

Faculty Senate Minutes #5

April 2nd, 2024

Fireplace Lounge

Members and Senators Present: K. Ahern, S. Anderson, P. Arras, E. Bitterbaum, A. Blavos, R. Borden, R. Bryan, S. Clark, R. Coyne, A. DeChellis, E. Edlund, D. Fantacone, E. Gallagher, L. Jin, J. Jones, K. Lawrence, L. Lopez-Janove, A. McClellan, J. Neretich, T. Punn, J. Radloff, P. Schroeder, G. Sharer, K. Sheets, K. Silvestri, A. Thompson C. Widdall, B. Williams, M. Yacavone, J. Zhe-Heimerman

Members and Senators Absent: C. Badurek, R. Davis, S. Decker, P. Donnelly, J. Hall, D. Harms, R. Powell, T. Suzuki

Guests: G. Birren

I. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from February 19th were approved as amended by the Senate; grammatical correction under the “Announcements” section.

II. Chair’s Report: K. Lawrence:

- Thanked the members of the ROGC, K. Sheets, G. Birren, and J. Neretich, for all their diligent work on the revisions to Chapter 150 of The College Handbook
 - Initial introduction of ROG revisions is this afternoon (4/2/24)
 - Further discussion/debate of revisions will be at the Faculty Senate’s open meeting on 4/16/24 in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge
 - Final vote on ROG’s revisions 4/30/24; if revisions are endorsed by the Faculty Senate, then those revisions will go out to referendum
- Committee on Teaching Effectiveness (CTE) working on proposals to bring before the Senate; hopefully, before the end of the spring 2024 semester
- Academic Faculty Affairs Committee (AFAC) working on revisions to Chapter 220.07 to be brought before the Senate hopefully within the next few weeks

III. Vice Chair/Secretary’s Report: D. Harms – No report.

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

V. President’s Report: E. Bitterbaum:

- Reported that the proposal that K. Lawrence, L. Davies, and M. Bersani created on shared governance will be presented by the SUNY Chancellor at Cornell at the upcoming Spring 2024 Plenary; thanked all for their outstanding work on the proposal
 - K. Lawrence recognized G. Birren who started initial work on that proposal over a year ago, and thanked her for initiating the proposal; K. Lawrence also thanked A. Thompson for her contributions behind the scenes to the success of the proposal
- Reported that the SUNY Chancellor will be at SUNY Cortland on 4/22/24
- Reported that we received over 17,000 student applications for enrollment
 - Issues concerning FAFSA are still not fixed; Dept. of Ed. working to rectify the problem. Hoping to have issues fixed by end of April/early May at the latest

- Broadway intersection currently under construction; many of the pine trees in that area were decaying, so, as a safety measure they have been removed; once the construction there is finished, there are plans to have new plantings of trees.
- Announced SGA's Big Event which will take place on Sunday, 4/21/24; starts at 9AM at the Alumni Arena and from there volunteers will go out into the community and assist with such things as raking, planting, etc.
- Reported that the construction on Van Hoesen is going well
 - C. Widdall mentioned that due to the construction workers smoking on campus property, the smoke is coming through the windows of Van Hoesen; M. Yacavone will take concern to C. Maroney
- Design phase is beginning for the construction for Corey Union
- Open House will be Saturday, 4/6/24
- Honors Convocation will be Saturday, 4/20/24
 - R. Coyne announced that Institutional Advancement will be hosting a reception prior to Honors Convocation; all are welcome to attend

VII. Policy Committee Reports:

Joint Committee on Student Interests: K. Silvestri – Announced the recipients of the Faculty Senate Scholarship and the Faculty Memorial Scholarship:

- Faculty Senate Scholarship
 - Khyla Diggs
- Faculty Memorial Scholarship
 - Amanda Demmerle
 - Isabella Scala-Palladino
 - Dahlia Spilka
 - Ryan Lerner
 - Keara Johnson

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 – L. Jin reported that the Spring 2024 Plenary will take place from 4/4/24-4/6/24 at Cornell University; encouraged faculty to let her or C. Badurek know if there is anything that they want to be brought to the UFS.

Student Senator: E. Gallagher/T. Punn

- Big Event scheduled for 4/21/24; so far, we have over 400 student volunteers
- Will be tabling at Open House
- Elections to take place between 4/3/24-4/15/24
- Pamphlets to improve student advising are now completed; copies can be found outside of the SGA Office, Advisement and Transition Office, as well as at Career Services

VIII. Other Standing Committee Reports:

Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: E. Faulkenbury, Chair – No report.

University Curriculum Review Committee: K. Polasek, Chair – No report

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

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

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

IX. Unfinished Business:

- **Updated EPC Revisions to Course Withdrawal Policies** – Since changes made to the proposal were minor language changes after being sent back to committee for further review, discussion/debate was opened to the floor of the Senate
 - C. Widdall commented that part of the purpose of this proposal is that the EPC wanted to provide guided information to prevent liability
 - R. Borden motioned to amend first line of the proposal to include the following statement: “SUNY Cortland Policy: A student may withdraw from a course up to the official withdrawal deadline.”
 - 2nd: C. Widdall
 - Vote: all in favor, unanimously endorsed by the Senate
 - Amendment carries
 - B. Williams raised the concern that the policy disempowers faculty authority and lessens consequences for the student
 - No further discussion/debate; proposal as a whole to be brought to a vote
 - Vote: 22 Yay, 1 Nay
 - Proposal endorsed by the Faculty Senate

X. New Business:

- **Call for Nominations, Spring 2024** – Nominations received were read and brought to the floor of the Senate for approval; C. Widdall presented slate of nominations (*Please find documents attached*)
 - Please note: Any seat that was uncontested by a single nominee was elected by the Faculty Senate; confirmation letters will be sent out before the end of the semester
 - The 2 Committee positions that were contested will be sent to ballot by appropriate constituencies as soon as possible
- **Review of Governance, Changes to Chapter 150 of The College Handbook** – G. Birren, J. Neretich, and K. Sheets thanked all those involved throughout this process, including: K. Lawrence, C. Widdall, and J. Ouellette.
 - Introduced revisions to the floor of the Faculty Senate for clarifying questions:
 - Q. S. Daman: What is meant by unclassified service, and why was this change included?
 - A. The term “unclassified service” is a BOT definition; we changed it this way for clarity. Unclassified Service and Professional Faculty are synonymous
 - Q. E. Edlund: What about edits to Section 415? The change from “Educational Policy Committee” to “Education Policy Committee”
 - A. Those edits need to be submitted separately by the committee
 - Q. S. Daman: What is the explanation of the change in 150.04 Section A?

- A. Language didn't align with the BOT's language; so, the change you see here is the BOT's language verbatim
- We will return to this in two weeks (4/16/24) for further discussion/debate

XI. Announcements:

- C. Widdall reminded everyone to please be sure to submit feedback for the EPC vetting document that was sent to campus earlier in the week; feedback is extremely important. P. Schroeder will send another reminder out to campus for the vetting period, which will be open until Tuesday, 4/9/24
- E. Bitterbaum encouraged attendance to "Sweet Charity"
- A. Blavos announced that there is an event outside of Bowers on 4/8/24 from 2:30PM-4:30PM to showcase the solar eclipse; the Planetarium will also have presentations at 2PM and 2:30PM on 4/8/24

Meeting was adjourned by K. Lawrence at 2:12PM on 4/2/24

Minutes submitted by: Amy M. DeChellis