

## **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES #3**

**September 30, 2014**

The third meeting of the Faculty Senate 2013-2014 was called to order by Chair Kathy Lawrence on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 1:15 PM in Brockway Hall, Jacobus Lounge.

**SENATORS AND MEMBERS PRESENT:** K. Lawrence, R. Grantham, C. Schubert, J. Hartsock, D. Miller, M. McGuire, R. Spitzer, D. West, E. Lind, B. Wodi, K. Polasek, O. White, S. Shi, R. Borden, T. Hanford, H. Lindh, R. Powell, S. Wood, K. Lowenhar, E. Bitterbaum, M. Prus, G. Sharer, S. Anderson

**SENATORS AND MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. Rayle, M. Seyfriend, A. Dearie, K. Pristash, Z. Newswanger, N. C. Paley, R. Nauseef, A. Fitz-Gibbon, K. Pristash, M. Doris, D. Smukler

**GUESTS PRESENT:** G. Sharer, F. Pierce

**I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from September 16, 2014 were approved.

### **II. SENATE ACTIONS:**

There were no Senate actions.

**III. CHAIR'S REPORT** – The chair opened the meeting by asking the two Student Senators in attendance, S. Wood and K. Lowenhar, to introduce themselves.

K. Lawrence then announced about the General Education Committee Open Meeting she attended. She reported that the committee is working hard and encouraged those who have sent e-mails with input to be patient since the committee is taking everything into consideration. She also read from a recent e-mail with an update from D. Smukler, Chair, who is unable to attend the Faculty Senate meetings. Someone will be reporting in the future from the committee. *{SEE Appendix 1}*

Chair Lawrence stated that Senate seats are filling up although there is still a vacancy for the Vice Chair's position. She announced that this is a great opportunity and that class release time can be arranged to be provided for undertaking the position.

Finally, the chair reported on behalf of N. C. Paley, SUNY Senator, who was unable to attend the meeting, regarding the Fall Diversity Conference being held in SUNY Albany, 189 Wolf Road, Albany on 11/12-13, 2014 and that anyone can attend, faculty, staff, students and supervisors.

**IV. VICE CHAIR'S REPORT** - No Vice Chair.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT** – C. Schubert – C. Schubert thanked those who have contributed the donations of \$10. He reported that there is currently \$577.00 in the Faculty Senate Memorial Scholarship Fund account, which is already enough to fund the scholarship of \$500.00. He encouraged the Senators to ask their colleagues to contribute.

**VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT** – R. Grantham – No report. There was no report from the Committee on Committees.

**VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Cortaca Commission
- Study Abroad
- NCAA

## **VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Student Affairs Committee** – E. Lind – No report.

**Academic Faculty Affairs Committee** – A. Fitz-Gibbon – No report (absent).

**Long-Range Planning Committee** – No report (absent)

**Educational Policy Committee** – No Chair elected yet.

**Professional Affairs Committee** – K. Pristash – No report (absent)

## **IX. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee on Teaching Effectiveness** – J. Walkuski – No report (absent)

**College Research Committee** – No report (absent)

**General Education Committee** – D. Smuckler – K. Lawrence read a recent e-mail from D. Smuckler on behalf of the General Education Committee. *{SEE Appendix 1}*

**Graduate Faculty Executive Committee** No Chair elected yet.

**Review of Governance Committee** – J. Walkuski – No report (absent)

**X. AREA SENATOR:** D. Miller asked when the summaries of the latest General Education Committee meetings would be held and K. Lawrence responded that she has asked them to put together a report.

**XI. SUNY SENATOR:** N. C. Paley (absent) – K. Lawrence reported on the Fall Diversity Conference being held in SUNY Albany, 189 Wolf Road, Albany on 11/12-13, 2014 and that anyone can attend, faculty, staff, students and supervisors.

**XII. STUDENT SENATORS' REPORT** – S. Wood - Student Government Association President, Michael Doris, would like to let everyone know that their executive board (9 members) has been brainstorming ideas of an event to put on for Saturday night of Cortaca. This event will be free to SUNY Cortland students. Mike expects to have an event set by the end of this week. They are looking into providing a concert, and will be sure to report back as soon as it is established. Stay tuned!

**XIII. Committee on Committees** – J. Barry, Chair – There was no Committee on Committees report.

**XIV. OLD BUSINESS:** - There was no Old Business.

**XV. NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business.

**XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kissel  
Recording Secretary

The following reports are appended to the minutes in the order that they are distributed:

(1) Memo from General Education Committee, D. Smukler, Chair,  
submitted by K. Lawrence

**APPENDIX 1**  
**General Education Committee Memo from D. Smukler, Chair**

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**From:** David Smukler

**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2014 7:35 PM

**To:** Kathleen Lawrence

**Cc:** Emily Quinlan; Jennifer McNamara; Kevin Sheets; Lisa Czirr; Sam Kelley; Stephen Chemsak; Susan Stratton; Brice Smith; Bruce Mattingly; Carol Van Der Karr

**Subject:** GE Committee

Hi Kathy,

Thanks for coming to both of our open meetings and contributing in helpful ways. Please feel free to present the following at tomorrow's Faculty Senate meeting.

In the spring, the GE Committee presented a proposal to the Faculty Senate for a revision to the GE program. The proposal was based on two strong messages we had received from the campus over the preceding year and a half or so through surveys, open meetings, and personal communication to committee members. First, we got a loud and clear message that GE is important, and that SUNY Cortland students should continue to be required to take courses that would expose them to topics and ways of thinking that they might not otherwise explore, but that we as a campus believe are important for an educated person today. Simultaneously, we got a clear message that reducing the overall size of the program and allowing students some greater measure of choice would offer important benefits, and that, indeed, choice was also a key element in a liberal education. Our proposal tried to balance these two messages.

Concerns about the specific proposal were raised by senators, and so we were asked to gather feedback about it and return this fall. Since that time the GE Committee has continued to receive written feedback from different faculty members. We have also had the following meetings related to the proposal:

- A meeting with faculty in the natural sciences to discuss their concerns with the reduction of the science requirement in our proposal, and in particular the strong message that if only one science was to be required it should be a 4-credit-hour lab science.
- A retreat to revisit the spring proposal and address both the concerns of the science faculty and concerns related to the proposed option to choose two courses from three categories. This retreat

resulted in a revised draft of our proposal.

- A meeting with faculty in the History Department, which resulted in putting some more options on the table as a way to reduce overall credit hour requirements.
- Two open meetings, one on Sept 12 and the other on Sept 29, at which perspectives were aired multiple creative ideas were shared.
- A meeting with Chairs of departments that offer courses in our current GE 3, 4, 5 and 6 categories, to explore options for offering choice among these categories, or else combining them in some way.

We are deeply appreciative of the strong participation that occurred at all of these meetings. We also continue to be open to receiving any further feedback through email to [<general.education@cortland.edu>](mailto:general.education@cortland.edu).

Our next meetings as a committee October 7 and 21. During those meetings we will sort through all the feedback received and create a proposal that we hope the Senate will consider.

Thank you,  
David Smukler, for the GE Committee