

Faculty Senate Minutes #3

October 1st, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, C. Badurek, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, E. Cisneros, S. Clark, A. DeChellis, S. Decker, P. Donnelly, A. Fitz-Gibbon, D. Harms, L. Jin, M. Kent-Landes, K. Lawrence, L. Lopez-Janove, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, J. Parks, R. Powell, H. Schmid, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, A. Thompson, B. Williams, A. X, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: E. Bitterbaum, R. Coyne, S. Daman, R. Davis, K. Diggs, D. Fantacone, J. Hall, J. Jones, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, T. Suzuki, D. Wilson

Guests: I. Strasser

I. Approval of Minutes: The Revised Minutes from September 17th were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Commended L. Scagnelli's presentation of the Cortland Cupboard from two weeks ago to the Senate; encouraged faculty members to remember that we have this wonderful service available on campus to help support our students

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 remaining vacancies are as follows:
 - Senator vacancies (6 total)
 - Committee vacancies (7 total; including student vacancies)
 - Please note: Any seat that was uncontested by a single nominee was elected by the Faculty Senate.

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

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum (A. Thompson):

- Chief of Staff, A. Thompson reported on behalf of President Bitterbaum, as he was away at SUNY Broome for the inauguration of their newly elected president
- President Bitterbaum recently returned from a fundraising trip to NYC, where he had the opportunity to meet with seven alumni who graduated in 2020; it was a chance to reconnect, as these students were not able to have commencement that year due to the pandemic
- Reminder to anyone who hasn't done so already, please complete Title VI training; deadline was 9/30/24

- K. Sheets inquired if there is anyway chairs of departments can obtain a list of faculty members who haven't completed the training, as a means to help push the training along
 - A. McClellan commented that HR could more than likely have that information; M. Yacavonne also commented that list should be pulled sometime later today

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

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

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: K. Sheets, Chair – No report.

Educational Policy Committee: J. Parks, Chair – No report.

Professional Faculty Affairs Committee: J. Neretich, Chair – Reported to the Senate; please find committee report attached

Area Senators – No report

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

Student Senator: E. Cisneros/D. Wilson

- Reported that the SGA has been diligently working to fill remaining student vacancies on Faculty Senate committees, and will post remaining student vacancies on their Instagram page
- SGA members have begun tabling; once information has been compiled from these sessions, we will report to the Faculty Senate

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: I. Strasser, Chair – No report.

University Curriculum Review Committee: K. Polasek/C. Ortega, 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:

- **UFS Resolution 197.01: AI Tools for Research** – Re-introduced to the Senate by L. Jin for debate and vote to endorse
 - L. Jin reminded senators that we cannot make amendments to any of these resolutions; we either endorse as is, or not at all
 - D. Harms spoke in opposition to the resolution, citing that the conversations alluded to in the second “Whereas...” should be addressed in person (i.e. in the classroom), rather than on a website

- Was also concerned about how this resolution jives with our current sustainability efforts; another concern was the possible legal and ethical implications from these data sets
 - Commented on UUP's stance, stating that they feel it is important to be cautious moving forward with A.I., to be wary of drift
 - K. Ahern also spoke in opposition of the resolution, explaining that, while she and her committee are clearly supportive of generative A.I., they have dissension for the vagueness of ethics in this particular resolution
 - A. Blavos explained that while she also is supportive of generative A.I., she doesn't necessarily see the purpose of creating a website that will more than likely become moot within 24 hours due to the rapid changes occurring within A.I. on a daily basis; very conflicted on where I stand with this particular resolution for that reason
 - R. Borden spoke in opposition, citing that faculty shouldn't be abdicating to the Chancellor
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate does not endorse this resolution
- **UFS Resolution 197.02: SUNY Cross Campus Research Support** – Re-introduced to the Senate by L. Jin for debate and vote to endorse
 - A. Blavos spoke in opposition of the resolution, explaining that she feels it would disadvantage the comprehensives; also is concerned about where that money is coming from
 - C. Badurek spoke to the concern about being a disadvantage to comprehensives, citing that there is no mention of comprehensives in the entirety of the document; rather, it's focus is for the R1 institutions
 - R. Borden inquired as to whether part of the rationale was to aide graduate students
 - It was explained that the resolution focuses on faculty, and that none of the resolves mention graduate students
 - K. Sheets expressed concern that implementing this resolution on our campus would be duplicative of what our sponsored programs office already does; or, would implementing this provide additional resources for that office?
 - A. McClellan commented that SUNY Grow provides grants to comprehensives that are in collaboration with R1 institutions
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate does not endorse this resolution
- **UFS Resolution 197.04: SUNY Research Communication Enhancement** – Re-introduced to the Senate by L. Jin for debate and vote to endorse
 - A. Blavos spoke in favor of this resolution, citing that it seems feasible that it would benefit both junior faculty and students at the comprehensives
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate endorses this resolution
- **UFS Resolution 197.05: Recommendation for Basic Needs Resource Communication** – Re-introduced to the Senate by L. Jin for debate and vote to endorse
 - B. Williams expressed concern, explaining that, while he believes this would be beneficial for students, he also feels implementing this would be a trade-off with faculty autonomy
 - G. Sharer commented that there is suggested language that faculty can include in their syllabi, if they so choose to do so
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate endorses this resolution
- **UFS Resolution 197.06: Requesting a Progress Report on the Financial Sustainability of State University of New York Campuses** – Re-introduced to the Senate by L. Jin for debate and vote to endorse

- J. Neretich commented that, while he agrees that transparency is important, he still has concern for this resolution
- D. Harms commented that he feels that the idea of faculty/staff being informed about finances is beneficial
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate endorses this resolution
- **Academic Calendar Committee** – A. Thompson re-introduced the calendars for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years to the Senate for debate and vote to endorse
 - A. Thompson explained that one of the major changes in these calendars from past years, is that the President's opening address has been moved from a Thursday to a Wednesday; that's an effort to make it easier for when students are moving into campus (Thursday) with the volume of traffic on campus, and also make it so that perhaps more people are able to attend the opening address
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate endorses the 2026-2027 academic calendar
 - Vote: the Faculty Senate endorses the 2027-2028 academic calendar

X. New Business: N/A

XI. Announcements: N/A

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:30PM on 10/1/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis