

Faculty Senate Minutes #7

December 7th, 2021

Via WebEx

Members and Senators Present: S. Anderson, M. Alvisi, C. Badurek, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, S. Clark, S. Comins, C. Costell Corbin, K. Dames, S. Daman, A. Dearie, A. DeChellis, E. Edlund, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, J. Hall, T. Hunter, K. Johnson, L. Jin, L. Lopez-Janove, A. Myers, A. Myles, C. Pass, P. Perkins, V. Placide, R. Powell, M. Prus, J. Radloff, K. Silvestri, G. Sharer, M. Stone, T. Suzuki, D. West, C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: K. Nuhu, P. Schroeder, G. Vogt, S. Yoo

Guests: B. Addams, L. Davies, D. Harms, G. Peterson, M. Yacavone

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

II. Chair's Report: G. Birren – Reported that the Steering Committee will have a meeting a week or so before the start of the Spring semester to determine whether the Senate will meet virtually or in-person; decision will be dependent upon the status of the Omicron variant.

III. Vice Chair/Secretary's Report: B. Williams – No report.

IV. Treasurer's Report: C. Widdall – Reported that she met with P. Perkins to discuss allocation of Senate contributions; explained that the Senate has two different scholarships that we award, one being the Faculty Senate Memorial Scholarship which currently has around \$165,000 in it (we typically award 5-\$1,000 scholarships each year from this account), and the other one being the Faculty Senate Fund Scholarship which currently has around \$20,000 in it (this is the account Senate contributions, i.e. dues, have been transferred into).

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported on the Omicron variant
 - Upstate Medical met with Dr. Dwan; research on variant is underway, should have more information within next 3-4 weeks.
- As a result of the new variant, we have decided to limit our Study Abroad Program to the following areas: Egypt, Spain, and Italy.
- There will be a clinic on campus this week offering COVID vaccine, boosters, and the flu vaccine.

VII. Policy Committee Reports

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

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – Reported the committee will have its final meeting this Friday (12/10/21); Provost will attend

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

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

Area Senators: No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: C. Badurek/A. Blavos – Reported that there has been a recent controversy regarding the SUNY Chancellor concerning his relationship to the Cuomo investigation; will be discussed further at the UFS Spring Plenary in January.

Student Senator: T. Hunter:

- Reported that the SUNY Assembly President has been asked to resign, due to the current situation regarding the SUNY Chancellor; all SUNY SGA's have been asked to sign a statement to endorse the SA's resignation.

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: M. Moyer, Chair – No report.

College Curriculum Review Committee: Chair – No report.

College Research Committee: Chair – No report.

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

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: Chair – No report.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2021** – Additional nominations were accepted from the floor in an effort to fill any remaining vacancies from the Spring 2021 call for nominations (*Please find document attached*).
- **SGA Resolution 2022-01** – Endorsement of a Syllabus Request System (*Please find document attached*).
 - Motion to postpone until SGA approves at student senate: T. Hunter
 - 2nd: R, Grantham

X. New Business:

- **EPC Proposal** – Modifications to Sections 340.03 and 350.02 of the College Handbook (*Please find document attached*)
 - Concern as to whether modifications are challenging the character of the student, or is it challenging the incident
 - Motion to cease with clarifying questions and move to discussion: R. Borden
 - 2nd: B. Williams
 - Opposition to motion: Yes
 - Vote: 14 aye, 10 nay
 - Since there was not at least a ¾ majority of voting population, motion to discuss is denied; floor remained open to clarifying questions only
 - Is this now going to be a formalized process, due to the language change?
 - Discussion within academic departments is part of the formal process
 - Why was the term “alleged” removed from the language on page 2?
 - The instructor making the finding is the first authority in this process; it is not a claim the instructor is making, but rather a finding, and that finding may be challenged in this process
 - Why has the language been changed to include staff members that a student can choose to have present as a witness in their case?

- Staff members include individuals from Advisement/Transition, as well as coaches, etc.; students may feel more comfortable with a particular staff member, rather than a member of the faculty
- Also possible that the student's academic advisor may be a staff member from Advisement/Transition, which is typical for undeclared students
- Concern was raised that not all staff members might be versed in academic situations/pedagogy
- Since the faculty and/or staff member is meant solely to be a witness to the student's hearing, it is not inherent that individual be versed in pedagogy
- The five working days, does that refer to five working days that the meeting with the student should be scheduled, or, does that mean that the meeting with the student must be held within five working days?
 - The student will be notified within five working days of when the meeting will be held

XI. Announcements: N/A

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25PM on 12/7/21

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis