

## Faculty Senate Minutes #7

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Fireplace Lounge

**Members and Senators Present:** K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arenas, P. Arras, C. Badurek, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, S. Clark, R. Coyne, R. Davis, S. Decker, A. DeChellis, E. Edlund, D. Fantacone, D. Harms, , L. Jin, K. Lawrence, L. Lopez-Janove, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, R. Powell, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, T. Suzuki, C. Widdall, B. Williams, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

**Members and Senators Absent:** C. Barnett, E. Bitterbaum, P. Donnelly, J. Hall, T. Herman, J. Jones, J. Mascetta, A. Thompson,

**Guests of the Senate:** N. Diller, C. Van Der Karr

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The amended Minutes from November 21<sup>st</sup> were approved by the Senate.

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

- Announced that due to scheduling conflicts during finals week, there will be no Steering Committee meeting held on 12/12/23
- Reported that there is an article that was published in “The Voice” regarding recipients of the Distinguished Rank and Chancellor’s Awards
- Reported that the ROG Committee has been meeting regularly and are moving along with their work; the committee has recently reached out to all chairs of the Faculty Senate’s standing committees. ROG will present their work to the Senate sometime in the Spring 2024 semester
- Announced that the covering over the new lighting outside of Van Hoesen Hall has added to the improvement/safety on campus

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

- Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies; we did not receive any additional nominations at this time (*Please find documents attached*).
  - Remaining vacancies are as follows:
    - **Senator vacancies (7 total):** 1 seat representing Math/Science, 1 seat representing Social/Behavioral Sciences, 1 seat representing FTL Education OR 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, **CRC:** 1(unexpired term vacant SP 2024 ONLY) seat representing Math/Science

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

**V. President's Report:** E. Bitterbaum – No report

**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:

- C. Widdall reported that the committee will be sending a revised vetting document out to campus sometime early in the Spring 2024 semester regarding concept of not having a designated finals week; encouraged all to submit feedback when the vetting document is sent out

**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:** J. Mascetta:

- P. Arenas thanked J. Radloff for being the SGA's faculty representative to the SGA
- P. Arenas reported on events the SGA will be hosting in the Spring 2024 semester
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Abraham Lincoln Demond Day
  - Mental Health Fair
  - SGA Big Event
- P. Arenas also thanked the Faculty Senate for allowing him to serve on the Senate as a student representative; commented that while it was an eye-opening and enjoyable experience for him, Faculty Senate will have a new student representative in the Spring 2024 semester, as he will be unable to serve due to scheduling conflicts. K. Lawrence acknowledged the SGA representatives for their service and the assembled Senate applauded their efforts. She encouraged him to return next year and serve again if his schedule allows

**VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:**

**Committee on Teaching Effectiveness:** H. Zhang, Chair – No report

**University Curriculum Review Committee:** K. Polasek, Chair:

- A. Blavos announced that the UCRC still needs 2 student representatives to serve on the committee

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

**General Education Committee:** D. Ratus, Chair – No report

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

**IX. Unfinished Business:**

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2023** – See V. Chair Report
- **EPC Policy Revision Proposal** – Policy Revision to Support Undergraduate/Graduate Combined Programs was brought to the floor of the Senate for discussion (*Please find document attached*)
  - C. Van Der Karr spoke to the policy as being in alignment with SUNY policies; mentioned that both the Financial Aid and Registrar’s Office were contacted when working on this policy
  - C. Widdall commented that this is just a beginning policy; there will more than likely be changes/alterations to the policy
  - R. Borden commented that, in his opinion, the policy seems counter-productive in that the policy creates an inequity for certain students; depending on when students enter the program, this policy makes it so that some students have the opportunity to “double-dip” and receive both undergraduate and graduate credit while those students who enter the program later would not receive both undergraduate and graduate credit
    - Discussion ensued
  - E. Edlund commented that while he is supportive of the proposal, he too has concerns about the inequity the policy potentially creates for students; also commented that he’d like to see the proposal possibly expanded so that all students who enter the program, regardless of when they entered it, can reap the same benefits
    - Discussion ensued
  - K. Sheets inquired about what constitutes senior year for a student; is it solely based upon credit hours?
    - C. Van Der Karr responded that the status of a being in his/her senior is a combination of credit hours, pre-requisites, etc. and is also based on how much of the actual degree the student has completed, rather than just on credit hours alone
  - C. Widdall motioned that the Senate cease with debate and bring the proposal to a vote
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Daman
      - Vote to cease debate: In favor: 16; Opposed: 6; greater than 2/3 approval debate has ended
      - Vote to accept proposal: In favor: 17; Opposed: 3
        - Proposal accepted by the Senate

## **X. New Business:**

- **Handbook Revision for Generative AI** – K. Ahern introduced handbook revision to the Senate; clarifying questions were then opened to the floor
  - Motion to end clarifying questions and move to discussion/debate: S. Daman
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Neretich
    - Vote: In Favor: 18; Opposed: 2; discussion opened to the floor
  - R. Borden raised the concern that the proposed revision is counter-productive; students can’t submit work that isn’t their own as their own
  - A. Blavos commented that if this revision is voted down, it will prevent faculty from assigning work where the students are required to use Generative A.I.; in those cases, the students are not submitting the work completed using the Generative A.I. as their own, but rather as a research tool
    - Further discussion ensued concerning students use of A.I. in their research processes, and whether or not the use of Generative A.I. as a research tool would go against this revision

- Discussion on this revision will resume at the first full Senate meeting in the Spring 2024 semester as unfinished business(1/30/24), as time ran short
- **UFS Resolution 195-01 Support for Microcredentials** – Will be brought before the Senate on 1/30/24
- **UFS Resolution 195-02 NYS Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget** – Will be brought before the Senate on 1/30/24
- **UFS Resolution 195-03 SUNY Potsdam Freeze** – Will be brought before the Senate on 1/30/24

**XI. Announcements:** No announcements

**Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:30PM on 12/5/23**

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis