. Davis, L. Lopez-Janove

Guests: G. Birren, M. Kent-Landes, H. Georgia, H. Schmid, M. Schlarb, A. Thomas, S. Wood, G. Bhat, C. Kaltefleiter, A. Fitz-Gibbon, K. Pristash, B. Mattingly, M. Prus, L. MacDonald, A. LaChance

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from April 16th were approved as amended by the Senate; change “S. Daman announced the College Research Committee (CRC) has officially changed its name to the Faculty Research Committee (FRC),” to “C. Badurek announced the College Research Committee (CRC) has officially changed its name to the Faculty Research Committee (FRC).”

II. Chair’s Report: K. Lawrence:

- Acknowledged and thanked all senators and committees for their exceptional work throughout this past academic year; thanked them for their commitment to Faculty Senate and the University and for making the work of Senate during the 2023-2024 academic year persistent, effective, and engaged. Grateful for the service of officers and senators, and for the shared governance we have achieved
- Announced that the plaque that SUNY Cortland received at the Spring 2024 UFS Plenary will be displayed in Jacobus Lounge sometime in the near future
- Recognized and thanked Administrative Assistant, A. DeChellis, for her work within the Faculty Senate
- Recognized Parliamentarian, S. Anderson, for his contributions to making the proceedings of the Faculty Senate run efficiently

III. Vice Chair/Secretary’s Report: D. Harms:

- Presented slate of vacancies to the Faculty Senate for the Spring 2024 Call for Nominations
 - Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies (*Please find documents attached*).
 - Number of vacancies are as follows:
 - Senator vacancies (6 total)
 - Committee vacancies (7 total)
 - Please note: Any seat that was uncontested by a single nominee was elected by the Faculty Senate.
 - The 2 Committee positions that were contested will be sent to ballot by appropriate constituencies as soon as possible

IV. Treasurer's Report: C. Widdall – No report.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- In the interest of time, President Bitterbaum opted to forego his report to the Senate.

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: K. Silvestri – No report

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: K. Sheets, Chair – No report

Educational Policy Committee: E. Edlund, Chair – No report

Professional Faculty Affairs Committee: J. Neretich, Chair – No report

Area Senators – No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: C. Badurek, A. Blavos, L. Jin, J. Hall – No report

Student Senator: E. Gallagher/T. Punn

- SGA will hold their last Student Senate meeting of the semester this evening (4/30/24); swear in newly elected officers

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: E. Faulkenbury, Chair – No report.

University Curriculum Review Committee: K. Polasek, Chair – No report

College Research Committee: C. Badurek, Chair – No report

General Education Committee: D. Radus, Chair – No report.

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: L. Gathagan, Chair – No report.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Review of Governance, Changes to Chapter 150 of The College Handbook** – K. Sheets, G. Birren, and J. Neretich opened discussion/debate to the floor of the Faculty Senate
 - No further discussion and/or debate
 - Vote: Unanimously passes by the Senate; Will be sent out for referendum as soon as possible
- **EPC Changes to Chapter 415** – EPC's revisions to Chapter 415 of the College Handbook was opened to the floor of the Faculty Senate for discussion/debate by E. Edlund (*Please find document attached*)
 - No discussion and/or debate
 - Vote: Unanimously passes by the Senate
- **EPC Transfer and Prior Learning Credit** – EPC's proposal regarding transfer and prior learning credit was opened to the floor of the Faculty Senate for discussion/debate by E. Edlund (*Please find document attached*)
 - C. Widdall spoke in favor of the proposal, commenting that this proposal is a "breathing document," meaning that we have to begin somewhere; if changes

need to be made later on once the policy is in place, that is always something that can be addressed

- K. Sheets motioned that the final section of the proposal regarding assessed fees be amended to reflect that a 50% fee be remitted to the individual academic department
 - R. Borden 2nd the motion
 - M. Yacavone commented that it would need to be verified that the Faculty Senate has the power to allocate assessed fees
 - R. Borden: In light of the uncertainty of the Senate's ability to allocate assessed fees, Senator Borden suggested that Senator Sheets withdraw his prior motion
 - K. Sheets: Respectively withdraw prior motion
- C. Widdall: Motioned that the entire final page regarding assessed fees be removed from the proposal
 - S. Daman 2nd motion
 - Vote: Unanimously approved by the Senate
- Vote to approve amended proposal: Unanimously approved by the Senate
- **AFAC Changes to Chapter 220.07** – AFAC's revisions to Chapter 220.07 of the College Handbook was opened to the floor of the Faculty Senate for discussion/debate by K. Sheets (*Please find document attached*)
 - Amendment to Chapter 220.07 on Advisement: From the committee's perspective, this amendment is a relatively narrow change, and is not meant to diminish advising; rather, this amendment has been added in an effort to address the advising workload issues several departments have been facing over the last several years
 - A. Blavos: Suggested that perhaps a line be added into the amendment regarding advisement portfolios
 - R. Bryan: Acknowledged the AFAC for all the work they have put forth into this; however, is against the amendment since advisement is already under teaching...concern that the amendment doesn't address the larger issue of moving advisement from teaching to service
 - L. Jin: Asked for clarification on whether the amendment is to keep advisement under teaching, or to move advisement under teaching **and** service?
 - K. Sheets: Amendment will remove advising from all categories and leave that discretion up to each individual academic department as to where they want to put it in their personnel review processes
 - A. Blavos: raised concern that this now becomes an administrative nightmare; where in The College Handbook will this go, Section 240?
 - G. Birren: Won't be in The College Handbook; rather it will be listed in each individual department's personnel process
 - S. Clark: Supports the proposal, but, not the amendment
 - Senator J. Jones recognizes M. Prus to speak: Against the amendment, as it seems it will create a murkier situation when it comes to the BOT's policies
 - P. Arras: Amendment doesn't benefit junior faculty (preparing portfolios)
 - Senator J. Neretich recognizes G. Bhat to speak: I want to speak in support of this amendment. In the past 32 years of being at SUNY Cortland,

advisement has always been under teaching; with that being said, however, it mystifies me that leaving the discretion up to each individual department would create undue confusion.

- Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes B. Mattingly to speak: Not sure if amendment is necessary; Personnel Action Form in each academic department. It is also unclear to me how this proposed process would make things more difficult/confusing as some have argued
 - Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes A. Fitz-Gibbon to speak: The Personnel Action form would need to be changed then, since as it currently stands, advisement is under teaching
- Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes L. MacDonald to speak: White paper that was distributed regarding this amendment was only circulated through the School of Arts/Sciences; creates an issue of inequity across schools/departments
- B. Williams: Purpose of this amendment for clarity, workload issues, or both?
 - K. Sheets: was created as a way to offer a compromise
- **Vote Amendment to Chapter 220.07 on Advisement: Aye: 10, Nay: 8**
 - **Amendment passes by the Faculty Senate**
- AFAC Changes to 220.07, with Approved Amendment
 - D. Harms: Suggested striking Section A, on Page 7; that way, it becomes administrative work
 - R. Borden: Is the purpose of moving advising from teaching to service an effort to somehow make it more equitable?
 - K. Sheets: Purpose is to bring more visibility to the advising work faculty do
 - J. Hall: Even though the purpose is to make advising work more visible, it doesn't necessarily address the inequity issues
 - Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes A. LaChance to speak: Moving advising from teaching to service won't address inequity issues at all. The best way to elevate advising is to keep it in teaching; service is a choice, advising isn't a choice which is why it has always been under teaching
 - Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes C. Kaltefleiter to speak: We should support our AFAC colleagues with this proposal, as moving advising to service will allow for greater visibility
 - R. Bryan: Against moving advising to service; advising is an obligation to our work as academic faculty. Moving advising to a category that then makes it a choice rather than an obligation doesn't resolve the inequity issue
 - K. Lawrence mentioned that Faculty Senate is planning on forming an ad-hoc committee (perhaps Fall 2024) to examine academic advising and various issues such as: sub-topics related to highlighting its significance on campus, working at a solution to inequity in advising loads, and ways to account for advising effectively in one's dossier
 - Senator Blavos recognizes A. Fitz-Gibbon: Moving advising from teaching to service isn't downgrading advising; our obligations as academic faculty are three-fold (teaching, scholarship, and service). The pillar of service is just as important as the other two pillars
 - Senator A. Blavos recognizes M. Kent-Landes to speak: I've been a professional advisor for over eighteen years, and in experience, advising is

very rewarding; couldn't extra advisees go under service as to not make advising seem optional?

- K. Sheets: Even under service, academic advising is not optional
- Treasurer C. Widdall recognizes M. Schlarb to speak: The intent here was not to diminish service; our college handbook only has a few lines dedicated to advising, whereas peer intuitions have paragraphs in their handbooks in regard to advising
- Senator J. Neretich recognizes A. Thomas to speak: The goal of the white paper was to look at advising under the category of teaching, regardless of personnel process
- E. Bitterbaum: Purpose of the white paper was to try and elevate the importance of advising; suggested a possible compromise to have advising as a fourth separate area of its own (rather than under one of the other three pillars)
- **J. Hall: Motioned to call the question**
 - **L. Jin: 2nd motion**
 - **Vote: Aye: 16, Nay: 3; Call the question passes by the Faculty Senate**
 - **Vote on proposal as amended: Aye: 13, Nay: 5; AFAC Changes to 220.07, as amended, passes by the Faculty Senate**
- Chair, K. Lawrence, thanked everyone for staying late and for the rigor and compassion expressed in the discussion. Participation was key

X. New Business: N/A

XI. Announcements: N/A

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 3:06PM on 4/30/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis