



Senate Meeting Minutes February 26, 2024

Present: Robb Munro, Ralph Perez Rogers, Cheri Rossi, Mark Sullivan, Genevieve Salerno, Alice Krause, Mary Bonderoff, Brigid Finn-Maguire, Lauren Sloane, Misty Fields, Shannon Shoemaker, Kristy Fitch, John Padovani, Shelly Jones, Beth Boyd, Lisa Tessier, Lori Tremblay, Mary Wake, Lonsday Walker, Doug Holub, Michael Tweed, Nazely Kurkjian, Michael Sullivan, Dan Gashler, Lori Jones, Simon Purdy, Louis Reyes Jr., Jason Cash, Chelsea Mathieu, Shawn Brislin, Dan Davis, Ruth Ehrets, Brett Meckel, Lori Ciafardoni, Lars Schweidenback, David Brower.

Proxies: Shannon S. proxy for Doug Gulotty, Shelly J. proxy for Erin Wagner and Jenny Collins, Cheri R. proxy for Lori C.

Meeting called to order at 4:33 PM

Welcome! We hope everyone and their families are healthy and safe – please mute.

Approval of February 12, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Doug H., second Shelley J.

Discussion – None. Vote taken : 19 yes, 0 no.

Updates: Acting President, Interim Provost, Senate Committees

Mary B. : Thank you for Middle States visit. Meeting at 10 AM in Okun tomorrow for presentation of report. Strategic Plan. Lets stop and refocus. Looking at initiatives, we are already doing these things, which came out of the strategic enrollment plan. Alice K. has graciously said she will assist Nazely K. in moving forward with the roll out. Will be sharing with everyone soon. Would like to continue to get feedback on initiatives. Bringing back the committee based on feedback provided. Surveys of first-years and seniors will give us additional info to go on for Senior Council meeting. Anyone who is available can participate in June Senior Council. Once the committee starts working on this, we hope to use that June time to further these goals. Would like to gather more feedback from the campus as we move forward. Would like to have things already set up so that the next president can hit the ground running on this. Good news about the budget. Middle States email also covers this. SUNY is happy with progress made with enrollment. Yielding higher than last year. Invited to go to SUNY to present on our plans which is an honor. Open Office Hours continue. If you have concerns or questions please stop in and say hello. Would rather hear directly from you instead of the grapevine if there are concerns.

Cheri R.: I was asked about details for voluntary separation agreement now that it has been approved.

Mary B.: Yes it has been approved, so now we need to make sure the dates align with what we put forward. Will be out shortly.

E-board updates. Alice K.: On March 11, 2024, Ralph Perez from CADI will be presenting information to us. Bring your questions about CADI forward and invite your colleagues to go.

Mark Sullivan in April or May will present on enrollment. The campus received info about presidential search and will be having on-campus interviews in the first two weeks of March. Please do your best to make those. Faculty and staff and open forums are all available. Please be active in this! This search is incredibly important and you can be a part of that.

Operations Committee: Cheri R. Officer elections open. The first and last meetings in April when officers are elected, so if you are thinking about becoming an officer, consider running! Look for announcements for that. Presider associate presider and secretary will be open for election. Send Cheri and email if you are interested or have questions.

Bylaws: Nothing to add.

Resolutions: nothing to add.

Scholarship: nothing to add.

Academic Policies: Meeting tomorrow to talk about micro credentialing.

Assessment: nothing to add.

Promotion: Feel free to reach out to Alice if you have questions, or Lars or Nancy.

Budget and Planning: Nothing to add.

Campus Life: Nothing yet.

Chancellor's Award: Nothing to add.

Continuing and Term Appointment: Nothing to add.

Curriculum: Nothing to add.

Equity Council: Nothing to add.

APAC: Meeting tomorrow and will have updates then.

Faculty Search: Nothing to add.

Eval. Questions: Nothing to add. Met on 22nd. Will be bringing draft questions forward soon. Thanks to UUP for helping us out.

Retention Council: Met late last week. Many ideas are being generated. Settling on a set of indicators to gauge student success and plans for action and will bring forward soon.

VP Finance and Admin Search: Working through zoom interviews for first stage of interviews.

Old Business

Budget & Planning Committee Non-Academic Senator Rep – Cheri Rossi (Operations

Committee): No candidates yet.

Strategic Plan Initiatives – Nazely Kurkjian: As Dr. Bonderoff said, we will be taking a step back and collecting feedback. Will be meeting tomorrow with Alice to work on a plan. Looking forward to getting some Open Forums out to gather feedback. We will definitely have some time to develop this further this month and following.

Alice K.: I will be sharing the document out now and if anyone has any comments, please speak up.

Simon P.: No specific feedback but this is a great example of shared governance and we are happy to work on this in such a collaborative fashion.

Alice K.: Thanks Simon! Anyone else?

Lisa T.: I appreciate the work that has been done on this to date and collecting more feedback. Very thoughtful and appreciated. If you need volunteers, I have a question for clarification. Do you need more volunteers for that committee?

Alice K.: Nazely and I will meet tomorrow afternoon. Surveys and Open Forums will also be there to participate in as well.

Nazely K.: The more the merrier with this committee, but there will other avenues for feedback as well.

Alice K.: We will not be moving forward with our UFS resolution endorsement. There is a set order for these items, but if people feel the order should be changed, please bring them forward.

UFS Resolutions – Lisa Tessier (Resolutions Committee)

Non-Discrimination: Not for wordsmithing. SUNY UFS does not support discrimination and supports UFS being involved in seeking and building a body of experts that can help when there are issues on campus between free speech and title IV. Asking Chancellor to ask SUNY Campuses and administration to search for people that can serve in this capacity.

Motion to approve: Doug H., second Lindsay W.

Discussion: none. Vote taken: 22 yes, 0 no.

Excelsior resolution: Asking for additional research done into the efficacy of Excelsior and some of the challenges our students face with this grant. Asks for additional research and detailed review be done and the results of that review be shared with a recommendation for revisions.

Motion to endorse by Simon P., second by Lori T.

Discussion: none. Vote taken: 22 yes, 0 no.

Professional Staff Advancement: Asking for review of existing staff titles. The essence of this is that ways and avenues for advancement of professional staff be provided. New hires should also be made aware of the paths for advancement.

Motion to endorse: Shelley J., second by Lori T.

Discussion: none. Vote taken: 22 yes, 0 no.

Corcraft and opposition to mandated purchases: Asks Senators and campus governance leaders to discuss issues raised around this resolution including Corcraft and prison labor and our interests in equity. Asks that SUNY campuses be allowed to opt out of these agreements when principles do not adhere to social justice.

Motion to endorse made by Doug H., second by Mike T.

Discussion: Laurie J. – Would like to supply more info. Preferred sources are also NYSED for disabled and another service that works with the Blind. As far as Corcraft facility, this is meant as a work study program. Not about the pay. Currently, this is put out by the state that we meet 15% of that. A lot of our institutions decide whether or not to make or break that. When I was in purchasing, we went by getting quotes. MWBEs are also the same. We are supposed to get 15%.

Genevieve S.: All three are work study?

Laurie J.: Also meant to support state agencies.

Alice K.: Any other discussion?

Vote taken: 13 yes 8 no.

AI Resolution: Asking Chancellor and admin to develop policies about the use of AI in the workplace as well as study concerns and benefits of AI in the workplace. Asking for professional development and look into the work by two committees who have already studied this. Asking for this to be done by the 2024-2025 academic year.

Motion to endorse by Shelly J., second Simon P.

Discussion: Lori C.: there was just a school that suspended a student for using Chat GPT when she actually used Grammarly instead. This is so important and should have been done much sooner than it was.

Vote taken: 20 yes, 0 no.

Updates from Provost: Acting Provost David Brower: Reviewers have safely arrived at their hotel. Good news on the RAAC : ELO advisor has been hired and that individual is Carlos Vidal and will be starting on Thursday. Please welcome him to campus. In final stages of advisor search and looking for an assistant director for opportunities program. Rob Mazzei is looking at applications for internships for incremental funds. Looking at getting Handshake up and running, hopefully by April. Some feedback for draft job posting for PRODiG fellow. Looking to get that polished up and sent out as soon as possible. Thank you to Lauren S. and her colleagues for getting that done so quickly. Microcredentialing taskforce is well underway and working hard. Lots of logistics. Thank you Misty F. for your dedication to this. We have some partner campuses that are also helping us move forward as quickly as possible. Ideas for SUNY Oneonta partnership. Possibly for joint program for nursing, will get faculty involved on that as soon as possible. APAC agenda to be out tonight. Academic open forum on Thursday. Lou R. is going to be talking about a special guest that will be in that Open Forum.

Lou R.: He will be speaking on culturally responsive education and the NYS framework provided for that. Will go as deep as the audience wants to. Will ask us to reflect on our own instructional practices, and reflect on the strengths and opportunities and how to teach through a culturally responsive lens at all times. We are all looking forward to that time with Dr. Jarvis. Professional Development has also been put out by the Diversity Office. They are very well attended by SUNY Delhi people and that shows our dedication to inclusion.

David B. : 2024-25 academic calendar. Based on feedback we received from students, faculty and staff, we are embarking on a pilot for that calendar which will bring us back to the two full week breaks over the course of that semester. The issue is it will not be a perfect 5 week, 5 week 5 week. We would start on Tuesday, Jan 21st, then have four full weeks. Have the first break, then 5 weeks, then break then four full weeks plus one day. Finals are Tuesday through Friday with Commencement being that Saturday. Piloting that for Spring of 2025. Looking for faculty and staff to populate Academic Calendar Committee for that as well.

Doug H.: What prompted this change in direction?

David B.: Feedback from academic areas by way of Dean's council that faculty and students wanted this. Also knowing how and when we went to that model in the past, it helped the campus community mentally, physically, and behaviorally.

Alice K.: This has been a topic that has brought forward many times. Any other questions or comments for David? I appreciate the idea of getting faculty and staff together for a calendar committee.

New Business

Bylaws Proposal: Academic Restructuring Revisions – Cheri Rossi (Bylaws Committee):

Biggest change was language. From five schools to program areas. These were done in consultation with the program areas and what they wanted. Applied tech and architecture wanted their programs representatives in this manner (2 on senate). Went through document to change language. Changes were made according to feedback provided by committee. Some changes to resolutions. Language tightened up. Increased members of assessment to 21 because more members needed to represent the increase in programs.

Alice K.: Can you please go back up to policy? I think we can combine b. and c. to say 2 non-academic staff members. Any other comments or feedback.

Brigid F.: Down to memberships. 4 members for nursing and liberal arts? Do members have to be from the school of nursing or veterinary?

Alice K.: We can make amendments to this on the next meeting. Also between that time, Cheri and Lindsay can go back to the committee and look at this as well. Remember, we are not going to debate the points.

Michael T.: Program breakdowns. We should go back to the assessment committee and write it the way it was from there.

Cheri R.: We could write “program areas” instead of “school”. I can go to the committee on that.

Alice K.: That will not change the representation of the schools.

Lori C.: I think the way it happened was because of all of the changes with restructuring.

February Curriculum Proposals – Lars Schweidenback (Curriculum Committee)

Curriculum is set now and we are done working on it. We are also accepting minors now! Nursing AAS, last to be updated. CC23-44 to 52.

Alice K. : Motion to approve 44 to 52

Doug H., second by Shelly J.

Discussion: Cheri R.: Medical anthropology. Vague on cross-listed courses. Does this mean if a student who is not in the honors program or does not meet the minimum GPA, can they still take this course?

Lars S.: Yes.

Cheri R.: Is there an option to do online and in-person?

Lars S.: Not sure.

Lori T.: I do not think we ran it in person. I can take a peak and get back to you!

Cheri R.: I would like to campaign to make an online section for this.

Lars S.: It would just be a course change to both courses in order to make it an online.

Lori T.: It does say long distance on the original course proposal from 2021.

Alice K.: Any other discussion?

Vote taken: 22 yes, 0 no.

Announcements: none.

Adjourn at 5:40 PM.