

## Faculty Senate Minutes #3

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Via WebEx

**Members and Senators Present:** B. Addams (sub for C. Pass), M. Alvisi, S. Anderson, C. Badurek, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, A. Catalfamo, 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. Lopez-Janove, L. Jin, A. Myles, K. Nuhu, V. Placide, R. Powell, M. Prus, J. Radloff, K. Silvestri, G. Sharer, P. Schroeder, T. Suzuki, D. West B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

**Members and Senators Absent:** G. Vogt

**Guests:** G. Peterson, K. Sheets, H. Doty, C. Kaltefleiter, L. Davies, M. Yacavone

**I. Approval of Minutes:** The Re-Revised Minutes from September 21<sup>st</sup> were approved by the Senate.

**II. Chair's Report:** G. Birren – Reported that the new LMS has been announced and it is D2L's Brightspace. There will have more information following the UFS' Fall Plenary which will be held 10/7-10/9 (Thurs.-Sat.)

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

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

**V. President's Report:** E. Bitterbaum:

- Student vaccination rates: 93.5%
  - Since the deadline for students to submit proof of vaccination was 9/27/21, there has been a 10 day extension for universities to work individually (i.e. emails, phone calls) with students who have failed to comply; we only have 4 students (out of 6,700) who haven't submitted verification of full vaccination status. Those students have until this Friday before they are de-registered from their classes.
- Faculty/Staff vaccination rates: 82.2%
  - Concern was raised regarding lack of faculty/staff vaccination rates; as of now, the university cannot mandate vaccination for faculty/staff members, however, UUP is working with governor to be able to mandate for future pandemics.
- Our surveillance testing is at a higher rate than the other comprehensive colleges; most others test monthly, while we have been testing every week (students). We are also continuing wastewater testing.
- Spring 2022 semester – any new students to campus will be required to be fully vaccinated
  - Question was asked as to whether the new student would be required to be fully vaccinated before he/she could register, or, before he/she arrives at the campus.
    - Campus is working on the best mechanism on requiring full vaccination before being able to register for Spring 2022 courses, but, for now the requirement of full vaccination will be at least before the new student arrives on campus
- Question was asked about why some students have been called for testing, while others haven't

- G. Sharer responded that all testing of students is completely randomized; however, if it is discovered there has been an increase in cases within a certain building, there is an increase in surveillance testing in that building.
- There was another concern about individuals within the community are not being contact-traced
  - Recommended to speak with the executive director of the county

## **VII. Policy Committee Reports**

**Joint Committee on Student Interests:** K. Silvestri – No official report, however, the committee is currently working on a few projects.

**Academic Faculty Affairs Committee:** A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – Reported the committee is continuing to meet regularly. They are also meeting with each department’s personnel committees, as well as the deans of each department. Beginning their review of chapters 220.06 and 220.07 of the College Handbook.

**Educational Policy Committee:** E. Edlund, Chair – Reported that the committee is continuing their work in reviewing the grievance process, while also reviewing chapters 340/350 of the College Handbook. The committee should hopefully have more information regarding conduct procedures to bring to Senate sometime later in October.

**Professional Affairs Committee:** S. Daman, Chair – Reported that the committee hasn’t formally met yet this semester, however, they are looking to work with HR on how to improve guidance in completing Form 11.

**Area Senators:** No report

**SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator:** C. Badurek/A. Blavos – C. Badurek reported that the Fall 2021 Plenary is happening later this week, Thurs.-Sat., and mentioned the three main topics they will be discussing:

- Guidance on the Fall 2021 opening, in response to the pandemic
- Brightspace transition; new LMS system
- The SUNY Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan, which is a 25-point plan.

**Student Senator:** T. Hunter:

- Reported that SGA met yesterday with Z. Newswanger to discuss transportation for on-campus students; the SGA feels if transportation is provided for students, it would help decrease parking issues on campus.
  - Perhaps have a trial run of this in the Spring 2022 semester.
- SGA would like to have open-recruitment for student representation on Faculty Senate committees, rather than SGA being responsible for appointing student representation on those committees.

## **VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:**

**Committee on Teaching Effectiveness:** M. Moyer, Chair – The committee has been charged by the Senate to work on two items this semester:

- CTE questions
- Revising Chapter 260.02 of the College Handbook

**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*).
  - There was one contested seat that will go out to ballot by the end of this week; please note that the ballot will only go to individuals representing voting faculty in Arts/Sciences.
- **UFS Resolution 188.02:** Holistic Student Space – Promote dedication of specified spaces for student wellness.
  - Concern was raised about whether there is adequate room on campus to promote this type of space; it needs to be suggested to FMPOC to see if specific space is available.
  - Concern was also raised that the campus already has such spaces on campus, with the Inter-Faith Center and the Student Life Center.
    - Vote: 24, 2; resolution endorsed.
- **UFS Resolution 188.05:** TIAA Divestment – Response to individual SUNY campuses that passed their own divestment plans
  - No Objections; resolution endorsed

### **X. New Business:**

- **Common Hour Ad-Hoc Committee Proposal:** Guests K. Sheets and H. Doty introduced proposal to the Senate; clarifying questions were asked (*Please find document attached*)
  - Would the addition of a common hour result in a longer day?
    - Not necessarily
  - Will this proposal be required to go out for referendum?
    - No, it is not required to go to referendum
  - Can the Senate send this proposal to referendum, even though it's not a requirement?
    - Yes, but there is a process: at least 25% of the faculty have to request the item to go out for referendum
  - Concern was raised about the time schedule for the common hour; there were two different time frames proposed: either 1:30PM-3PM MWF, or 1:40PM-2:50PM MWF
    - Either time frame excludes faculty members and students who have class at those times, particularly, those from the science departments
      - Unfortunately, there isn't an ideal solution for this, because regardless of any time frame that the common hour is placed in, there will inevitably be displacement among students and/or faculty members who won't be able to participate due to schedule issues

- Ran out of time before all clarifying questions could be addressed, the Senate will continue with clarifying questions on this proposal at the next Senate meeting in three weeks (10/26/21), since Fall Break is on 10/19/21.

**XI. Announcements:** N/A

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:34 on 10/5/21**

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis