

Faculty Senate Minutes #4

March 31st, 2020

Via WebEx

Members and Senators Present: A. Addonisio, S. Anderson, C. Badurek, C. Bennett, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, C. Costell Corbin, A. Blavos, R. Borden, S. Comins, A. Curtis, A. DeChellis, M. DiVita, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, H. Haines, A. Hasbrouck, C. Hickey, K. Ibe-Lamberts, F. Ishaq, L. Jin, C. Kuretich, J. McNamara, A. Myles, V. Placide, R. Powell, M. Prus, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, S. Strause, T. Suzuki, R. Vooris, , D. West, B. Williams, C. Widdall, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: A. Dearie, M. Fox, C. Grate, J. Hall, P. Perkins, E. Owens

Guests: C. Van Der Karr

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from March 3rd were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: M. DiVita – Asked that the senate take a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Dr. Virginia Levine, who served as the Chief of Staff & Vice President for Policy and Accreditation for over the past 20 years; M. DiVita commented on the fact that Dr. Levine was a vital member of the campus community and noted that she will be greatly missed. The Chair also mentioned the current state of CTE data for this semester, explaining that State level UUP is working with their legal counsel to determine how CTEs, the process and the items, fit into collective bargaining; therefore, Cortland's CTE discussion and items are on hold for now.

III. Vice Chair's Report: G. Birren – No report.

IV. Treasurer's Report: K. Ibe-Lamberts – No report.

V. Secretary's Report: F. Ishaq – Reported that he and A.DeChellis are currently working on the new Spring 2020 call for nominations, which will tentatively go out to campus this Friday 4/3/20.

VI. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Thanked M. DiVita for her kind words for Dr. Levine, and mentioned that if anyone would care to send condolences to her family they can do so by sending them to the president's office where they will then be forwarded to a member of Dr. Levine's family.
- Thanked everyone for all their efforts and perseverance during these difficult times in moving all their instruction and meetings to an online platform.
- Reported that the president's office has been in contact with the SUNY chancellor during these past few weeks monitoring the COVID-19 situation; reported that there has been \$14 million set aside for SUNY to become available for reimbursements sometime in the future (this is to assist with the hardships caused by the COVID-19 virus; all SUNY campuses are being asked to keep track of all COVID-19 expenses).
- The campus is continuing to move forward with their searches, for the time being.
- A. Addonisio commented on the various construction projects that have been taking place on campus for the past several months, and reported that all non-essential construction has come to a halt due the state order that was given by Gov. Cuomo; construction ceased on Friday 3/27/20.
- G. Sharer reported that while the majority of students have vacated the campus, there are still around 70 students living on campus.

VII. Policy Committee Reports

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. Blavos – Reported that the JCSI has a scheduled WebEx meeting this week, where they will be discussing one of the proposals in the SGA's Manifesto and how best to go forward with the proposal now that everything has been moved to an online platform.

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon – Reported that the AFAC is continuing to meet virtually; their next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday (4/2/20)

Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair – Reported that EPC is continuing to meet virtually, and that they are also continuing to work on all of their policies and proposals to the best of their ability.

Professional Affairs Committee: C. Hickey, Chair – No report

Area Senators: No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: R. Vooris/C. Badurek – R. Vooris reported that the UFS Plenary is scheduled for 4/17/20, and that it will be held virtually.

Student Senator: C. Bennett:

- Reported that the SGA is still adapting to meeting remotely; because everything has shifted to online meetings, the SGA has had cancel or postpone several of their events that they had planned for the remainder of the spring semester.
- Has postponed their upcoming April elections until Fall 2020.
- Continuing to keep up with their budget.

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: J. McNamara, Chair – Reported that the GE has suspended their assessments for the time being, but, they are continuing to review Curriculog.

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: N. Wilson, Chair – No report.

Committee on Teaching Awards: M. DiVita, Chair – All awards are moving forward.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- Call for Nominations, Fall 2019 – Additional nominations were taken from the floor; there weren't any nominations from the floor (*Please find document attached in email*)
- Graduate Coursework Policy Revision – Policy to support 3+2 and 4+1 programs for undergraduate students taking 500-level courses; C. Widdall thanked R. Borden for his grammatical clarifications that he had made throughout the document (*Please find document attached in email*).
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the senate
- Executive Board Updates/Changes – Proposed policy updates regarding responsibilities of the senate chair, vice chair, and past-presiding chair were voted on by the senate (*Please find policy attached in email*).
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the senate

X. New Business:

- 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; will be postponed to a later date, as there have been a few delays that have arisen with the proposal (*Please find documents attached in email*).

- Academic Policy Draft – SUNY Cortland’s temporary academic policy changes due to COVID-19 was brought before the senate for endorsement (*Please find policy attached in email*).
 - Discussion ensued, and it was agreed upon that the language in the document be changed from: “SUNY Cortland will consider the conditions of Spring 2020 in evaluation of incoming college credit and **may choose** to accept non-letter grade (Pass or Satisfactory) coursework for credit as well as meeting requirements of the curriculum.” to: “SUNY Cortland will consider the conditions of Spring 2020 in evaluation of incoming college credit and **will choose** to accept non-letter grade (Pass or Satisfactory) coursework for credit as well as meeting requirements of the curriculum.” as a means of clarity for transfer students.
 - Vote: 1 against, 32 for endorsement
 - Policy endorsed by the senate.

XI. Announcements:

- R. Powell announced that since SUNY and Elsevier have been unable to reach a definitive decision, the contract between SUNY and Elsevier will be terminated as of 4/1/20.
- C. Widdall announced that NY state education has declared that if the Pearson testing systems remain unavailable to students through 5/1/20, then all student teachers who are currently enrolled in student teaching courses will be exempt in taking those Pearson exams for the current semester.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29PM on 3/31/20

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis