

## Faculty Senate Minutes #2

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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, A. DeChellis, S. Decker, P. Donnelly, E. Edlund, D. Fantacone, E. Gallagher, D. Harms, L. Jin, J. Jones, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, R. Powell, T. Punn, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, T. Suzuki, C. Widdall

**Members and Senators Absent:** R. Davis, J. Hall, L. Lopez-Janove, J. Radloff, A. Thompson, M. Yacavone, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

**Guests:** D. Contri, J. Martin Tse

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes, as amended, from January 30<sup>th</sup> were approved by the Senate; amendments were as follows:

- Under the Chair's report, "projected timeline for ROG the date of 4/12/24 – Present at the Faculty Senate open meeting", was changed to the correct date of 4/16/24
- Under the President's report, "received \$3 million teaching grant from SUNY Systems..." was changed to reflect that the grant received was to be allocated among all SUNY institutions, rather than SUNY Cortland receiving the grant in its entirety from SUNY Systems

**II. Chair's Report:** K. Lawrence:

- On behalf of L. Lopez-Janove, reported that the issues with the campus climate surveys are being looked into and will hopefully be resolved within the next few days
- New Chair of the CTE Committee, E. Faulkenbury, is working with the committee on a resolve to combat, as well as redact, discriminatory remarks on Course Teacher Evaluations
  - E. Faulkenbury and another member of the CTE committee are meeting with L. Lopez Janove and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to present the committee's ideas for a possible solution to this situation of biased comments on the CTEs.
- Working to establish ad-hoc committee to address contingent faculty rights; recognized R. Borden for diligence in research and advocacy regarding contingent faculty rights
- Announced that the Fall 2024 Call for Nominations is scheduled to go out to campus on 3/19/24

**III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report:** D. Harms:

- Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies; there were no nominations received (*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
  - There have been errors occurring within FASFA, which has slowed down the application process; hopefully, these errors will be resolved by the end of March
- Reported on recent travels to Cuba
  - He and 25 other SUNY delegates were invited to meet with the President of Cuba, as well as the Foreign Minister of Cuba; Cuban president encouraged SUNY students to travel abroad to Cuba
- NYS budget hearings are currently taking place
  - \$54 million this year to allocate among SUNY institutions
- Renovations across campus are going well; possibility that Van Hoesen may be finished a month early
- Encouraged participation in the campus climate survey that has recently been sent out
- Reminded faculty that only the governor has the capability to issue SUNY closures due to inclement weather
- R. Borden raised concern to President Bitterbaum regarding the possibility of part-time faculty losing their jobs as a result of academic departments' inability to pay part-time faculty
  - A. McClellan spoke to the issue explaining that the deans are working with department chairs to come up with a strategic plan
  - It was also noted that this issue falls under union and contractual concerns
  - R. Bryan announced that on 3/4/24 and 3/5/24 there will be opportunities to advocate to UUP in Albany; if anyone is interested, please feel free to contact R. Bryan

**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

- Upcoming elections for President, V. President, and CFO are forthcoming; campaigning will commence after Spring Break
- Big Event scheduled for 4/21/24
- T. Punn met with A. Thomas from Advisement and Transition on 1/31/24 and discussed improving advisement meetings for all students; it was decided to make 2 different pamphlets; one for freshmen and sophomores, and the other one for juniors and seniors

### **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
- **UFS Resolution 195-01 Support for Microcredentials** – L. Jin summarized resolution to the Senate
  - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Faculty Senate
- **UFS Resolution 195-02 NYS Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget** – C. Badurek summarized resolution to the Senate
  - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Faculty Senate
- **UFS Resolution 195-03 SUNY Potsdam Freeze** – C. Badurek summarized resolution to the Senate
  - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Faculty Senate

### **X. New Business:**

- **EPC Increase to Credit Limits for Non-Degree Learners** – Was introduced to the Senate on behalf of the committee by C. Widdall
  - Proposal will be brought back before the Senate for a vote in two weeks (2/27/24)
- A. Blavos raised concern over the lack of financial compensation for culminating activity courses

- Issue has arisen due to minimum enrollment
- Seems that this concern should be dealt with at the dean level; however, no one seems to have an answer to rectify the issue

**XI. Announcements:**

- C. Widdall: an email will be forthcoming regarding the implementation of the new Watermark system; looking for faculty to move their annual reports into this new system

**Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:11PM on 2/13/24**

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis