

## **Faculty Senate Annual Report**

**Spring, 2017**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting welcoming back members and senators to the first full Senate meeting of the semester. She then announced that the Committee on Teaching Awards has set a date for its first meeting, in which they will approve a chair.
- President Bitterbaum reported the following: discussed President Trump's immigration order; President Bitterbaum went on to explain how there had been a recent gathering to discuss the effects of Trump's immigration policy within the SUNY community, mentioned that our campus is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of Chief Diversity Officer, reported that the campus will be submitting its five year report to Middle States, discussed the renovations that will be taking place across campus this semester, including: Moffet, the heating plant, Alumni Ice Arena, Holloway Field, a new greenhouse, Brown Auditorium, and Whittaker Hall, reported that he will be going to Albany to discuss the Excelsior Scholarship, discussed the Rational Tuition Policy, and commented that our admissions department saw an increase in applicants; there were 700 more applicants so far in 2017 than there were in 2016.
- Guests Terence Cahill, Director of the College Store, and Alissa Buckingham, Sidewalk representative, presented on HERO, which is a new online platform for submitting requisitions through the Bookstore; the HERO platform is designed to make ordering class materials more accessible for both faculty and students.
- Academic Faculty Affairs Committee: A. Fitz-Gibbon, Chair – reported that the committee has been setting up meetings with chairs of various academic departments across campus, as well as those departments' personnel committees; he went on to explain that AFAC is scheduled to meet with 10 departments on campus this semester, and that so far, they have met with 5 out of the 10.
- SUNY Senator: - A. Fitz-Gibbon – reported that the University Faculty Senate (UFS) held its winter conference at Westbury, Long Island; within that conference, UFS discussed several resolutions, including: the condemnation of intolerance, the commitment to diversity, transgender healthcare on all SUNY campuses, as well as SUNY Sanctuary Campuses.
- Student Senator: M. Braun – reported that SGA created a newsletter covering its events and accomplishments in 2016. Braun also explained that there are 7 SGA members that will be leaving, and as a result, SGA is looking to recruit new members. SGA also appointed a Director of Diversity and Inclusion, which is a student-run program within the organization. According to Braun, SGA members have also been discussing Sanctuary Campuses.

- The Senate congratulated the SGA on selecting the first Student Senator for Diversity and Inclusion.
- R. Borden's, D. West's, and S. Strause's resolution for Africana Studies Department was read, and a discussion ensued. The resolution was not voted on due to time constraints, and therefore, was tabled until our next meeting which will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mary Schlarb, Director of the International Programs Office, briefly discussed the effect of President Trump's immigration order has had on the international students on our campus. She urged faculty members to refer international students who have been distressed by this new immigration order to the International Programs Office, so that the staff in their office may be able to then refer these students to outside legal counsel.
- Dan Harms, from UUP, briefly discussed a proposal from the edTPA Task Force regarding teacher certification exam changes. He explained that the Board of Regents will be holding meetings February 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> where they will take into consideration the proposed recommendations on teacher certification exam changes; Harms urged participation through contacting the District Regents, At-Large Regents, and/or the NYS Commissioner of Education and having them take action at these meetings on your behalf. If anyone has questions regarding this proposal, or would like additional information, please contact Dan Harms from UUP.

### **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by reviewing the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate. She stressed the importance of attendance as well as the importance of the 3-minute time limit on speaking during the meetings, as is described in the Standing Rules; she explained that the 3-minute time limit will be enforced in an effort to be fair to all members of the Senate, so that whomever wishes to speak has the opportunity to do so.
- K. Lawrence also acknowledged and congratulated Senator D. West for being selected by the CGIS Board to serve as the official liaison for issues of diversity and inclusion between CGIS and Faculty Senate; this liaison serves the continuing efforts of FS to make steps toward inclusion and diversity.
- President Bitterbaum reported that they have narrowed the candidacy pool down to 4 individuals for the position of Chief Diversity Officer; he encouraged campus members to reach out and meet the candidates.
- The president also mentioned that SUNY Cortland and TC3 has met with the mayor of Cortland to see if the two campuses, along with the city of Cortland, can all work together to on a grant to revitalize the downtown corridor.
- Educational Policy Committee: C. Widdall, Chair: Reported that the EPC is down two faculty members, one in the area of Arts and Sciences and the other in the Academic Faculty at Large category, explained that the committee will have two student senators join this semester, reported that their proposal on the minimum grade course and training credit is currently out for vetting, reminded members that the EPC's transfer credit

proposal was approved by the Senate last semester, and also announced that the committee is in the process of working on several proposals this semester, including: removing the “A+” from SUNY Cortland’s grading scale, producing a definition of a Major GPA, revising the AGT Handbook (for clarification), as well as a grade forgiveness policy.

- K. Lawrence commended C. Widdall, and the EPC, for all the work and research she and the committee has completed so far this semester.
- Student Senator: M. Braun – reported that SGA has created a new program, titled Cortland Connect. He then asked K. Lawrence if he may present information to the Senate at a future meeting this semester, in an effort to fully explain what Cortland Connect is about.
- K. Lawrence commended M. Braun and the SGA on all the work and research they have done so far this semester as well.
- R. Borden’s, D. West’s, and S. Strause’s resolution for Africana Studies Department was discussed before being voted on:
  - A. Fitz-Gibbon suggested an amendment to the proposal, that the year be changed from 2017 to 2018; D. West seconded the suggestion, it was voted on and then approved.
  - S. Strause recognized guest M. Nagel to speak in support of the resolution; M. Nagel commented that the approval of this resolution would put our campus more in sync with other SUNY campuses.
  - M. McGuire recognized guest B. Wodi to speak in support of the resolution.
  - M. McGuire recognized guest S. Asumah to speak in support of the resolution.
  - After the resolution was discussed, it was voted on and approved by the Faculty Senate.

### **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

- **Meeting was canceled.**

### **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by reviewing the Call for Nominations that was sent out earlier in the week by G.Evans. She explained that the officer position of Chair is not open for nominations, even though it was originally listed that way on the Call for Nominations; Lawrence went on to explain that the position for Vice Chair is open for nominations, and that whoever is elected as Vice Chair will take over when the current Chair steps down. The deadline to submit names to G.Evans for senator, officer, and/or committee positions is Thursday, March 23, 2017 no later than 4pm.
- Treasurer, M. McGuire, reported that there is a current balance of \$962.00 in the Senate treasury.

- President Biiterbaum reported the following: reported that the governor will be on campus March 22nd to talk about the proposed Excelsior Tuition Scholarship Program; the presentation will take place in Jacobus Lounge, and all are encouraged to attend. President Bitterbaum explained that the scholarship program would allow students of families who make up to \$125,000 a year attend any SUNY institution without having to pay tuition, so long as the student is enrolled in at least 15 credit hours per semester (full-time), announced that James Felton was chosen to be SUNY Cortland's Chief Diversity Officer, and also reported that the college will hopefully receive the funding that is needed to finish the renovations on the Moffett Building.
- Planning Committee: M. DiVita, Chair – Shared the results of the committee's survey regarding campus-wide views/concerns about Faculty Senate.
- Student Senator, M. Braun, reported the following: reported that SGA has elections coming up, shared that he will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend Students on the Hill, and, along with Student Senator G. Hulede, presented on SGA's Cortland Connect program. They explained how the program simplifies accessibility through having everything in one place; for example, students can log into Cortland Connect and take surveys, vote for SGA elections, and also see upcoming club events all on the same site.
- Committee on Teaching Awards: J. Mosher, Chair – On behalf of J. Mosher, K. Lawrence reported that the committee is actively reviewing candidates for Chancellor's Awards and that there are candidates who will receive awards at the next commencement ceremony.
- College Research Committee: B. Hodges, Chair – On behalf of B. Hodges, K. Lawrence read the College Research Committee's report.
- On behalf of J. Curtis, K. Lawrence presented the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee's proposed revisions to the GFEC bylaws outlined in the College Handbook Section 150.04, Articles III and IV.
- C. Widdall announced that there are currently two proposals from the Educational Policy Committee out for vetting.
- I. Jordak encouraged participation in the college's 321 Champions Challenge.
- K. Lawrence announced Faculty Senate's upcoming open forum meeting, which will take place on March 31st, 2017 in Corey Union Exhibition Lounge, from 2-4pm; she encouraged all Senate members to invite colleagues.

#### **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by thanking Carol Van Der Karr, Pam Schroeder, and the Office of Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, for donating the refreshments for the Faculty Senate open meeting that took place on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Lawrence also stated that she appreciated the comments and discussion that were raised at the open meeting, and also acknowledged M. Divita's report that was given at the meeting on behalf of the Planning Committee; such topics as CTE's, adjunct faculty,

faculty governance, college policies, system for the evaluation of administration, and service to the College were discussed at the open meeting.

- Lawrence then thanked everyone that came and spoke so openly and candidly, and shared with Faculty Senate issues and ideas that were significant to them. In conjunction with what was reported about the open meeting.
- K. Lawrence also passed around three articles; two articles were from the Chronicle of Higher Education, that dealt with the inequity among faculty who serve across campuses state-wide, while the third article focused on SUNY New Paltz and the issues that part-time faculty might face due to proposed budget costs.
- Treasurer, M. McGuire – K. Lawrence reported for M. McGuire that there is a current balance of \$1,001 in the Faculty Senate treasury.
- President Bitterbaum reported the following: reported on the Excelsior Scholarship; he explained that if the scholarship gets approved, all SUNY campuses would be charged a 10% surcharge, which would financially burden SUNY campuses, announced that AnnaMaria Cirrincione has recently been named the Interim Director of Multicultural Life and Diversity, announced that Mark DePaul was named the new Chief of Police, announced that James Felton will take over as SUNY Cortland's Chief Diversity Officer beginning May 1st, 2017, reported about 5,000 prospective students and their families attended the Open House that took place over this past weekend (4/1/17), and also announced that University Police (UPD) and Facilities have both moved to Whittaker Hall.
- Student Senator: M. Braun – reported that SGA has elections coming up. He explained that SGA has changed their V.P. seat to what is now referred to as E.V.P., for which there are two candidates running for, and also that the seat of Treasurer has been changed to what is now referred to as C.F.O., for which there is one candidate running for.
- Braun also shared that he currently travelled Washington D.C. to attend Students on the Hill, where students from a wide range of campuses attend to lobby on issues regarding funding in higher education (Tap, Pell, and federal work study programs).
- Committee on Committees: G. Evans, Chair – Two calls for nominations, one for vacant Senator and Officer positions and the other for vacant committee positions, were read and presented to the Senate; nominations were also taken from the floor. The two calls for nominations were then voted on as a slate of nominees and approved by the Faculty Senate.
- The Senate also voted on and approved members of the Academic Grievance Tribunal (AGT) for the academic years of 2017-2020. The approved members of the AGT are as follows:
  - Holly Manaseri – School of Education
  - Tim DeLaune – School of Arts & Sciences
  - Larissa True – School of Professional Studies

- J. Curtis, chair of the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee, discussed the committee's proposed revisions to the GFEC bylaws outlined in the College Handbook Section 150.04, Articles III and IV. Faculty Senate will vote on the proposal in two weeks (4/18/17).
- The Educational Policy Committee went over three proposals: one on retiring the A+ from SUNY Cortland's grading scale, one on changing the letter grade of "E" to the letter grade of "F", and one regarding the minimum grade on coursework and transfer credit. Faculty Senate will vote on these proposals in two weeks (4/18/17); A. Thomas and C. Costell Corbin, who also serve on EPC, will attend the Senate meeting on 4/18/17 to answer any questions regarding the proposals.
- A. Blavos reminded Senate members that the Take Back the Night event takes place this evening outside of Corey Union.
- K. Lawrence thanked the EPC, the GE Committee, GFEC, and the Planning Committee for all their dedication and the substantial commitment of time, energy, and interest the chairs of these committees, as well as their members, have made to these Faculty Senate Standing Committees.

### **April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by announcing that the recent election of officers and committee representatives has produced a full set of new people serving on the Senate. Lawrence expressed her gratitude to all the newcomers, as well as to the many returning members who continue to support the Faculty Senate.
- The Chair then reminded everyone that the Senate is still in need of officers and committee representatives. It is important these vacant positions are filled, especially when it comes to the Steering Committee; as it is, the Steering Committee only has input from about ten individuals to create an agenda for the full Senate meetings, and with those positions being empty, that's even less input the committee has.
- K. Lawrence then announced that J. Ouellette will be attending the final meeting of Faculty Senate, which will be on May 2nd, in preparation for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- President's Report: E. Bitterbaum – M. Prus reported on behalf of the President Bitterbaum, as he was absent due to attending a President's meeting:
  - Reported that the Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee (IPAC) will be holding two upcoming open meetings; the first meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th from 8:30am-10am in Brockway Hall, Jacobus Lounge, and the second meeting will be on Friday, April 21st from 2-3:30pm in Park Center, Hall of Fame Room.
  - M. Prus encouraged participation in these two IPAC meetings from faculty members, stating that any input during the meetings would be greatly appreciated.

- Reminded everyone that Honors Convocation is this Saturday, April 22nd; participation from faculty was encouraged by both M. Prus and K. Lawrence.
- Student Affairs Committee: T. Phillips, Chair – K. Lawrence reported on behalf of T. Phillips:
  - The Student Affairs Committee met and decided on two winners of the Faculty Memorial Scholarship - \$1250 each.
  - The SAC will be submitting their names this week via Academic Works.
  - The committee agreed with Tina Aversano’s recommendation that the Faculty Senate Scholarship monies be not awarded and used, as they may be, by the Faculty Senate for operational purposes. So there is \$500 from the foundation that you can use as needed by the Senate.
- Planning Committee: M. DiVita, Chair – K. Lawrence reported on behalf of M. DiVita:
  - The Planning Committee’s proposal to dissolve the committee was presented to the Faculty Senate.
  - The proposal will be brought back to the Senate in two weeks (5/2/17) for further discussion and to be voted on.
- Student Senator: M. Braun – G. Hulede reported on behalf of M. Braun:
  - Reported that M. Braun was attending the SGA spring conference in Rochester, NY.
  - Announced that M. Braun was awarded the best SUNY SGA student advocate.
  - Announced SGA held their elections; those elected were as follows:
    - Executive Vice President – Gloria Hulede
    - Chief Financial Officer – Zachary Curtis
    - NYPRIG Board of Directors – Toni Yancey and Madison Zizzi
- K. Lawrence congratulated the SGA on their newly-elected officers and also invited the new President and CFO to join G. Hulede in attending our next full Senate meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The EPC had three proposals that were discussed and voted on; the results of the three proposals were as follows:
  - Change in A+ Grading – motion passed.
  - Change in Grading from E to F – motion passed.
  - Minimum Grade on Coursework and Transfer Credit – motion passed, with amendment made by Senator A. Fitz-Gibbon to change wording in proposal to “...transfer credit will be counted as meeting the necessary minimum grade for Cortland courses...”.
- The Graduate Faculty Executive Committee’s proposal to revise the GFEC bylaws outlined in the College Handbook Section 150.04, Articles III and IV was also voted on (Please find proposal attached in email); the motion was passed by the Senate.
- Proposed Handbook Amendments regarding the Planning Committee and Policy Committee Chairs was read through and discussed (Please find amendments attached in

email); these amendments will be brought back to the Senate in two weeks (5/2/17) for further discussion and to be voted on.

### May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

- Chair, K. Lawrence, opened the meeting by announcing that there is still a vacancy for the position of Vice Chair, since J. Ouellette will take over as the acting Chair of Faculty Senate for the 2017-2018 academic year after Commencement; she noted that almost all of the committees are almost all full for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- K. Lawrence asked all current committee chairs to please submit an annual report to the Senate by June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017; she explained that having an annual report on file each year is informative for new members that are interested in joining the committee; she also thanked all of the committee chairs for all of their hard work and commitment to the Senate throughout the year.
- President Bitterbaum reported the following:
  - Thanked and commended K. Lawrence for all the time and effort she has put into serving the Faculty Senate as the Chair throughout the past three years.
  - Announced that the city of Cortland is going to be milling Graham Ave. and Prospect Terrace, which will begin on May 8th, 2017; he explained that the city will be paying for the majority of this project, but that the College will help fund a portion of it as well.
  - Announced that V. Levine and C. Van Der Karr sent out Middle States report; encouraged feedback from senators on the Middle States report.
  - Introduced SUNY Cortland's new Chief Diversity Officer, James A. Felton, III.
  - Discussed the recently passed Excelsior Scholarship; explained that FAFSA must be filed and that TAP and PELL Grants would be applied prior to receiving the Excelsior Scholarship. President Bitterbaum also explained that about 80% of families in NY state will be eligible for this scholarship program.
  - Announced that President Trump has recently passed a bill that allows year-round PELL grants to students.
  - Announced that Whittaker Hall is now open, and encouraged members and senators to go and see the newly renovated building.
  - Announced that Brown Auditorium will be closing to begin renovations over the summer; the College received a \$700,000 grant from Governor Seward to go towards the Brown Auditorium renovations.
  - Corey Union will also renovations this summer on the lower level; as a result Raquette Pizza will be temporarily moved to Hilltop, and the Dunkin' Donuts will be closed during the renovation period as well.
  - New SUNY Chancellor will arrive in September 2017.

- Professional Affairs Committee: I. Jordak, Chair – Reported on the committee’s work regarding the President’s Discretionary Award (PDA) as well as their work in trying to establish a promotion ladder for professionals.
  - SUNY Senator: A. Fitz-Gibbon – Reported on the SUNY Faculty Senate Conference, which was held at SUNY Canton; items discussed at the meeting were as follows:
    - Excelsior Scholarship – the general consensus regarding the scholarship program was that the scholarship will benefit SUNY institutions and, more than likely, hurt private institutions.
    - Eleven resolutions were passed in total.
    - One of the eleven resolutions was concerned with the idea of contingent faculty being involved with campus governance.
    - The next SUNY Faculty Senate Conference will be held sometime in September 2017 in Oneonta.
- Student Senator: M. Braun reported the following:
  - Recognized K. Lawrence and commended her on all her years of commitment as serving as the Chair of Faculty Senate.
  - Also recognized SUNY Cortland’s Faculty Senate as being the best within the SUNY system in regard to the relationship it maintains with its students; more specifically, Braun commented on the superb relationship our Senate maintains with its SGA representatives.
  - Recognized G. Hulede as the new SGA Executive Vice President (EVP).
  - G. Hulede thanked M. Braun for all his dedication and hard work while serving as an SGA representative for the past two years.
  - G. Hulede reported on the SGA’s Relationship Violence Walk that took place this past weekend; she explained that SUNY Cortland came in 2nd place, with 5.3 million yards, and SUNY Oswego came in 1st place, with 5.8 million yards.
  - G. Hulede announced that the SGA has eight newly-appointed student officers, who will be introduced in the upcoming academic year.
- K. Lawrence commended M. Braun on his leadership with the SGA over his past two years serving as the president, and also congratulated G. Hulede on becoming the new EVP of SGA.
- The Planning Committee’s proposal to eliminate the committee was discussed; following a brief discussion, the proposal was then voted on and carried by the Senate.
- K. Lawrence recognized M. DiVita for her commitment in service to the College, explaining how DiVita has served as the chair on both the Planning Committee and the College Curriculum Review Committee simultaneously.
- The proposed Handbook Amendments regarding Policy Committee Chairs was discussed; the proposal was then voted on and carried by the Senate.

- K. Lawrence announced, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, that Gloria Hulede and Anna Gorall were both chosen to receive the Faculty Senate Memorial Scholarship.
- On behalf of J. Curtis, it was announced that on May 23rd and 24th there will be a Green Dot Workshop taking place on campus; the workshop focuses on decreasing campus violence.
- Faculty Senate recognized and thanked K. Lawrence for her hard work and dedication to the Senate for the past three years, serving as the Chair.
- K. Lawrence thanked S. Anderson for all of his hard work and dedication to the Senate, serving as the Parliamentarian.
- K. Lawrence also thanked everyone who serves on the Steering Committee for all of their commitment to the Faculty Senate.
- K. Lawrence also thanked A. DeChellis for serving as the recording secretary to the Faculty Senate.