

Faculty Senate Minutes #1

February 9th, 2021

Via WebEx

Members and Senators Present: S. Anderson, C. Badurek, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, R. Borden, A. Catalfamo, C. Chatfield, S. Clark, C. Costell Corbin, S. Comins, S. Daman, K. Dames, A. Dearie, A. DeChellis, L. Delaubell, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, C. Grate, J. Hall, T. Hunter, L. Jin, A. Myles, P. Perkins, V. Placide, R. Powell, G. Sharer, P. Schroeder, T. Suzuki, R. Vooris, C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: A. Curtis, M. Fox, C. Pass, S. Strause, D. West

Guests: L. Lopez-Janove

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from December 8th were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: G. Birren – Reported that Common Hour Committee has met twice already this semester.

III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report: C. Chatfield – Reported that L. Lopez-Janove, C. Ortega, and herself have met to discuss/review the proposal on faculty/staff diversity and inclusion awards; the proposal has been approved by the president's cabinet, however, the proposal still needs to be reviewed further to move forward.

IV. Treasurer's Report: R. Grantham – Reminded senators to please submit their dues of \$10 to her, if they haven't already done so; senate dues go toward the Faculty Senate's Memorial Scholarship award.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported that the SUNY Chancellor is in agreement to allow SUNY presidents to open spring athletics
 - SUNYAC will submit plan to open spring athletics on 2/12/21
 - SUNYAC plan will be further reviewed by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on 2/16/21
 - If the SUNYAC plan is approved, spring sports will begin around 4/1/21.
- Reminded everyone to please continue to practice social distancing, wearing of masks, washing of hands frequently, etc., as we are currently at 53 on the COVID tracker.
- Admissions across higher education are in a tough spot financially right now; there are several merges happening between larger universities and community schools
- Emergency Fund has received over 1,000 applications, with over 700 students receiving funding; the emergency fund assists students with such things as rent, food, and internet, and is funded by donations received from faculty, staff, and alumni.

VII. Policy Committee Reports

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. Blavos – Reported that the committee has scheduled their meeting times.

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – Thanked the members of AFAC for all their diligent work on the committee; the committee met every week over the winter break, meeting with the Provost, department chairs, and department personnel chairs.

- Introduced AFAC's White Paper on Personnel Service – AFAC's recommendation that the College Handbook be revised to reflect the equal value of the three areas of teaching,

scholarship and service and also that GPIC and AFAC conduct a Service Workload Survey to gather data specific to SUNY Cortland (*Please find document attached in email*)

- The AFAC's White Paper on Personnel Service was first charged to the committee a few years back when L. MacDonald was the chair of Faculty Senate
- The charge stemmed from research concluding that the bulk of committee work is predominately undertaken by females and/or persons of color, as well as the fact that scholarship and teaching are weighted more heavily than service when considered for re-appointment and promotion, which seems prejudicial within the SUNY system.
- The committee has been diligently working on this charge for the past 18 months, interviewing all the school chairs, as well as all 3 deans of each school
- Several recommendations have come from the AFAC's White Paper on Personnel Service, including:
 - Changes to the College Handbook promoting equality on the importance of scholarship, teaching, and service
 - Clear minimum standards for department chairs regarding personnel review processes
 - Workshops for new faculty as a means to elevate the value of service to the college
- Once approved, these changes will more than likely take about 3-4 years to take place, as they will be incremental changes.
- G. Birren thanked A. Fitz-Gibbon and the AFAC for all their hard work on this charge.
 - The AFAC's White Paper on Personnel Service was officially received by the Senate.

Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair – Reported that EPC will have their first meeting this Friday, 2/12/21.

Professional Affairs Committee: S. Daman, Chair – No report.

Area Senators: No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: R. Vooris/C. Badurek – R. Vooris reported on the UFS's Winter Plenary:

- SUNY Student Survey coming soon: important for faculty and staff to encourage students to complete it
- SUNY Provost Ted Larson is at SUNY Poly, acting role, might return might not. Gwen reported that is common for chancellor's to choose their own provost so don't read too much into this. Dr. Fatemeh (Shadi) Shahedipour-Sandvik appointed as Provost-in-Charge as of 12/29.
- \$15 billion NYS budget deficit, hoping for \$6 billion from feds. No cuts to access programs such as TAP or EOP.
- SUNY has asked for the ability to furlough staff and faculty as a last resort in an effort to reduce expenditures. UUP will fight this. It needs to be collectively bargained.
- Salary increases are delayed through 2022-23 FY, promotions are guaranteed for 21 and 22.
- 550 million for critical maintenance in the executive budget. Keep in mind the executive budget is NOT final, as the legislative has final control over the purse strings.
- GE Advisory Committee is working hard on getting a report out by the end of the academic year, some need for scaffolding about the various GE courses, add diversity as a GE category, add global learning, some name changes.
- Racial Equity Action Plan started in November to create a plan to increase racial diversity across 64 campuses. Run from Chancellor's Office.

- Administration Cost Savings: New Elsevier contract saves of about \$7m. “Article on Demand” models are being used at five campus and may be used more frequently in the future. Standardize printers around SUNY optimize locations and usage and eProcurement (things being done to lower admin costs)
- Student mental health and wellness taskforce report expected by the end of the semester
- 100 limit for shutdown is probably going away, more specific guidelines are coming...saliva test from Upstate tests for U.K. variant (good info to know)
- 3 resolutions were passed:
 - Shared Governance during Time of Crisis
 - SUNY BOT to Support Black Lives Matter
 - Faculty Senate to Support Black Lives Matter

Student Senator: D. Reischer – Introduced himself as the CFO of SGA, and explained he will be filling in for C. Humphrey on the Faculty Senate, as she has class during the time senate meets.

- Reported that the SGA’s V. President resigned, so there will be an election next Tuesday, 2/16/21 to fill that vacancy
- Continuing to work on Manifesto
- Open seats on SGA’s Judicial Board; if students are interested, email C. Humphrey, there is a \$250 stipend for serving on the board.

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: K. Bonafide, Chair – No report.

College Curriculum Review Committee: K. Polasek, Chair – No report.

College Research Committee: R. Vooris, Chair – No report.

General Education Committee: L. Delaubell, Chair – No report.

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: N. Wilson, Chair – No Report.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2020** – Nominations that were received via email for the Spring 2020 call were approved by the senate; additional nominations were accepted from the floor in an effort to fill any remaining vacancies (*Please find document attached*).
 - Academic Grievance Tribunal, Representing Arts/Sciences, **Spring 2021 ONLY Sabbatical Replacement:** B. Williams, Elected
- **Essential Worker Resolution** – A resolution was introduced to the Senate by C. Chatfield at the end of the Fall 2020 semester, which was tabled at the 12/8/20 meeting, regarding how the COVID 19 pandemic placed ever-expanding demands on the Student Health Services, Counseling Center, Residence Life and other campus offices. To protect the campus community, paid and volunteer staff were compelled to invest enormous effort above and beyond their usual responsibilities, and for those efforts, we express our deepest gratitude to those individuals (*Please find document attached*).
 - C. Chatfield made motion to withdraw that resolution from the floor of the Senate, so that a revised resolution regarding essential workers may be introduced to the Senate in two weeks (2/23/21):
 - No objections
 - Motion to withdraw resolution: Passes

X. New Business:

- **Proposed Resolution on TIAA and Global Warming** – Resolution regarding the SUNY Cortland faculty to urge the SUNY Board of Trustees to support and advocate for the divestment of TIAA funds from all fossil fuel holdings was introduced to the Senate, and clarifying questions were asked (*Please find proposal attached in email*)
 - SUNY New Paltz as well as UUP supports this resolution on the divestment of TIAA and global warming

XI. Announcements:

- G. Birren announced that there will be no Senate meeting on 3/9/21, as this is a pacing day
- G. Birren reminded members that there needs to be an open meeting scheduled for the Spring 2021 semester, especially considering there wasn't an open meeting last year due to complications with the COVID-19 outbreak; it was also announced that there needs to be time allotted for the diversity/equity/and inclusion training that was approved by the Senate last year
 - Motion: R. Grantham to have the diversity/equity/and inclusion training in the Fall 2021 semester
 - 2nd: L. Jin
 - No Objections, Motion passes
- Additional Motion: R. Borden: Spring 2021 Open Meeting of the Senate focus on equity and inclusion, with an eye towards the Fall 2021 diversity/equity/and inclusion training
 - 2nd: A. Blavos
 - No Objections, Motion passes
- C. Costell-Corbin reminded everyone that the Cortland Food Pantry is open and available to students Monday-Friday from 10AM-4PM, in the basement of the Interfaith Center

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 on 2/9/21

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis