

Faculty Senate Minutes #1

September 8th, 2020

Via WebEx

Members and Senators Present: S. Anderson, C. Badurek, G. Birren, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, C. Chatfield, C. Costell Corbin, S. Comins, A. Curtis, A. Dearie, A. DeChellis, A. Fitz-Gibbon, R. Grantham, C. Grate, D. Harms, C. Hickey, L. Jin, A. Myles, C. Pass, P. Perkins, V. Placide, R. Powell, P. Schroeder, T. Suzuki, R. Vooris, D. West, C. Widdall, B. Williams, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: M. Fox, J. Hall, S. Strause

Guests: C. Humphrey, M. DiVita, M. Lessig

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from May 12th were approved by the Senate.

Approval of the Senate Standing Rules: The Senate's standing rules were approved.

II. Chair's Report: G. Birren – Welcomed everyone back and introduced herself as this year's chair for the Faculty Senate, while also introducing C. Chatfield as this year's vice chair for the senate. Reported that the senate has a lot to work on this year, and that we will work on items in a prioritized basis.

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

IV. Treasurer's Report: R. Grantham – Reminded members about dues; dues can either be sent in the mail or to R. Grantham's campus office.

V. President's Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported that, all things considered, the semester has started well
- There are currently 4 students in isolation, 13 students in quarantine, and 17 students who have gone home in response to the current COVID-19 situation.
- Announced that there will be a workshop being held this afternoon from 4-6PM for all 64 SUNY campus presidents in regards to implementing surveillance testing (the cost, turn-around time, etc.).
- Announced that there will be a virtual 9/11 ceremony this Friday hosted by K. Pristash.
- Announced that our campus will be implementing waste water testing relatively soon; hopefully, by this Friday (9/11/20).

VII. Policy Committee Reports

Joint Committee on Student Interests: A. Blavos – Reported that the JCSI can't engage in any official business until the SGA president is elected for this academic year; there will be an SGA meeting tonight that K. Silvestri will attend on behalf of the JCSI.

Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon – Reported that the AFAC has not yet met this semester; they plan on continuing their work on the white paper from the 2020 Spring semester.

Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair – No report.

Professional Affairs Committee: C. Hickey, Chair – No report.

Area Senators: No report

SUNY Senator/ Alternate Senator: R. Vooris/C. Badurek – Reported that former SUNY Chancellor C. Johnson has resigned and that J. Melatrose was appointed to take her place as chancellor; this appointment is what caused the UFS to create the no confidence resolution in the Board of Trustees due to the lack due process.

Student Senator: C. Humphrey reported on behalf of C. Bennett, as he was unable to attend this afternoon:

- Reported that the SGA is in a state of transition right now, as their elections have not yet taken place; SGA elections will be held this Thursday and Friday, with the deadline for voting to be Friday (9/11/20) at 11PM.
- SGA will be having their senate meeting tonight at 7PM.

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: Vacant Chair – No report.

Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: C. Badurek (Fall sabbatical replacement), Chair – No report

Committee on Teaching Awards: M. DiVita, 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*).
 - The contested EPC seat representing Professional Studies will go out ballot by the end of this week.

X. New Business:

- GE Committee Election, Ballot Issue Spring 2020 – Last spring semester, the ballot for the contested GE seat had to be reissued due to an error in email lists which has led to some controversy:
 - Past-Presiding Faculty Senate Chair M. DiVita explained the circumstances of that issue, stating that there was confusion among faculty members not understanding that they were required to re-cast their votes, even though they may have already voted in the initial ballot (which was voided before the initial ballot deadline), and therefore a third ballot was being considered to go out to campus; the Faculty Senate Steering Committee was under the impression that the results of the 2nd ballot should stand, as the results of that ballot had already been published and confirmation had already been sent out to the winning candidate.
 - On behalf of former Senate Chairs K. Alwes, K. Lawrence, and J. Ouellette, as well as on behalf of L. Davies, and A. Harbin, M. Lessig addressed the senate on the controversy of sending out a 3rd ballot, explaining that due to the clarity of the instructions included in the 2nd corrected ballot, the failure to follow such instructions should not be grounds for voiding an election unless the Senate is prepared to void every future election in which an eligible voter fails to carefully read their email.
 - M. Lessig thanked the senate for allowing him to address the senate on this issue.
 - With all things being considered, the senate is not taking any action to send out a 3rd ballot; the results of the 2nd corrected ballot stands.
- UFS Resolution: Vote of No Confidence in Politically Appointed Members of SUNY Board of Trustees (*Please find document attached in email*) - SUNY Senator R. Vooris explained the reasoning behind this resolution, stating that the UFS' objection is to the process that was implemented to install the new SUNY Chancellor; instead of there being a nation-wide search for

the next chancellor following the resignation of C. Johnson, J. Melatrose was simply appointed by Governor A. Cuomo, rather than by following due process.

- Motion to endorse: A. Curtis
- Motion 2nd: J. Zhe-Heimerman
 - Vote: Unanimous to endorse ; resolution passes

XI. Announcements: No announcements

Meeting was adjourned at 2:28 on 9/8/20

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis