

Faculty Senate Minutes #3

March 4th, 2025

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: S. Anderson, P. Arras, C. Badurek, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, E. Cisneros, S. Clark, R. Coyne, R. Davis, A. DeChellis, S. Decker, D. Fantacone, P. Francis, J. Hall, D. Harms, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich,, C. Palmer, J. Parks, R. Powell, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, B. Williams, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: K. Ahern, S. Daman, P. Donnelly, A. Fitz-Gibbon, P. Francis, J. Jones, M. Kent-Landes, L. Lopez-Janove, J. Radloff, H. Schmid, K. Sheets, T. Suzuki, A. X.

I. Approval of Minutes: The Revised Minutes from February 18th were approved by the Senate

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Acknowledged P. Schroeder for her continued dedication to the Faculty Senate and thanked her for her willingness to assist when called upon
- Reminded everyone about the upcoming Spring 2025 Call for Nominations that will be officially sent to campus on 3/11/24
 - Deadline to submit nominations via email will be 3/24/25 by 4PM
 - Slate of nominations received will be presented to the Faculty Senate as a slate at the 3/25/25 meeting
 - Reminders regarding elections and serving on the Faculty Senate and/or Faculty Senate committees
 - If an individual has been elected to serve on a committee, then that person is not required to attend Faculty Senate; however, Senators are required to attend Faculty Senate meetings on alternating Tuesdays
 - Any officer, or chair of one of the 4 policy committees (AFAC, EPC, JCSI, and PFAC), or SUNY UFS Senator are required to attend both the Steering Committee and Faculty Senate meetings on Tuesdays
 - Newly elected senators/officers/committee members terms begin after the final day of Final Exams week; newly elected Chair of the Faculty Senate term begins following Commencement
- The Resolution on Voting Rights for Faculty on Contingent Appointments will be introduced to the Senate on 3/25/25

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

- Announced vacancies to the Faculty Senate for the Spring 2025 Call for Nominations

IV. Treasurer's Report: C. Badurek – No report.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Followed up regarding concern over procedure if ICE or external law enforcement were to come to campus
 - There are 2 documents that will be available behind a firewall in MyRedDragon
 - An email will also be sent to the campus
- Dear Colleague Letter: there will be no changes to our website and/or titles across campus

- Commented that several universities are experiencing hardships (i.e. Cornell hiring freeze, MIT and Harvard are not accepting new students at the moment); all things considered, our campus is not in that bad of shape
- Thanked M. Yacavone for his presentation last week
- Recent fundraising trip a success; pledges totaling \$115,000 in one week
 - A. Blavos asked about the trend from donors to the campus
 - E. Bitterbaum explained that many of the donors are former students who were here in the 40s, 50s, and/or 60s and scholarship money was what allowed them to attend college; also, donors tend to be more liable to give money to a school like Cortland, where their funds will go further than a larger university (Cornell is around \$88,000/year, Miami University is around \$90,000/year whereas Cortland is around \$24,000/year)
- Announced that the Reverend Pauly Murray's niece will be on campus this evening giving a presentation in Jacobus Lounge

VI. Provost's Report: A. McClellan:

- New Dean of Professional Studies K. Polasek
- Newly hired Director of the Center on Teaching and Learning is J. Hall; she will begin on 5/8/25
- Department of Education Secretary, L. McMahon announces plans for "final mission"; can be found on the Department of Education's website
- Commencement is coming up; encouraged volunteering to be marshals. Food is provided!

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. X/J. Radloff – No report

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: K. Sheets, Chair – Welcomed newly elected member I. Vincent to the AFAC. The AFAC will be working on 2 major projects this semester: 220.06 of The College Handbook, for clarity, and also clarifying what constitutes faculty service to the university.

Educational Policy Committee: J. Parks, Chair:

- Reported on the vetting document that was recently sent out to campus regarding upper-level credit hour requirement policies in the undergraduate catalog; please remember to submit feedback before deadline 2/26/25
- Working on proposal to address consistency for acceptance of transfer students; transfer students who possess an associate's degree can be admitted as a transfer student with a "D"; however, transfer students who do not hold an associate's degree are not admitted as transfers with a "D"
- As Provost McClellan stated earlier, working on revisiting final exam schedule
 - R. Borden inquired as to whether there are any other SUNYs that have a week in between the last week of classes and finals week which was also count towards the required 16-weeks of teaching
 - Not aware of any SUNYs that do; finals week is typically counted as contact hours

Professional Faculty Affairs Committee: J. Neretich, Chair – Please find report attached in email along with recruitment document

Area Senators – No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: A. Fitz-Gibbon, G. Birren, L. Jin, J. Hall – No report

Student Senator: E. Cisneros/C. Palmer

- Nothing to report

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: I. Strasser, Chair – See report above.

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

Faculty Research Committee: C. Badurek, Chair – Reported that the committee has reviewed several grant proposals; 15 have been chosen and the recipients will be notified soon.

General Education Committee: D. Radus, Chair – No report.

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

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Generative A.I. Committee** – K. Ahern: The Generative A.I. Committee's Rationale for including a generative A.I. statement in course syllabi was presented to the Faculty Senate; the rationale will be included in the proposal when it goes out to referendum later in the semester

X. New Business:

- **EPC Revisions: Upper-Level Major and Degree Requirements for Undergraduate Programs** – Was introduced to the Senate by EPC Chair, J. Parks for clarifying questions (*Please find documents attached*)
 - J. Hall: Is there a timeline for those departments not currently in compliance?
 - J. Parks: Not sure about a specific timeline, but, we are working on all departments being compliant
 - P. Schroeder: emails are sent to department chairs to let them know they are out of compliance

XI. Announcements: There weren't any announcements

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 1:58PM on 3/4/25

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis