

## **Faculty Senate Minutes #5**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Members and Senators Present:** K. Lawrence, M. McGuire, M. DiVita, A. Fitz-Gibbon, P. Gipson, W. Miller, D. Kilpatrick, D. West, D. VanLangen, A. Blavos, J. Kobritz, S. Shi-Strause, R. Borden, A. Dearie, G. Rinefierd, S. Comins, R. Powell, P. Schroeder, D. Duryea, M. Braun, S. Anderson.

**Members and Senators Absent:** C. Widdall, T. Phillips, H. Haines, L. Brady, M. Seyfried, E. Bitterbaum, M. Prus, G. Sharer.

**Guests:** M. Nagel, T. Zheng, S. Asumah, M. Fox, F. Pierce

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were approved.

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

**III. Chair's Report:** Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by urging members of the Senate to encourage his or her department to partake in the Planning Committee's survey that has been emailed to all department chairs on campus; out of all the departments on campus, there have only been nine that have responded to the survey. Lawrence also reminded members of the crucial need for a Vice Chair, as well as the need for a Senate Secretary. The chair then went on to explain that the last Faculty Senate meeting, which will be held on 11/29/16 (there is no meeting on 11/22/16, due to Thanksgiving Break), will be an open forum meeting for faculty members across campus to come and discuss any issues and/or concerns they might have; she encouraged current Senate members to invite fellow faculty members to come and participate in the meeting.

**IV. Vice Chair's Report:** Vacant.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** No report

**VI. Secretary's Report:** Vacant.

**VII. President's Report:** E. Bitterbaum – D. Duryea presented on the President's behalf, since he was unable to attend today's meeting:

- Reported on the Tuition Policy; Duryea explained how the SUNY system has a set tuition, and commented that it could be beneficial for SUNY to adopt a differential tuition plan, as it would increase competitiveness between SUNY institutions.
- Announced that ASC (Auxiliary Services Corporation) has proposed an ad-hoc committee, Course Material Advisory Board, in an effort to keep the cost of textbooks low for students; the committee would be a collaboration between campus faculty and ASC (particularly, the College Store).

**Guest Speakers:** *Dr. Mecke Nagel, Director of Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies (CGIS), Dr. Tiantian Zheng, Professor of Sociology/Anthropology, and Dr. Seth Asumah, Professor of Africana Studies:*

**Dr. Mecke Nagel** – Discussed the CGIS program, explaining how its goal is to foster and develop equity and respect for social, racial, ethnic, cultural, economic, social orientation, environmental justice, and diversity within the campus and larger community. She further explained that the Center focuses on the development of diversity across the curriculum, the promotion of research, the facilitation of student, staff, and faculty development, and the recommendation of policy.

**Dr. Tiantian Zheng** – Discussed her role in the CGIS program as a mentor for Asian students; Zheng explained how she mentors the students not only in an academic sense (i.e. encouraging students to write and present), but that she also mentors them in a personal sense (i.e. inviting them to her home and cooking for them); as a result of her mentoring experiences, Zheng has had the opportunity to foster long-term relationships with several of her students.

**Dr. Seth Asumah** – Discussed the Africana Studies' relationship with CGIS as a collaborative one, since his department is made up of only part-time faculty; CGIS and Africana Studies work together on the Diversity Institute, which is to ensure that faculty across campus are incorporating culture and diversity in their courses. Asumah also talked about his department's collaboration with (and support from) the SGA on such events as Black History Month, since Africana Studies doesn't have a budget to promote such events.

Following the guest speakers' presentations, M. Braun commended Dr. Seth Asumah on winning the Faculty Member of the Year Award from the SGA last year.

Also following the presentations, K. Lawrence mentioned that it would be nice to have a diversity representative on the Faculty Senate.

### **VIII. Standing Committee Reports:**

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

**Academic Faculty Affairs Committee:** A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – No report

**Planning Committee:** M. DiVita, Chair – No report

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

**Professional Affairs Committee:** Chair vacant – No report.

**Area Senator:** No report

**SUNY Senator:** - A. Fitz-Gibbon – No report

**Student Senator:** M. Braun – Reported that the SUNY SA Conference is this weekend, and that the SGA is sending three of their student representatives. He also commented that Cortaca is also this weekend, and that the SGA has partnered with Alumni Engagement to help donate clothing to the Salvation Army: Alumni Engagement has red hats to hand out to students over Cortaca weekend, and whoever receives a hat has to donate an article of blue clothing to the Salvation Army.

**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 submitted; the GE Committee will report on 11/29/16.

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

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

**X. Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business.

**XI. New Business:** R. Borden made a suggestion to put forth a resolution to the administration regarding full-time faculty in Africana Studies; it was decided that R. Borden, S. Shi-Strause, and D. West will consult with Seth Asumah on a resolution, and then bring the resolution before the Senate.

**XII. Announcements:** There weren't any announcements.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm on 11/8/16.**

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis

