

## Faculty Senate Minutes #1

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Fireplace Lounge

**Members and Senators Present:** K. Ahern, S. Anderson, C. Badurek, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, 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. Clark, S. Decker, J. Hall, D. Harms, A. Thompson, C. Widdall, M. Yacavone

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from December 5<sup>th</sup> 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
    - 4/12/24 – 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
- Received a \$3 million teaching grant from SUNY Systems 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)...”
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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