

Faculty Senate Minutes #2

February 18th, 2025

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, E. Cisneros, S. Clark, R. Coyne, A. DeChellis, D. Fantacone, J. Hall, D. Harms, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, C. Palmer, J. Parks, R. Powell, H. Schmid, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, T. Suzuki, B. Williams, A. X. J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: C. Badurek, S. Daman, R. Davis, S. Decker, P. Donnelly, A. Fitz-Gibbon, P. Francis, J. Jones, M. Kent-Landes, L. Lopez-Janove, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, M. Yacavone

I. Approval of Minutes: The Revised Minutes from February 4th were approved by the Senate

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Acknowledged President Bitterbaum's communication to the campus regarding current political state of affairs, addressing campus community's apprehension
- Reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee met with the ad-hoc committee on contingent faculty's voting rights (K. Ahern, G. Birren, and R. Borden) this past week
 - The committee will be introducing a resolution to the Faculty Senate on 3/25/25
 - The finalized resolution will be included with the agenda prior to the 3/25/25 so that any questions can be sent to committee members, A. DeChellis, or K. Lawrence
 - V. Chair/Secretary D. Harms will assist Chair K. Lawrence with conversations regarding resolution (calling on individuals to speak, time management if necessary)
- Announced that the new Spring 2025 Call for Nominations for Faculty Senate officer and senator positions, as well as Faculty Senate committee vacancies, will go out to campus early-mid March
 - Will send a draft of the new Spring 2025 Call for nominations via email later on so that individuals can decide if they are interested in any of the available vacancies prior to the official call going out to campus
 - **Deadline to submit nominations via email will be Monday 3/24/25 by 4PM**
 - Slate of nominations to be presented to the Faculty Senate on 3/25/25; slate will then be voted on 2 weeks later at the 4/8/25 Faculty Senate meeting (we will include a PDF version of election procedures in agenda email)
- Reminded everyone of the EPC vetting document that was sent to campus via email from P. Schroeder regarding upper-level credit hour requirement policies in the undergraduate catalog
 - Please be sure to submit feedback before the deadline on 2/26/25
- Reminded everyone that the Anthology survey was sent out to campus again last week; please complete the survey

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

- Presented slate of remaining vacancies to the Faculty Senate for the Spring 2024 Call for Nominations

- Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies (*Please find documents attached*)
- Number of remaining vacancies are as follows:
 - Senator vacancies (5 total)
 - Committee vacancies (8 total; including student vacancies)
- Please note: Any seat that was uncontested by a single nominee was elected by the Faculty Senate. (**P. Arras, Fine Arts/Humanities UCRC Spring 2025 / M. Lessig, Fine Arts/Humanities GE Spring 2025 / E. Junarsin Senator Social/Behavioral Sciences Spring 2025**)

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

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported that all 64 SUNY presidents are working with governors to navigate through all the dramatic changes that are occurring as a result of the executive orders that are coming out of Washington D.C.; working closely with SUNY System
 - D. Harms inquired as to if there are any guidelines should an external law enforcement were to show up on campus
 - There are select offices on campus (i.e. President's Office, Deans' offices, UPD etc.) that have had specialized training should any of that occur on our campus.... those offices are more than likely where someone like ICE would approach before entering a classroom
 - Trying to keep these procedures isolated to those specific offices for the moment, and, if necessary, will spread to more areas on campus
 - If, in some rare occurrence external law enforcement were to approach a classroom setting, **the procedure would be to contact UPD (x2111), and Dept. Dean/Dept. Chair**
 - R. Borden reflected on the general consensus across campus that people are genuinely frightened to speak up/out
 - That also seems to be the general feeling across America, at the moment as well; however, everyone has the freedom of speech
 - D. Harms encouraged faculty to read through Article IX of the UUP Contract, which concerns guidelines as to speech in the classroom; also suggested that if anyone holds personal social media accounts, that they place a disclaimer on there that posts do not reflect the views of SUNY Cortland
 - A. Blavos explained that in certain curriculum, i.e. Public Health, it is extremely difficult to not have those worldly conversations with students (oftentimes political), as the CDC are removing certain links everyday that impact the students' work in the classroom
 - R. Bryan pointed out that with her students, she urges them to focus on policy rather than people (i.e. political party) and how those policies directly affect their field of study....just something to think about when having discussions in the classroom
- For the first time in many years, there are two SUNY Cortland graduates serving on the Assembly
- Delegation from Japan; Japan's teacher education hasn't changed in the last 80 years, so, they are working with our campus (via zoom meetings, emails, etc.) in an effort to modernize their K12 curriculum
- We have been receiving great candidates for positions across campus; great diversity
- R. Coyne \$76 million endowment
- R. Grantham's Celebration of Life was this past Saturday (2/15/25)
- New football coach

VI. Provost's Report: A. McClellan:

- Research tracking with the SUNY Research Foundation
 - Spending on research is still happening; status quo: spend grant money and work on research until we're told to stop....if that happens, we'll figure out the next steps from that point on
- SUNY System is expanding Academic Success Model to include students who are PELL eligible
 - We hope to begin this Fall 2025; we will keep you posted
- Working with EPC to review Final Exam week policies
- TEDX 4/4/25 at 4PM; theme air (the air that we breathe)

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 – No report.

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; Carlene Palmer introduced herself to the Senate as the new SGA representative

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 – No report

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

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

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Remaining Vacancies Call for Nominations, Spring 2024** – Please see V. Chair report.
- **Generative A.I. Committee** – K. Ahern: The Generative A.I. Committee’s recommendation to include a generative A.I statement in course syllabi was brought before the Senate for discussion/debate (*Please find document attached*)
 - A. Blavos inquired as to why this needs a vote from the Senate, if this is simply a recommendation and not a requirement that the committee is proposing
 - Historically, it has been easier to gain acceptance (and implementation) if something is suggested rather than mandated
 - A. Blavos moved to amend language in proposal to require a generative AI statement in course syllabi, rather than simply recommend
 - Motion: “Faculty syllabi shall communicate transparent policies to students regarding the use of Generative AI in their writing. The following includes some possible language for developing a syllabus statement...”
 - Motion 2nd: R. Bryan
 - J. Zhe-Heimerman spoke in favor of the amended language to require a generative AI statement as it will provide more clarity to the students
 - J. Hall also spoke in favor of the amended language
 - R, Bryan elaborated that this being a requirement will provide clear answers for our students, especially considering that AI is still such a new concept and so many students may not even fully understand that they are using AI unethically....this would make it more fair to those students
 - J. Parks also spoke in favor of the amendment to require the statement, as we as faculty are here for the students
 - Vote: 24 in favor, 1 against; motion to amend the language carries
 - R. Borden suggested that the committee include a rationale; now that the proposal is a requirement, it will have to go to referendum to be voted on by the faculty. In an effort to provide clarity, a rationale should be included
 - K. Ahern: We will include a rationale before it goes out to referendum

X. New Business: No new business

XI. Announcements: There weren’t any announcements

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:25PM on 2/18/25

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis