

Faculty Senate Minutes #1

January 31st, 2017

Members and Senators Present: K. Lawrence, A. Fitz-Gibbon, P. Gipson, W. Miller, D. West, H. Haines, L. Brady, D. VanLangen, J. Kobritz, S. Shi-Strause, O. White, T. Suzuki, M. Seyfried, R. Borden, A. Dearie, G. Rinefierd, S. Comins, R. Powell, P. Schroeder, E. Bitterbaum, M. Prus, G. Sharer, D. Duryea, M. Braun, G. Hulede, M. Fox, S. Anderson.

Members and Senators Absent: M. McGuire, C. Widdall, M. DiVita, T. Phillips, D. Kilpatrick, A. Blavos C. Kurelich.

Guests: T. Cahill, A. Buckingham, M. Schlarb, D. Harms, I. Jordak, S. Asumah, M. Nagel, I. Johnston-Anumonwu, S. Strasser

I. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from both November 8th, 2016 and November 29th, 2016 were approved.

II. Senate Actions: There weren't any Senate actions.

III. Chair's Report: Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting welcoming back members and senators to the first full Senate meeting of the semester. She then announced that the Committee on Teaching Awards has set a date for its first meeting, in which they will approve a chair.

IV. Vice Chair's Report: Vacant.

V. Treasurer's Report: M. McGuire – No report.

VI. Secretary's Report: Vacant.

VII. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum

- Discussed President Trump's immigration order; President Bitterbaum went on to explain how there had been a recent gathering to discuss the effects of Trump's immigration policy within the SUNY community.
- Mentioned that our campus is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of Chief Diversity Officer.
- Reported that the campus will be submitting its five year report to Middle States.
- Discussed the renovations that will be taking place across campus this semester, including: Moffet, the heating plant, Alumni Ice Arena, Holloway Field, a new greenhouse, Brown Auditorium, and Whittaker Hall.
- Reported that he will be going to Albany to discuss the Excelsior Scholarship.
- Discussed the Rational Tuition Policy.
- Commented that our admissions department saw an increase in applicants; there were 700 more applicants so far in 2017 than there were in 2016.

Guests: Terence Cahill, Director of the College Store, and Alissa Buckingham, Sidewalk representative:

- Presented on HERO, which is a new online platform for submitting requisitions through the Bookstore.
- The HERO platform is designed to make ordering class materials more accessible for both faculty and students.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports:

Student Affairs Committee: T. Phillips, Chair – No report.

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – reported that the committee has been setting up meetings with chairs of various academic departments across campus, as well as those departments' personnel committees; he went on to explain that AFAC is scheduled to meet with 10 departments on campus this semester, and that so far, they have met with 5 out of the 10.

Planning Committee: M. DiVita, Chair – No report

Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair – No report

Professional Affairs Committee: I. Jordak – No report.

Area Senator: No report

SUNY Senator: - A. Fitz-Gibbon – reported that the University Faculty Senate (UFS) held its winter conference at Westbury, Long Island; within that conference, UFS discussed several resolutions, including: the condemnation of intolerance, the commitment to diversity, transgender healthcare on all SUNY campuses, as well as SUNY Sanctuary Campuses.

Student Senator: M. Braun – reported that SGA created a newsletter covering its events and accomplishments in 2016. Braun also explained that there are 7 SGA members that will be leaving, and as a result, SGA is looking to recruit new members. SGA also appointed a Director of Diversity and Inclusion, which is a student-run program within the organization. According to Braun, SGA members have also been discussing Sanctuary Campuses.

The Senate congratulated the SGA on selecting the first Student Senator for Diversity and Inclusion; Faculty Senate also acknowledged SGA on their informative and professional newsletter (*Please see a copy of the newsletter attached*).

IX. Other Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Awards: K. Lawrence, Chair – No report

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: J. Walkuski, Chair – No report.

College Research Committee: B. Hodges, Chair – No report.

General Education Committee: J. MacNamara, Chair – No report

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: J. Curtis, Chair – No report.

Committee on Committees: G. Evans, Chair – No report.

X. Unfinished Business: R. Borden's, D. West's, and S. Strause's resolution for Africana Studies Department was read, and a discussion ensued. The resolution was not voted on due to time constraints, and therefore, was tabled until our next meeting which will be held on February 14th (*Please see the attached document*).

XI. New Business: No new business

XII. Announcements:

Mary Schlarb, Director of the International Programs Office, briefly discussed the effect of President Trump's immigration order has had on the international students on our campus. She urged faculty members to refer international students who have been distressed by this new immigration order to the International Programs Office, so that the staff in their office may be able to then refer these students to outside legal counsel.

Dan Harms, from UUP, briefly discussed a proposal from the edTPA Task Force regarding teacher certification exam changes. He explained that the Board of Regents will be holding meetings February 13th-14th where they will take into consideration the proposed recommendations on teacher certification exam changes; Harms urged participation through contacting the District Regents, At-Large Regents, and/or the NYS Commissioner of Education and having them take action at these meetings on your behalf. If anyone has questions regarding this proposal, or would like additional information, please contact Dan Harms from UUP.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm on 1/31/17.

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis