

Faculty Senate Minutes #4

March 19th, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, C. Badurek, E. Bitterbaum, R. Borden, S. Clark, R. Davis, A. DeChellis, P. Donnelly, E. Edlund, J. Hall, D. Harms, L. Jin, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, R. Powell, T. Punn, P. Schroeder, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, T. Suzuki, A. Thompson B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: A. Blavos, R. Bryan, R. Coyne, S. Decker, D. Fantacone, E. Gallagher, J. Jones, L. Lopez-Janove, J. Radloff, G. Sharer, C. Widdall, M. Yacavone

Guests: E. Faulkenbury, D. Radus

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from February 27th were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Announced that the Spring 2024 Call for Nominations is now open to receive nominations; we have already received several for both committee and senator vacancies
 - Deadline to submit nominations will be 3/29/24 at 4PM
 - Reminded everyone when submitting a nomination on behalf of another individual to please be sure to have that other individual's consent prior to submitting the nomination; self-nominations are also acceptable
 - Reminded everyone that it is acceptable to have more than one nominee for a particular vacancy; in this case, the seat becomes contested and will go out to ballot to the appropriate constituencies following the close of nominations
 - Thanked P. Schroeder for her assistance in submitting several nominations in an effort to fill vacancies
- Reminded everyone that the Faculty Senate's open meeting is scheduled for 4/16/24 from 1:15PM-2:30PM in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge where the discussion will focus on the Review of Governance
 - The last Senate meeting of the semester is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/30/24; it is at this meeting that the Senate will vote on the ROG Committee's amendments to Chapter 150 of The College Handbook
 - If these amendments are approved by the Faculty Senate, then the amendments will go out to referendum
- K. Lawrence reported the following statements on behalf of L. Lopez-Janove:
 - The campus climate closed last Saturday. We had a 5% student and 20% employee response rates. I'm announcing the recipients of the incentives before the end of the week. I'm working with institutional research to get the data analyzed and reported out to campus as soon as possible
 - Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, takes place from March 10 and ends on April 9 (give or take 1 or 2 days). A communicator was sent out listing ways we can be supportive for those who observe. The email contains a Cortland Auxiliary Services link for students to request meals at the end of their daily fast. The International Office set up a private prayer room with prayer rugs that any

students can use, anytime Monday through Friday from 8:15am to 4:15pm in Old Main, Room 219 (2nd floor)

- K. Lawrence reported that she met with HR this past week to discuss the changes made this past Fall 2023 semester to the procedures during the hiring process
 - There is a required workshop that K. Lawrence encouraged everyone to complete sooner rather than later, in part due to the beneficial information gained through the workshop

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

- Presented slate of 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 vacancies are as follows:
 - Senator vacancies (**23 total**)
 - Committee vacancies (**38 total**)

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

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported on his travels to California over Spring Break to meet with alumni
- Reported on the FAFSA situation; due to the disruption the issues with FAFSA have caused, the SUNY Chancellor has altered deadlines to 5/15/24 and 6/1/24
- Discussed the down-sizing of academic programs within various SUNY's due to lack of student enrollment; in some cases, there have been freezes due to the decline in students (Potsdam and Geneseo)
- Discussed student health and well-being; there is a new initiative within the SUNY system that requires each SUNY campus to have a homeless liaison
- SUNY received \$10,000 transportation grant
- K-12 receiving 2 billion; Higher Ed receiving 54 million
- New initiative for Amazon pick-up boxes across several campuses; we are currently looking into it
- A. McClellan reported on the current Course Teacher Evaluation situation
 - At this time, we still don't have a contract; in the meantime, we will continue using the Legacy System
 - In the process of meeting with department deans and associate deans in an effort to establish a workable timeframe
 - Email will be sent out by the end of the week with additional details

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 – No report

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 – L. Jin reported that the Spring 2024 Plenary will take place from 4/4/24-4/6/24 at Cornell University; encouraged faculty to let her or C. Badurek know if there is anything that they want to be brought to the UFS. C. Badurek also mentioned that, since his UFS Senator seat is vacant for the upcoming 2024-2027 term, that position is open to any professional and/or academic faculty member and to possibly consider becoming a UFS Senator

Student Senator: E. Gallagher/T. Punn

- First day of campaigning for elections
- Big Event scheduled for 4/21/24
- T. Punn working with with A. Thomas from Advisement and Transition on the edits for pamphlets to improve student advising; these pamphlets are in the final stages of being completed

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: E. Faulkenbury, Chair – Reported on issues concerning Course Teacher Evaluations; please see New Business

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

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

General Education Committee: D. Radus, Chair – Reported that the committee is focusing on Humanities/Social Science GE assessment categories. The other item the committee is continuing to work on are the minor revisions to the language in the Course Catalog; the current language in the catalog no longer aligns with the updates made in 2021

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

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **UFS Resolution 196-01-1: Ensuring Non-Discrimination, Enhancing Campus** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - B. Williams encouraged opposition from fellow Senate members on this resolution, as it presents a very one-sided view against Israel; the goal is to promote free speech on campus, rather than to stifle it
 - Vote: 21, 1
 - Resolution endorsed by the Senate
- **UFS Resolution 196-03-1: Addressing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the SUNY Workplace** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Senate
- **UFS Resolution 196-04-1: Excelsior Scholarship Review** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Senate
- **UFS Resolution 196-05-1: Opposition to Mandated Purchases from SUNY Preferred Vendor Corcraft** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Senate
- **UFS Resolution 196-06-1: Process for Professional Staff Advancement** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - Vote: Unanimously endorsed by the Senate

- **EPC Revisions to Course Withdrawal Policies** – Discussion/ debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - On Behalf of E. Edlund, R. Davis made a motion to withdraw the proposal from the floor, so that the EPC can take the proposal back to committee for further revisions
 - No opposition; proposal will go back to the committee and be re-introduced to the Senate at a later date

X. New Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2024** – See V. Chair Report
- **CTE Statements for Faculty Senate** – Statements were introduced to the Senate; vote for approval by the Senate will take place at the next full Senate meeting which will be held on 4/2/24 (*Please find document attached*)

XI. Announcements:

- R. Borden: Have there been any further developments in regard to the common hour?
 - K. Sheets responded that while there is an ad-hoc committee for the potential implementation of a common hour, there have been significant roadblocks in pursuing the notion further at this time; those roadblocks include lack of space as well as scheduling conflicts)
 - K. Lawrence emphasized that the common hour will be returned to beginning Fall 2024 semester, once all is completed with the ROG.
- D. Harms: Still unsure in regards to the timeframe for Individual Development Awards

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:31PM on 3/19/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis