

Faculty Senate Minutes #6

November 21st, 2023

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Bryan, S. Clark, R. Coyne, A. DeChellis, P. Donnelly, E. Edlund, D. Fantacone, D. Harms, , L. Jin, K. Lawrence, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, R. Powell, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, A. Thompson, C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: P. Arenas, C. Badurek, C. Barnett, R. Borden, R. Davis, S. Decker, J. Hall, T. Herman, J. Jones, L. Lopez-Janove, J. Mascetta, G. Sharer, T. Suzuki, M. Yacavone

Guests of the Senate: K. Polasek

I. Approval of Minutes: The amended Minutes from November 7th were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: K. Lawrence:

- Announced that due to the ongoing issues with advising loads across several academic departments, there will be an ad-hoc committee formed to address said issues; passed around sign-up sheet for those interested in serving
 - Anyone interested in participating please contact A. DeChellis or K. Lawrence
- Reported on faculty search committee process as this was a topic that was brought before the Senate at the 11/7/23 meeting
 - Reported that she had been in contact with HR last week regarding the issue and it was explained that the change in reference checks was a very temporary change; the process regarding faculty position searches has returned to its original order for reference checks to be completed before invitations for campus interviews
 - Lawrence also reported HR is preparing materials and planning training workshops for faculty searches. These should begin in the Spring Semester. FS will be providing announcements when possible and appropriate, regarding any HR workshops and changes, just to try to reach as many as possible with this information.
- Reported that the outdoor lighting across campus has been improved; Lawrence acknowledged and thanked all those involved in getting the lighting near the new Van Hoesen Hall construction added so quickly. The Campus Police Department and the Facilities Office were extremely helpful.
- Recognized K. Ahern to address the Senate on the A.I. Committee
 - K. Ahern: the A.I. Committee has been meeting regularly, and has created a proposal to present before the Senate Steering Committee on 11/28/23 with the intention of then presenting to the Senate at the 12/5/23 meeting
- Announced that Chief Diversity Officer L. Lopez-Janove has intentions to present to the Senate during the Spring 2024 semester; in the meantime, watch for an email from Lorraine containing a Call for Participation in planning the Schedule for Events and Programming during Black History Month

- Announced that the ROG Committee has been meeting and beginning work over the past two weeks.
- Proposed the idea of a week-long Thanksgiving Break for future academic calendars, as the majority of students leave beforehand, some as early as a week before the vacation officially starts. This makes it especially hard on Faculty who are trying to hold effective classes when only a couple of students attend. Faculty are on campus to teach but it challenges the role of traditional pedagogical methods.
 - Discussion ensued, noting that in order to feasibly have a week-long Thanksgiving Break, either Fall Break would have to be taken away or the semesters made longer
 - It was also noted that the removal of Fall Break would not be conducive to students' mental/emotional health, as the removal of Fall Break statistically shows that not having the mid-semester break can be more challenging to first year students who are experiencing mental health challenges.
 - P. Arras proposed perhaps giving the option of online instruction during the week of Thanksgiving
 - S. Daman noted that leeway for academic faculty would in turn further the inequity between academic faculty and professional/classified faculty, as the latter already only has Thanksgiving Day off rather than the 3 full days that academic faculty currently receive
- Reported plans to extend invitations during our Spring meetings to several people representing offices and programs with relevant information for Senators.

III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report: D. Harms:

- Announced nominations that were submitted via email to fill senator and committee vacancies; we did not receive any additional nominations at this time (*Please find documents attached*).
 - Remaining vacancies are as follows:
 - **Senator vacancies (7 total):** 1 seat representing Math/Science, 1 seat representing Social/Behavioral Sciences, 1 seat representing FTL Education OR Professional Studies, 2 seats representing Professional Faculty, 1 seat representing Graduate Faculty, and 1 seat representing Part-Time Faculty
 - **Committee vacancies (2 total):** PFAC: 1 (unexpired term) seat representing Academic Affairs, CRC: 1(unexpired term vacant SP 2024 ONLY) seat representing Math/Science

IV. Treasurer's Report: C. Widdall – No report.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Gave construction update
 - C-Wing is on schedule
 - Currently in the design phase for renovations to Corey Union
- Announced that all 64 SUNY campuses to receive survey through the governor's office; committee under Provost will submit surveys
- Reported on Emergent Themes Strategic Plan
- Currently inviting candidates to campus to fill faculty vacancies
- Announced football game this Saturday, 11/25/23, against Grove City University
- SUNY Cortland won 6 conferences this fall

- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Provost A. McClellan reported on Labor Management's syllabus retention policy; she explained that under this policy, faculty syllabi are to be stored in the library's Digital Commons for 7 years, as a means to accommodate transfer friendliness and accreditation

- Discussion ensued as to who can have access to these stored syllabi, as they are the individual faculty member's intellectual property; it was explained that as it currently stands, anyone with a cortland.edu email address can access these documents
- Questions were raised as to who initiated the "request for this policy". D. Harms, speaking from his position as a UUP executive, stated the request did not come from the Union and referenced the Student Manifesto of years prior.

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: K. Silvestri – No report.

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: K. Sheets, Chair – No report.

Educational Policy Committee: E. Edlund, Chair – No report.

Professional Faculty Affairs Committee: J. Neretich, Chair – No report.

Area Senators – No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: C. Badurek, A. Blavos, L. Jin, J. Hall – No report.

Student Senator: J. Mascetta – No report.

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: H. Zhang, Chair – No report

University Curriculum Review Committee: K. Polasek, Chair:

- Reported that the committee is working with a full committee roster; however, they have not had a student representative on the committee for over 4 years
- Announced deadlines for any Level 2 and Level 3 changes; please note that these deadlines in Spring 2024 must be met to determine changes to be seen in the Fall 2024 semester
 - Deadline to submit to School: 12/15/23
 - Deadline to submit to Dean: 1/15/24
 - Deadline to submit to either UCRC or GFEC: 2/15/23

College Research Committee: C. Badurek, Chair – No report

General Education Committee: D. Radus, Chair – No report

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: L. Gathagen, Chair – No report.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2023** – See V. Chair Report

X. New Business:

- **EPC Policy Revision Proposal** – Policy Revision to Support Undergraduate/Graduate Combined Programs was introduced to the Senate by C. Widdall on behalf of the EPC; clarifying questions were taken from the floor; The Senate will revisit this policy at the 12/5 meeting, allowing for the required two-week consideration period (*Please find document attached*)
 - Q. Since there are some first year students who enter a program with several college credits, does that first year student then qualify as a Junior or Senior based on his/her credits?
 - A. No, because those students have to apply for the program
 - Q. Is the purpose of this proposal financial, or more focused to help students?
 - A. Purpose of this program is to financially benefit the student
 - Q. What happens if a student does not complete the Graduate level of the degree? Will the student still receive the Undergraduate degree?
 - A. The student will have completed just the Bachelor's Degree
 - Q. Is the student responsible for the 4+1 application fee?
 - A. The student does not have to pay application fee

XI. Announcements:

- C. Widdall: Announced Phi Kappa Phi will be holding its induction ceremony on 12/1/23 in the Old Main Brown Auditorium from 4:30PM-5:30PM; encouraged faculty participation

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:28PM on 11/21/23

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis