

Faculty Senate Annual Report

Fall, 2016

September 6th, 2016

- Standing Rules for Faculty Senate were approved by the Senate.
- Chair, K. Lawrence, reminded committee chairs that if their committee has nothing to report, then he or she needs to let either the recording secretary or herself know.
- Lawrence reminded members that if a senator is going to be on sabbatical, he or she needs make the Senate aware, so that their seat can be marked as vacant.
- K. Lawrence also announced that there is still a crucial need for a Vice Chair and Secretary, as well as other vacancies, such as a senator in School of Education and Graduate Faculty senator as well as the seat of Part-Time Senator.
- The Chair also reminded senators that SUNY Cortland will host the SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary meeting on October 20th through the 22nd; there will be opportunities to attend work sessions as observers, if anyone is interested in seeing faculty governance at the SUNY level.
- A reminder also went out to senators to please refresh their use of Robert's Rules; Parliamentarian S. Anderson then distributed a review sheet covering Robert's Rules.
- K. Lawrence then announced that the Faculty Senate webpage on the SUNY Cortland website has been modified and updated with the latest Minutes, rosters, and meeting schedules.
- The chair also explained that the Senate is going to have guest speakers attend Senate meetings this semester.
- President Bitterbaum announced the College was forming a search committee to hire a Chief Diversity Officer.
- The president explained there was state funding available to the College for a transfer student program where SUNY Cortland will work with SUNY Broome and another community college.
- President Bitterbaum made several other announcements, including: the College was currently working on two projects: Brown Auditorium in Old Main and the Greenhouse, the first Board of Trustee's meeting to be held outside of NYC will be held at SUNY Cortland, and that enrollment was up from previous years.
- David Duryea, Vice President for Finance and Management, gave his report on StartUp NY; following his presentation, D. Duryea asked faculty and professionals to think of possible businesses that might want to take part in the StartUp NY plan.
- A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair of Academic Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that his committee will meet with department chairs to help with approved revisions AFAC made to College Handbook. AFAC also sent out a memo to departments reminding them they need to send Personnel Policy to AFAC.

- Student Senator, M. Braun, announced he has been elected as president of SGA. He announced there will be an SGA Senate meeting 9/6/16 at 7pm. Braun went on to explain how SGA uses an online platform called Cortland Connect; through the platform, students can sign up for clubs, as well as submit online forms. SGA feels that this platform encourages campus-wide collaboration. He also explained that SGA has created a student leadership cabinet, in an effort to bring to attention/resolve concerns across campus. M. Braun concluded his report by announcing that SGA has student representatives available to serve on Faculty Senate committees, if that is something the committees are interested in having.
- Chris Kuretich, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Interim Chief Diversity Officer, announced he would be presenting to Faculty Senate on 9/20/16 regarding his Strategic Diversity Inclusion Plan.
- Senator S. Strause announced there has been an increase in international students this semester due to exchange student programs; she encouraged members to make these students feel welcome on campus. Senator Strause also mentioned she would like faculty to consider taking part in a faculty exchange program with China.

September 20th, 2016

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by expressing the crucial need for a Vice Chair and Secretary; she then announced that almost all vacancies for Faculty Senate committees have been filled.
- At the next full Senate meeting, which will be held on the 4th of October, G. Rinefierd will discuss topics regarding student conduct.
- The Chair reminded members of the upcoming Plenary meeting, which will be held at SUNY Cortland in Corey Union, October 20th -22nd, 2016; the Chancellor of SUNY will be attending, and will also be giving a presentation with President Bitterbaum on topics regarding education.
- K. Lawrence closed her report with the charge to the Ad-Hoc Committee: To research the Faculty Senate election process, which is to include, but is not limited to, giving campaign opportunities to candidates. If you would like to do more than that, you can check with the Faculty Senate Chair.
- President Bitterbaum reported that the Board of Trustee's meeting that was held at SUNY Cortland went very well; all 64 SUNY Presidents came together and discussed concerns within the SUNY system. Their biggest concern is the decline in enrollment; if a campus cannot meet its enrollment quota, then they cannot meet their budget.
- The president also announced that: the Diversity Plan was to be submitted in November, construction was being done on the Greenhouse, the construction on Whitaker Hall should be completed by the Spring (2017) semester, and Brown Auditorium in Old Main will undergo renovation in the spring (2017).

- Chris Kuretich, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Interim Chief Diversity Officer, gave his report on Diversity and Inclusion.
- M. DiVita, Chair of the Planning Committee, reported that the committee had previously submitted a survey to all department chairs last semester, seeking feedback regarding Faculty Senate. Since the committee only heard back from a small number of departments, they are resending the survey to the departments that did not complete it; the new deadline to return the survey to the Planning Committee will be October 7th, 2016.
- C. Widdall, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, reported that the committee still needs two student members, as well as an ex-officio graduate faculty member. She also reported that EPC is working on defining a major GPA, an Academic Integrity Policy with the Academic Grievance Tribunal, an Academic Forgiveness Policy, as well as trying to create a policy that removes the grade of A+ from SUNY Cortland's grading scale.
- SUNY Senator, A. Fitz-Gibbon, reported on his meeting in Saratoga with the Chancellor of SUNY, regarding comprehensive colleges. Fitz-Gibbon explained that the meeting was to explore the place of comprehensive colleges within the SUNY system. He also explained that the Chancellor discussed the idea of experiential liberal arts programs that included microcredentials and micro-badges; the Chancellor also discussed the idea that shared governance should become shared leadership.
- Student Senator, M. Braun, SGA President, reported on his attendance to the Board of Trustee's dinner, stating that one item that was discussed was that students want SUNY to be more accessible. Braun also reported that SGA is forming a committee on student life. SGA is also seeking new student senators, as well as faculty senators. SGA meets once every other Tuesday at 7pm. in Corey Union; their next meeting will be held on the 27th of September.
- The Educational Policy Committee has two documents that will be voted on at our next full Senate meeting, which will be held on October 4th. The first document is on SUNY Cortland's Residency Requirements, while the other regards the EPC's Recommendation for Change to the Transfer Credits P and S Policy

October 4th, 2016

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting reminding members of the upcoming SUNY Plenary meeting that is being held at SUNY Cortland, on October 20th through the 22nd; she announced that President Bitterbaum will be presenting at the Plenary meeting with the Chancellor of SUNY on Friday, the 21st .
- Lawrence reported that Greg Sharer had followed up on her questions posed at the last meeting regarding the proliferation of reserved parking spaces on campus, especially in the Van Hoesen parking lot (Sharer explained that those spots were given to Residence

Hall Staff, as promised in their contract, which had been displaced from the Whitaker Lot due to construction.).

- Lawrence then read the slate of officers, sent on behalf of G. Evans, which was voted on and approved by the Senate; the approved slate of officers are as follows: Committee on Committees: Ji Lin, Math/Science and Jeanne Gailbraith, Education, Committee on Teaching Effectiveness: Katie Bonafide and Karen Davis, Academic Faculty at Large, and Page Dobbs, Professional Studies, Faculty Representative to the Student Senate: Holly Manaseri, Academic Faculty at Large, General Education Committee: Christopher Manaseri, Academic Faculty at Large, Professional Affairs Committee: Danni Perratto, Student Affairs, and Student Affairs Committee: Genevieve Birren, Professional Studies. Following the approval of the slate, the Chair read the remaining vacancies, which were: Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Faculty Senate Secretary, Math/Science representative for the College Curriculum Review Committee, a Chair for the Professional Affairs Committee, and an Academic Faculty at Large representative for Committee on Teaching Effectiveness; Lawrence encouraged Faculty Senate members to consider serving on those committees that still have vacancies.
- President Bitterbaum announced SUNY Cortland will be hosting a meeting with surrounding community colleges regarding the SUNY Excel program on October 19th, and also that our university is at over 90% of our students having an Applied Learning experience; in the future, we hope to be at 100% since the SUNY System is moving in that direction.
- G. Rinefierd presented on SUNY Cortland's Student Conduct policies; the presentation emphasized the ways that the Student Conduct Office interacts with multiple offices around campus in addition to adjudication of student misconduct cases.
- K. Lawrence, Chair of Committee on Teaching Awards, reported that the committee has been very active working on reviewing candidates and will be meeting at the end of the semester to make some decisions. Lawrence reminded the Faculty Senate she couldn't share details because the particulars are all held confidential until decisions are made and approved at SUNY Central.
- The Educational Policy Committee's two proposals, the first on SUNY Cortland's Residency Requirements, and the other on the EPC's Recommendation for Change to the Transfer Credits P and S Policy, were both voted on and approved.

October 25th, 2016

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting discussing the SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary that took place this past weekend, October 20th – October 22nd. Lawrence commented that the Plenary went very well, and that there was an excellent turnout; many people from Cortland contributed to its success, and the visiting colleges found SUNY Cortland to be very accommodating.

- K. Lawrence also reminded members there is still a critical need for a Vice Chair and Secretary for the Senate.
- Treasurer, M. McGuire reported a balance of \$922.00 in the treasury, and commented the goal is to get the balance up to at least \$1,000.00. McGuire also mentioned that the Faculty Senate treasury account was previously First Niagara Bank, however, it has been switched to Key Bank.
- Guest speakers, Carol Van Der Karr, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, and Virginia Levine, Executive Assistant to the President, presented on the responsibilities of the Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee, and also detailed the process involved in Middle States.
- SUNY Senator, A. Fitz-Gibbon, reported on SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary, stating some of the major topics discussed during the three days were: SUNY funding, enrollment issues (management), curricular issues (specifically, micro-credentialing), and concerns regarding general education. Fitz-Gibbon also touched on the report given by the Chancellor of SUNY, and how it is her goal to leave a legacy of teacher education, particularly STEM teacher education.
- Student Senator: M. Braun – G. Hulede reported on behalf of SGA president M. Braun. Hulede explained how SGA has recently met with the Cortland City Chief of Police, in an effort to ensure safety, both for students as well as for the community, during Cortaca weekend. She commented that this was an extremely productive meeting, and that the SGA hopes the meeting was the first step towards building a stronger relationship between SUNY Cortland and the Cortland community.
- Graduate Faculty Executive Committee: J. Curtis – Faculty Senate Chair, K. Lawrence, reported on behalf of the GFEC; currently, the GFEC is working on two programs, the GFEC Small Grants Program, and the GFEC Research Travel Grants Program.
- Committee on Committees: G. Evans, Chair – Senate Chair, K. Lawrence, reported on behalf of the Committee on Committees. She announced the three nominations for senator seats, and asked if there were any nominations from the floor, which there were none; the three nominations were then voted on and approved.

November 8th, 2016

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by urging members of the Senate to encourage his or her department to partake in the Planning Committee's survey that has been emailed to all department chairs on campus; out of all the departments on campus, there have only been nine that have responded to the survey.
- Lawrence also reminded members of the crucial need for a Vice Chair, as well as the need for a Senate Secretary.
- K. Lawrence then went on to explain that the last Faculty Senate meeting, which will be held on 11/29/16 (there is no meeting on 11/22/16, due to Thanksgiving Break), will be an open forum meeting for faculty members across campus to come and discuss any

issues and/or concerns they might have; she encouraged current Senate members to invite fellow faculty members to come and participate in the meeting.

- D. Duryea presented on the President's behalf, since he was unable to attend the meeting. Duryea reported: SUNY Cortland's Tuition Policy, explaining how the SUNY system has a set tuition, and commented that it could be beneficial for SUNY to adopt a differential tuition plan, as it would increase competitiveness between SUNY institutions, and announced that ASC (Auxiliary Services Corporation) has proposed an ad-hoc committee, Course Material Advisory Board, in an effort to keep the cost of textbooks low for students; the committee would be a collaboration between campus faculty and ASC (particularly, the College Store).
- Guest speakers: Dr. Mecke Nagel, Director of Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies (CGIS), Dr. Tiantian Zheng, Professor of Sociology/Anthropology, and Dr. Seth Asumah, Professor of Africana Studies.
- Dr. Mecke Nagel – Discussed the CGIS program, explaining how its goal is to foster and develop equity and respect for social, racial, ethnic, cultural, economic, social orientation, environmental justice, and diversity within the campus and larger community. She further explained that the Center focuses on the development of diversity across the curriculum, the promotion of research, the facilitation of student, staff, and faculty development, and the recommendation of policy.
- Dr. Tiantian Zheng – Discussed her role in the CGIS program as a mentor for Asian students; Zheng explained how she mentors the students not only in an academic sense (i.e. encouraging students to write and present), but that she also mentors them in a personal sense (i.e. inviting them to her home and cooking for them); as a result of her mentoring experiences, Zheng has had the opportunity to foster long-term relationships with several of her students.
- Dr. Seth Asumah – Discussed the Africana Studies' relationship with CGIS as a collaborative one, since his department is made up of only part-time faculty; CGIS and Africana Studies work together on the Diversity Institute, which is to ensure that faculty across campus are incorporating culture and diversity in their courses. Asumah also talked about his department's collaboration with (and support from) the SGA on such events as Black History Month, since Africana Studies doesn't have a budget to promote such events.
- Student Senator, M. Braun, reported that the SUNY SGA Conference is this weekend, and that the SGA is sending three of their student representatives. He also commented that Cortaca is also this weekend, and that the SGA has partnered with Alumni Engagement to help donate clothing to the Salvation Army: Alumni Engagement has red hats to hand out to students over Cortaca weekend, and whoever receives a hat has to donate an article of blue clothing to the Salvation Army.
- R. Borden made a suggestion to put forth a resolution to the administration regarding full-time faculty in Africana Studies; it was decided that R. Borden, S. Shi-Strause, and

D. West will consult with Seth Asumah on a resolution, and then bring the resolution before the Senate.

November 29th, 2016

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by reminding members and senators that the seat of Vice Chair remains vacant; K. Lawrence said she would be sending out a description of the responsibilities, as well as information regarding compensation and course release information, as the Vice Chair will assume the role of Chair in the fall of 2017.
- Treasurer, M. McGuire, announced there is a current balance of \$962.00 in the treasury.
- President Bitterbaum discussed how the recent presidential election is a concern for many students, particularly undocumented students; he urged faculty members to talk about such issues in their classes.
- President Bitterbaum also reported that the NYS Revenue has fallen by 1.2 billion, and as a result could create cuts in the budget next fall; he explained that enrollment is the thing keeping SUNY Cortland going (other SUNY campuses have seen a drastic decline in enrollment).
- General Education Committee: J. MacNamara, Chair – Presented her committee's report regarding the assessment of GE 8, GE Course Proposal Guidelines, GE 4 Memo, and the GE 11 Prejudice and Discrimination.
- D. West, R. Borden, and S. Strause shared their resolution for the Africana Studies Department with the Senate, which will be voted on at our next meeting.