

## **Faculty Senate Annual Report**

**Spring, 2016**

### **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

- Immediate need for a Vice Chair of the Senate.
- M. McGuire, Treasurer, reported that the Memorial Scholarship Fund was seeking contributions.
- President Bitterbaum reported on the College's Rational Tuition Policy, as well as the various renovations that will be taking place across campus (i.e. Moffett, McDonald Building, Track and Right Field, and Brown Auditorium.).
- AFAC – A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair announced committee will be revising Sections 220 and 230 of the College Handbook.
- SUNY Senator, N. Chaddock reported on her visit to SUNY Stony Brook, and discussed SUNY's Inclusion Policy (Gender Inclusion Policy).
- Student Senator, M. Braun discussed SGA's meeting schedule, as well as his experiences at the European Union Conference.
- Committee on Committees – G. Evans, Chair submitted a Call for Nominations draft outlining various Faculty Senate Offices, Committees, and Senate Seats that were open for Spring 2016.

### **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Guests J. Westbrook and D. Harms announced UUP Advocacy Days conference; they explained that the conference discusses issues such as: Maintenance of Effort, tuition increases, and performance based funding.
- Chair K. Lawrence announced SUNY Voices Workshop taking place March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Albany, as well as February was Black History Month and encouraged participation in the events taking place on campus in support of it.
- M. McGuire, Treasurer, reported, once again, that the Memorial Scholarship Fund was seeking contributions.
- President Bitterbaum reported on campus wide renovations (i.e. Moffett, McDonald Building, Track and Right Field, and Brown Auditorium), as well as the College's Rational Tuition Policy. The President also discussed online learning, professional funding, and performance funding.
- EPC – C. Widdall, Chair reported on the Residential Policy, as well as the Transfer Credit Policy. Widdall also reported that the committee is working on the Final Examination Policy.
- Student Senator, M. Braun reported on the Student Leadership Cabinet, and explained how its purpose is to bring students together in an effort for collaboration.

## **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

- Chair K. Lawrence reminded members that March is Women's History Month, and announced she would like to invite the leaders of BSU, Women of Color, and perhaps other student organizations to one of our future meetings.
- M. McGuire, Treasurer, reported that the Faculty Senate Memorial Scholarship Fund is still currently seeking donations; she shared there have been donations given to the Scholarship Fund within the past month totaling \$140.00. The current total for the fund is roughly \$700.00.
- President Bitterbaum discussed Micro Badges and Micro Credentials (Applied Learning), as well as Equity and Diversity Inclusion.
- PAC – K. Pristash, Chair reported on issues concerning PDAs (President Discretionary Awards) versus the former DSIs (Discretionary Salary Increases). He explained that there are going to be changes made to how PDAs are awarded; there will be a one-time bonus award, rather than the award amount added to the base salary, as in the past.
- SUNY Senator, N. Chaddock announced there was an upcoming SUNY Voices Conference on Diversity that she would be presenting at with Dianne Goodman. Senator Chaddock also shared that the GE Committee Chair, Jen McNamara, constituted a sub-committee to look specifically at category GE 11.
- Student Senator, M. Braun announced that there would be an upcoming conference call with the SGA to discuss the Rational Tuition Policy. Braun expressed that the policy would encourage and allow a stronger student voice in the college community. Braun also mentioned that SGA leaders would be interested in facilitating bringing representatives from BSU and Women of Color to a future senate meeting to address the body.
- CTE – J. Walkuski, Chair. K. Lawrence (using the report filed by former ETC chair, J. Walkuski on 12/1/15) presented on behalf of the committee. She explained the committee is in need of a chair, and also discussed issues facing Course Teacher Evaluations (CTEs). According to the committee, CTEs are not effective in evaluating teaching capabilities; therefore, there needs to be a new system put into place in order to effectively and fairly evaluate our teaching staff. Discussion ensued regarding CTEs and in particular, concern was raised for the effect they may have on contingent faculty members.

## **March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

- Chair K. Lawrence reminded everyone that the Faculty Senate Plenary will take place October 20<sup>th</sup> through October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and encouraged those who are interested to attend. The Chair also announced that the Efficiency Committee will be sending an email out on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to examine and discuss ways to cut costs as well as ways to make the university run more efficiently; the committee will also have a crowd sourcing page

that will be available to faculty, staff, students, community members, and alumni where they can input suggestions and comments concerning cutting costs.

- Guest V. Levine spoke about the changes being made to the proposed academic calendars for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 academic years. She explained there will be two changes made to the calendars: one being the removal of all religious holidays, and the other being the removal of student teaching dates. All religious holidays will be listed on a separate list that will be available as a hyper-link on the SUNY Cortland website. These two proposed changes are an effort to make the calendars purely academic. V. Levine's proposal was officially received by the Faculty Senate.
- SUNY Senator, N. Chaddock announced that Tim Wise would be on campus Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Alumni Arena and that he would be speaking on anti-racial issues; Senator Chaddock also announced she would be speaking at the President's Conversations on Race event.
- CTA – K. Lawrence, Chair reported that the committee has received a nomination and is moving forward with the process.
- Guest M. Guity, President of BSU spoke in regard to the BSU's town hall meetings and explained how they discussed various racial issues that are present both on this campus, as well as many other SUNY campuses at their last meeting. He went on to explain how it is necessary for SUNY Cortland to address these racial issues that are occurring on our campus, and that there seems to be a lot of positive feedback throughout campus concerning this necessity.
- Chair K. Lawrence distributed copies of the campus diversity statement from February 2014 that was endorsed by the Faculty Senate; she went on to discuss the possibility of perhaps forming a committee to come together and work on the issue of how we, the Faculty Senate, can put the statement into practice.

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Chair K. Lawrence sent out a reminder that the college's Transformations would be held Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and the former dean of Arts and Sciences at SUNY Cortland, John Ryder, was to be the keynote speaker; Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> was the student led Diversity Conference, and the following Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, would be Honors Convocation; K. Lawrence encouraged participation in these events, if possible.
- M. Prus presented on behalf of President Bitterbaum, reporting that the College's that the budget did not allow for tuition increases.
- Student Senator, J. Gardella (Alternate) announced that elections for SGA representatives were to be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. She also announced that there would be a debate held on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, in Sperry. J. Gardella commented that one of SGA's primary goals is to increase student participation throughout the campus.
- GE – J. McNamara, Chair reported that the committee had been working on assessments of GEs 1 and 4. She also reported that the committee had passed eight courses through Curriculog this past semester.
- A. Fitz-Gibbon presented 2 proposals from his committee, Academic Faculty Affairs, concerning Chapters 220.06 and 230.00 in the College Handbook. He explained how the proposed changes to said chapters of the handbook are to clarify the language used, as

well as to remove language which is no longer relevant. Discussion ensued regarding minor editorial concerns with the presented proposals.

### **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Chair K. Lawrence reminded members if they hold a voting seat on the Senate, it is imperative that he or she attend the biweekly Faculty Senate meetings, as it affects whether or not we have enough senators to have a quorum; if a member of Senate with a voting seat is unable to attend biweekly meetings due to scheduling conflicts for a semester, then they need to step down. All resignations in that case should be sent to Gary Evans as early as possible so the seat might be filled.
- On behalf of M. McGuire, K. Lawrence announced that there is \$910.00 currently in the Faculty Senate Treasury.
- CRC – B. Hodges, Chair reported that the CRC reviewed the materials submitted by the two nominees for the 2016 DiNardo-Waring Outstanding Achievement in Research Award (OARA); she also reported the CRC reviewed nine Faculty Research Program grant proposals. It funded eight of the nine.
- GFEC – J. Curtis, Chair. T. Hanford presented the GFEC's report on behalf of the chair of GFEC, Jena Curtis. He explained that the GFEC has proposed a continuous enrollment policy for graduate students. This policy would require graduate students who wish to take a semester off to enroll in a tuition-free zero credit course for that particular semester; the purpose of this policy would be to let the student's academic department know that he or she are still actively enrolled at the university.
- Committee on Committees – G. Evans, Chair. The slate of nominations was presented by K. Lawrence, who also took nominations from the floor.
- The Academic Calendars for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 were voted on and approved by Faculty Senate.
- AFAC - A. Fitz-Gibbon presented his committee's proposal regarding the changes made to Chapter 220.06 of the College Handbook. The proposal on Chapter 220.06 was voted on and approved, with amendments, by the Faculty Senate.

### **May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

- Chair K. Lawrence announced Faculty Senate elections for the 2016-2017 academic year have been voted on and approved; she also reminded members and senators that there is still a crucial need for a Vice Chair, as well as a Secretary for Faculty Senate.
- President Bitterbaum reported that the college has received two grants from the state; the first grant is to help with the college's program to work with local school districts, while the other is to help with SUNY Cortland's program to work with community colleges in an effort to encourage community college students to attend a four year university. He also announced there is a Health Management degree in the works (hopefully it may be ready for the Fall semester.).

- Student Senator, M. Braun announced that there were SGA members who are interested in being student representatives for any of the Faculty Senate committees, if that is something the committees would be interested in having.
- GFEC – J. Curtis, Chair. T. Hanford recapped the GFEC’s report from our last meeting on behalf of the chair of GFEC, Jena Curtis. He explained that the GFEC has proposed a continuous enrollment policy for graduate students. This policy would require graduate students who wish to take a semester off to enroll in a tuition-free zero credit course for that particular semester; the purpose of this policy would be to let the student’s academic department know that he or she are still actively enrolled at the university. The proposal was then voted on, and was unanimously approved.
- AFAC – A. Fitz-Gibbon presented his committee’s proposal regarding the changes made to Chapter 230.00 of the College Handbook. The proposal on Chapter 230.00 was voted on and approved by Faculty Senate.
- R. Borden made a motion that there be a way for faculty members who are running for Faculty Senate to express his or her purpose for wanting to be a member of Faculty Senate (Ad-hoc Committee). The motion was seconded by Z. Newswanger, and discussion ensued. Faculty Senate then voted on motion, which in turn was approved with a vote of 8:5. After the vote approving the formation of an ad-hoc committee to look at Election Practices for Faculty Senate, the Chair, K. Lawrence announced that the committee will begin their work in the Fall 2016 semester and anyone interested in participating should self-nominate. To date one person, R. Borden, is interested. Members of this ad-hoc committee do not have to be members of the senate to participate. Anyone interested should contact K. Lawrence by August 20, 2016.