

## Faculty Senate Minutes #3

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Via WebEx

**Members and Senators Present:** S. Anderson, C. Badurek, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, A. Catalfamo, C. Chatfield, C. Costell Corbin, S. Comins, A. Curtis, A. Dearie, A. DeChellis, L. Delaubell, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, C. Grate, D. Harms, C. Hickey, C. Humphrey, T. Hunter, L. Jin, A. Myles, C. Pass, P. Perkins, V. Placide, R. Powell, G. Sharer, S. Strause, T. Suzuki, R. Vooris, , D. West, C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

**Members and Senators Absent:** M. Fox, J. Hall, P. Schroeder

**Guests:** L. Lopez-Janove

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from September 22<sup>nd</sup> were approved by the Senate.

**II. Chair's Report:** G. Birren – Reported that when the steering committee met last week, they decided it would be appropriate to create a presidential award for excellence in diversity and inclusion; there needs to be a draft of the award, and G. Birren asked that if there are any senators that might be interested in working on the draft for the award that they should contact her.

**III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report:** C. Chatfield – No report.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** R. Grantham – No report.

**V. President's Report:** E. Bitterbaum:

- Due to the governor's and NYS Health Department's mandate that any campus reaching 100 or more positive COVID-19 cases will have to shift to remote learning, SUNY Cortland will be teaching remotely for at least the next 2 weeks; after that period of 2 weeks, it will then be up to each individual faculty member whether to return to face-to-face instruction or remain teaching remotely.
  - Students will be expected to remain in place for the next 2 weeks of remote instruction, unless there is an emergency reason as to why they must leave, in which case documentation will be required from the student.
  - If a student does have to return home for an emergency situation, before that student can return to campus, he or she will be required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test

### **VII. Policy Committee Reports**

**Joint Committee on Student Interests:** A. Blavos – Reported that the JCSI currently has a full roster and is working on building a committee webpage.

**Academic Faculty Affairs Committee:** A. Fitz-Gibbon – No report.

**Educational Policy Committee:** C. Widdall, Chair – Reported that the committee will be sending out a vetting document regarding minor concentrations before the end of this week.

**Professional Affairs Committee:** C. Hickey, Chair – The PAC is continuing to focus on professional faculty's concerns regarding health and wellness during the pandemic

**Area Senators:** No report

**SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator:** R. Vooris/C. Badurek – Reported that UFS will be having their fall plenary next week; it will be held virtually.

**Student Senator:** C. Humphrey

- Reported that SGA has been busy trying to tie up loose organizational ends for the time being.

- Reported that the 3 student representatives to Faculty Senate are as follows: C. Humphrey, C. Grate, and T. Hunter; SGA is also in the process of trying to fill vacancies on faculty senate committees that are still lacking student representation.

### **VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:**

**Committee on Teaching Effectiveness:** K. Bonafide, Chair – No report.

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

**College Research Committee:** R. Vooris, Chair – No report.

**General Education Committee:** L. Delaubell, Chair – No report.

**Graduate Faculty Executive Committee:** C. Badurek (Fall sabbatical replacement), Chair – Reported that they have a new member who has recently been appointed as having graduate faculty status, and that hopefully that individual may submit their name for the vacant graduate faculty senator seat on the Faculty Senate.

### **IX. Unfinished Business:**

- Call for Nominations, Spring 2020 – Nominations that were received via email for the Spring 2020 call were approved by the senate; additional nominations were accepted from the floor in an effort to fill any remaining vacancies (*Please find document attached*).
  - Senator seat, representing Fine Arts/Humanities for the 2020-2022 term: S. Clark
- Updates to Mediation and Resolution Service – A proposed service to provide academic and professional faculty members with an informal, confidential, impartial, and independent resource to address concerns or questions openly without fear of retaliation or judgment (*Please find MRS Bylaws document attached*).
  - A. Fitz-Gibbon informed the senate that this service was a charge from the UFS to be initiated as a 2 year pilot program at SUNY Empire State, as well as here at SUNY Cortland.
    - The MRS Committee (which is *not* a senate committee) will have its initial meeting soon with the provost, J. Pittsley (UUP), A. Fitz-Gibbon (Chair), along with the other faculty representatives of the committee.

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

- Diversity Training for Faculty Senate – Discussion in regards to having a diversity and inclusion training for senate members ensued.
  - It was agreed upon that there should be designated senate meeting time to devote to diversity and inclusion training at certain points throughout the academic year.
    - Motion: R. Vooris
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Grantham
    - Vote: 32, 0; motion carries.

**XI. Announcements:** A. Curtis brought to the floor a question regarding the capping of classes for the academic year, in which discussion ensued

- M. Prus commented on the topic, explaining that at the Joint Chairs Council meeting, the idea that classes with lower enrollment might not be available due to the deficit caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 on 10/6/20**

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis