

Faculty Senate Minutes #4

October 22nd, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, P. Arras, C. Badurek, , E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, E. Cisneros, S. Clark, R. Coyne, S. Daman, R. Davis, A. DeChellis, S. Decker, A. Fitz-Gibbon, D. Harms, L. Jin, M. Kent-Landes, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, , J. Parks, H. Schmid, P. Schroeder, K. Sheets, T. Suzuki, D. Wilson A. X, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: S. Anderson, K. Diggs, P. Donnelly, D. Fantacone, J. Hall, J. Jones, L. Lopez-Janove, R. Powell, J. Radloff, G. Sharer, A. Thompson, B. Williams

Guests: K. Dushko, K. Natale, D. Radus, I. Strasser

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from October 1st were approved, as amended, by the Senate: “Whereas...” should be addressed in person (i.e. in the classroom), rather than on a website” was revised to: “Resolved...” should be addressed in person (i.e. in the classroom), rather than on a website”

II. Chair’s Report: K. Lawrence:

- Gave an update on the outdoor lighting situation in parking lots; seems that all the lighting that was previously not working has been fixed
 - M. Yacavone commented that the Van Hoesen parking lot will get new lightbulbs in areas that require them

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 (8 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 Treasurer’s report; reminded senators of the deadline to submit nominations (can be self-nominations) for the DiNardo Award (recently increased to \$1,500) is 11/18/24. Also gave a reminder for the Sponsored Programs Office survey; deadline is 10/31/24 to complete

V. President’s Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- SUNY Chancellor will meet with all 64 Presidents next week to discuss budgets and meet with local legislators
- Announced Student Success Workshop to take place

- Encouraged participation in the Research Sponsored Programs survey
- Renovations to Van Hoesen are currently on schedule
- Renovations to Corey Union are in the design phase
 - Future projects: PER (Park Center) mechanicals, Memorial Library, and science buildings
- Disability Resource Office – reminding departments to encourage students who may need additional support to access those services
- Career Services has received additional dollars for student internships
- Thanked everyone for completing the mandatory Title VI training; we are currently at a 87%-89% completion rate
- Currently have 3 students abroad in Cuba; despite some of the turbulent weather there, the students are safe
- 9 students will attend the upcoming Global European Conference, to be held in NYC

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. X/J. Radloff – A.X. reported that K. Diggs recently shared with the committee that the chair of the CICC, B. Wilson, is hoping to attain funds to invite the author of “Myth of Normal...” to come to campus

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 that the committee has currently gained additional vacancies, 2 representing Student Affairs

Area Senators – No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: A. Fitz-Gibbon, G. Birren, L. Jin, J. Hall – A. Fitz-Gibbon announced that the Fall 2024 Plenary will be taking place the end of this week, Thursday 10/24/24-Sunday 10/27/24, at SUNY Plattsburg, which he will be attending; L. Jin will be attending the plenary online, since the science symposium takes place over the same weekend. L. Jin also announced that the DEI in Academic Excellence Grant could be worth up to \$7,500; proposal deadline is 11/1/24. L. Jin also announced that the SUNY Climate Sustainability Action Plan has been drafted, and hopes to get that emailed to campus soon.

Student Senator: E. Cisneros/D. Wilson

- Reported that the SGA’s Fall Festival over this past weekend was a success; they had a really nice turnout
- Reported that the Clothing Closet is re-organized every Friday; anyone wishing to make a donation can drop items off in the basement of Old Main (location of the Clothing Closet)

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: I. Strasser, Chair – Reported on the newly acquired Course Teacher Evaluation system, Anthology; commented that the committee’s newest student representative, R. Meckley, has been very involved in providing a student’s perspective as we move from the old system to the new Anthology system. *(Please see full report attached in email)*

- Q. Will there be some sort of guide for faculty to provide answers to students on how to complete and where to complete these new CTE's?
 - A. Students should be able to access from their profiles
- Q. Will department chairs still have access to CTE's?
 - A. Yes
- Q. Will the ratings be available to students?
 - A. No, although, we should provide students with information regarding where their information to open-ended questions ends up
- Q. Will the new system have changes to the dates of administering the CTE's to students?
 - A. Will still be within the last 3 weeks of classes; trying to unify more so that all CTE's will hopefully be given around the same time
- Q. Accountability if the disclaimer regarding discriminating/denigrating comments is ignored by the student?
 - A. currently working on justification to be removed from disclaimer to assist in accountability
- Q. Will old data be archived?
 - A. Currently working with IR to have that available

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 – Reported: In the Spring of 2024 the committee facilitated the assessment of Humanities and Social Sciences. The results of that assessment will be made available to the campus in November. We are asking faculty members who participated in that assessment to complete a reflection on their results. These responses will be aggregated and anonymized for use by the committee. In SP25 the committee will facilitate the assessment of World History and Global Awareness; Science, Technology, Values, and Society; and Natural Sciences. Chairs have been notified that courses in their departments may be selected for assessment. Instructors who teach courses that are selected for assessment will be notified in November. The committee has provided feedback to SUNY on two proposed changes to the GE program. The first is a revision to the existing core competency "Information Literacy." The second is the proposed addition of a core competency called "Civic Discourse." The committee has thus far this year approved one new course for a GE attribute.

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

IX. Unfinished Business: N/A

X. New Business:

- **EPC Basic Needs Statement in Course Syllabi** – Proposal recommending that department chairs and faculty members add the Cortland Cupboard's Basic Needs Statement into course syllabi was introduced to the Senate by J. Parks so that clarifying questions could be asked; the proposal will return to the Senate in two weeks (11/5/24) for a vote on whether to endorse.
 - Q. Is this statement open to revisions before I place it on my syllabus?
 - A. Yes; since this is optional (although, strongly recommended) to include on your syllabus, you are allowed to make edits to the statement
 - Q. Option as Faculty Senate to be required?
 - A. Historically, committees advise the Senate

- **PFAC** – Has drafted three new Performance Management Forms for UUP Professionals at SUNY Cortland. These initial drafts reflect alignment with both UUP Contract language and SUNY Board of Trustees policies. The committee is recommending all UUP Professionals review these draft forms and send initial feedback to the chair or any member of the Professional Faculty Affairs Committee.
 - These forms are not really a proposal in the traditional sense that the Faculty Senate normally accepts a proposal; rather, it is just a transparent way for the PFAC to get this information and these forms out to campus
 - There was concern raised that since these forms are in a PDF format, they are not readily accessible
 - All three forms are currently available in Word Document modality; adaptations for accessibility need to be addressed in the future
 - Has HR reviewed these drafts?
 - No, these are the initial drafts; UUP is in the loop

XI. Announcements: N/A

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:20PM on 10/22/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis