

Faculty Senate Minutes #4

April 6th, 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, A. Curtis, K. Dames, A. Dearie, A. DeChellis, L. Delaubell, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, C. Grate, J. Hall, T. Hunter, L. Jin, A. Myles, C. Pass, P. Perkins, V. Placide, R. Powell, G. Sharer, P. Schroeder, T. Suzuki, R. Vooris, D. West C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: S. Daman, S. Strause

Guests: L. Lopez-Janove, C. Van Der Karr

I. Approval of Minutes: The Amended Minutes from March 23rd were approved by the Senate.

II. Chair's Report: G. Birren – Reported that there will be more information coming out in the forthcoming weeks regarding graduation activities; encouraged faculty members to volunteer to help with commencement activities.

III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report: C. Chatfield – No report.

IV. Treasurer's Report: R. Grantham – Reminded senators to please submit their donations of \$10 to her, if they haven't already done so; senate donations go toward the Faculty Senate's Memorial Scholarship award. All faculty/staff on campus are eligible to donate to the scholarship fund.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported that A total of 660 doses of the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine will be administered by the Cortland County Health Department to SUNY Cortland students; these first 660 does are part of a SUNY system effort to vaccinate as many students as possible before the spring semester ends. SUNY is working with New York State to make additional student-targeted doses available over the next few weeks.
 - Our campus is currently at a 0.24 infection rate
- Waiting for budget
 - There will be no tuition increase for SUNY/CUNY within the next 3 years
- Commencement Committee met this past week
 - Commencement will be held in Lusk Field House and will be live streamed
- Spring athletics have begun in SUNYAC
- Reminded everyone that even though the Cannabis Bill has passed in NYS, cannabis is a Schedule 1 drug, and is therefore not allowed on campus property.

VII. Policy Committee Reports

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. Blavos – Read the JCSI's statement regarding the impact that timely feedback has on student growth to the Senate (*Please find document attached*).

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

Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair – Reported that today is the last day to submit feedback for the EPC's vetting document regarding the updating of the language found in the College Handbook in regards to examinations and labs. Also reported that they are currently working with SGA on a proposal that will hopefully be introduced to the Senate before the end of this semester.

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

Area Senators: No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: R. Vooris/C. Badurek – R. Vooris reported that UFS is working on changing the resolution process in an effort to open up feedback from individual faculty senates; he will hopefully have more to report on that within the next few weeks.

Student Senator: D. Reischer – SGA elections are coming up; asked that faculty encourage interested students to run for SGA office. Also reported that the SGA unanimously endorsed a resolution advocating for faculty to stop the use of AI software.

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: A. Davalos, Chair – No report.

General Education Committee: L. Delaubell, Chair – C. Van Der Karr reported on the General Education Advisory Committee Report, providing a summary of the GE Committee’s responses to that report (*Please find documents attached*).

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

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **AFAC Resolution on Service** – Academic Faculty Affairs Committee’s White Paper “Lip Service? White Paper on Service in the Personnel Review Process” recommends that the College Handbook be revised to better reflect the Board of Trustees Policies on the equal weighting of scholarship, teaching and service in the personnel review process (*Please find document attached in email*)
 - The Senate floor was opened for debate regarding the resolution
 - No objections; resolution passes
- **UFS Resolution 187.03** – Board of Trustees Support of Black Lives Matter will be voted on for endorsement (*Please find document attached in email*)
 - The Senate floor was opened for debate regarding the resolution
 - R. Vooris reminded senators that the resolution has already been sent back to the Chancellor with other SUNY campus’ endorsements; the Chancellor has also already issued a statement on this resolution
 - Discussion ensued before voting
 - Public vote via Chat Feature:
 - Aye: 15
 - Nay: 6
 - Resolution endorsed by the Senate
- **UFS Resolution 187.04** – Faculty Senate Support of Black Lives Matter will be voted on for endorsement (*Please find document attached in email*)
 - The Senate floor was opened for debate regarding the resolution
 - Discussion ensued before voting
 - Public vote via Chat Feature:
 - Aye: 22
 - Nay: 4
 - Resolution endorsed by the Senate

X. New Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2021** – The slate of nominations was presented to the Senate for approval; additional nominations were be accepted from the floor (*Please find document attached in email*)
 - All non-contested seats were approved by the Senate
 - Contested seats will go out to ballot no later than this Friday, 4/9/21
- **Student-Facing and Essential Workers Resolution** – A revised resolution regarding how the COVID 19 pandemic placed ever-expanding demands on all campus offices including risks to student-facing and essential workers. To protect the campus community, paid and volunteer personnel were compelled to invest enormous time and effort above and beyond their usual responsibilities, and for those efforts, we express our deepest gratitude to those individuals (*Please find document attached*).
 - Resolution was introduced to the Senate by C. Chatfield; clarifying questions were asked.
 - The Senate will vote on this resolution on 5/4/21.
- **Course Teacher Evaluations** – Revisions to the course teacher evaluation questions from the Fall 2019 semester was re-introduced to the Senate (*Please find document attached*).
 - Resolution was introduced to the Senate by G. Birren; clarifying questions were asked.
 - The Senate will vote on this resolution on 5/4/21.

XI. Announcements:

- G. Birren reminded everyone that the Senate’s open meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4/20/21.
- A. DeChellis announced that confirmation letters for committee, officer, and/or senator seats will be sent out to individuals by this Friday, 4/9/21.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 on 4/6/21

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis