

Faculty Senate Minutes #1

January 30th, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

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

Members and Senators Absent: P. Arras, S. Decker, J. Hall, D. Harms, A. Thompson, C. Widdall, M. Yacavone

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from December 5th were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Welcomed two new SGA representatives, Emily Gallagher and Tannu Punn to the Faculty Senate, as well as Senator John Jones representing School of Education
- Reminder regarding ongoing call for nominations from last Spring 2023; try to fill remaining vacancies. We will have a new call for nominations go out to campus for elections later in the Spring 2024 semester
- Review of Governance (ROG) Committee is continuing their work; big thank you to K. Sheets, G. Birren, and J. Neretich for all diligent work with the ROG
 - Projected timeline for ROG:
 - 2/6/24 – Steering Committee to review initial draft revisions to Chapter 150 of The College Handbook
 - 3/26/24 – Final draft
 - 4/16/24 – Present at the Faculty Senate open meeting
 - 4/30/24 – Referendum to go out to be voted on
- If anyone has any special guests they would like to invite to attend a Senate meeting to present, please let us know ahead of time so that we can schedule that into the meeting agenda
- Encouraged faculty to nominate fellow colleagues for various awards that are announced to the campus via email
- EPC had a vetting document that was sent out to campus this morning; 2 weeks vetting period, please submit comments and/or concerns during the vetting period rather than waiting until the vetting period has passed

III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report: D. Harms (A. DeChellis reported):

- Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies; nomination of S. Banerjee representing Math/Science for the remainder of the 2021-2024 term on the College Research Committee was approved by the Senate(*Please find documents attached*).
 - Remaining vacancies are as follows:

- **Senator vacancies (8 total):** 1 seat representing Math/Science, 1 seat representing Social/Behavioral Sciences, 1 seat representing FTL Education OR Professional Studies, 1 seat representing Professional Studies, 2 seats representing Professional Faculty, 1 seat representing Graduate Faculty, and 1 seat representing Part-Time Faculty
- **Committee vacancies (2 total):** PFAC: 1 (unexpired term) seat representing Academic Affairs, GE: 1 (unexpired term) seat representing Social/Behavioral Sciences

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

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Received over 16,000 student applications last week; we will have to narrow those applications down to about 1,300
 - There have been errors occurring within FASFA, which has slowed down the application process
- SUNY Cortland is fortunate that our enrollment numbers has kept us strong financially; there have been several hiring freezes due to the lack of enrollment among various other SUNY institutions, including: Potsdam, Fredonia, Geneseo, Buffalo State, and Brockport
 - R. Bryan inquired as to whether there is a clear enrollment plan in place, in particular to the PE Department; while there have been 5 new faculty hires within the PE Department, there have also been several retirees as well as interim deans which diminishes those 5 new faculty lines
 - K. Lawrence extended assistance to the PE Department on behalf of the Faculty Senate; if there is anything the Senate can do to help, please don't hesitate to ask
- The state has added \$100 million to the construction fund
 - Plan to do construction across campus, including: Bowers, Memorial Library, Corey Union, and PER (Park Center); the order in which construction will be completed is unknown at this point
- \$3 million teaching grant from SUNY Systems, to be allocated among all SUNY institutions, to teach in NYS prisons so that those incarcerated may have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's Degree; if any faculty member is interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Provost A. McClellan

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: K. Silvestri:

- JCSI has completed their Review of Governance and has sent it to K. Sheets (AFAC)
- Has begun scholarship review

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: K. Sheets, Chair:

- Continuing to review academic personnel policies
- Reviewing Chapters 220.06/220.07 of The College Handbook; sections focus on tenure and promotion procedures

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

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

Area Senators:

- B. Williams inquired about students taking faculty parking spaces and what can be done to rectify this
 - G. Sharer shared that such complaints should be forwarded to Eammon O’Shea in the Parking Department

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: C. Badurek, A. Blavos, L. Jin, J. Hall – C. Badurek and L. Jin reported on the Spring 2024 UFS Plenary:

- Enrollment strategies
 - Retention, increase credit prior learning, and improving the transfer process
- Academic Portfolio Optimization
- Students with disabilities
- SUNY Downstate Hospital
- Changes to the NYS Department of Education (Master’s Degree)
- Increased interest in Micro-credentialing
- Auto-emissions
- Student Success offices

Student Senator: E. Gallagher/T. Punn

- Held first Student Senate meeting last week
- Thursday, 2/1/24, will be 2nd Annual Abraham Lincoln Demond Day
- Upcoming elections; interest meeting will be held 2/11/24
- Big Event scheduled for 4/21/24
- Mental Health Fair
- T. Punn has a meeting with A. Thomas from Advisement and Transition tomorrow (1/31/24) afternoon to discuss ways to make academic advisement more accessible for students

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:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2023** – See V. Chair Report
- **Handbook Revision for Generative AI** – Discussion resumed from the last Faculty Senate meeting of the Fall 2023 semester (12/5/23) regarding this handbook revision to the Senate

- J. Zhe-Heimmerman moved to strike the parenthetical phrase “...(unless explicitly permitted)...”
 - 2nd: R. Borden
 - Vote: Unanimously approved by the Senate
- R. Borden moved to add in the phrase “...(unless explicitly permitted, and appropriately cited)...”
 - This motion was not seconded
- Main motion to accept the Handbook Revision for Generative AI, as amended by the Faculty Senate, was approved:
 - “Obtaining a paper or assignment from an online source, paper mill, another student, Generative AI, or any other source and submitting it, wholly or in part, as one’s own work”
- **UFS Resolution 195-01 Support for Microcredentials** – Will be brought before the Senate on 2/13/24
- **UFS Resolution 195-02 NYS Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget** – Will be brought before the Senate on 2/13/24
- **UFS Resolution 195-03 SUNY Potsdam Freeze** – Will be brought before the Senate on 2/13/24

X. New Business: There was no new business

XI. Announcements:

- L. Lopez-Janove announced that February is Black History Month, and that we have over 30 events taking place on campus to commemorate
 - Campus Climate survey 2/12/24-3/8/24; raffling a Blaze Dragon plushy and \$100 Amazon gift card

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:32PM on 1/30/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis