



## **Senate Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022**

**Present:** Brigid Finn-Maguire, Alice Krause, Shannon Shoemaker, Cheri Rossi, John Padovani, David Wakin, Michele Frazier, Erin Wagner, Doug Holub, Robb Munro, Terry Hamblin, Max Dehne, Kaleigh Herman, Paul Hanks, Doug Gulotty, Lauren Sloane, Lars Schweidenback, Kristy Fitch, Laurie Jones, Jennifer Collins, Beth Boyd, Michael Tweed, Mary Bonderoff, Thomas Jordan, Susan Deane, Simon Purdy, James Warren, Lissa Tessier, Mary Wake, Liz Frisbee, Louis Reyes, Leonel Diaz, Tyler Lowell, Lori Ciafardoni, David Brower, Bret Meckel, Lauralea Edwards, Chelsea Mathieu, Dan Gashler, Leslie Barger, Jason Cash, James Warren

**Proxies:** Simon P. proxy for Lindsay W., Erin W. proxy for Sherry J.

### **Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm**

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

Approval of October 31, 2022 meeting minutes

Motion made by Lori C. and seconded by Terry H.

No discussion

Vote taken: 24 yes, no – 0, abstain – 2. Motion passes

### **Updates: Officer-in-Charge, Eboard**

Mary Bonderoff – Thank you everyone for the efforts of open house. 270 attendees was the ending number. Great to see so many students on campus and to see all the work done to engage them. College council meeting tomorrow, login for those interested has gone out. Opportunity for involvement of those interested. SUNY Delhi was the 2022 most engaged campus for college student voting. Been meeting with interested partners throughout nation for lots of prospective partnerships. Relationships continue to be developed, moving in right direction. Alumni event Friday went well. Many alums from many different schools and industries. Attrition continues to be worked on and further restructuring is underway. Fireside chat will be this coming December.

No questions for Mary.

### **E-Board updates**

Alice K. -- Met with Mary. Keeps running list. Leadership styles and what works best for others. Lisa T. and Alice K are headed to college council tomorrow. Link in Delhi Today. Meeting is tomorrow at 4:30 pm.

Lori C. – Chancellors Award updates. Sent off confirmations to SUNY and was received. Cheri R. and Lori C. have sent list off to HR so HR can work on vetting the nominees. Some awards

have no nominees either because the process is too involved, or the pool of nominees is too small and there is a limit on the amount of times an individual can win an award.

Cheri R.-- Elections posted last week: No nominees came forward for any of the at-large spots. Faculty and staff seats will remain open until May.

## **Old Business**

### **UFS Statement** – Lisa Tessier (UFS Senator)

Statement of Iran, endorse or not.

Lisa T. -- this statement came about as result of death of Mahsa Amini and protests surrounding the conditions of her death. Statement includes call for student visas and research surrounding Iran as well as other forms of support.

Motion to endorse made by Simon P., Erin W. seconded.

Discussion –

Lisa T. -- constituents offered positive and concerned feedback. Important to be supportive of those whose rights are being violated. Concerns of whether or not this is too political of an issue to have a statement on.

Simon P. -- constituents are overwhelmingly supportive of it. Smaller contingent felt might be some security issues noted, but vetting process is very thorough.

Vote taken: 26 yes, 1 no, 2 abstains. Motion to endorse passes.

## **New Business**

### **UFS Resolutions** – Lisa Tessier (Resolutions Committee)

Amendment to Standing Rules – committee meetings of SUNY UFS Body, motion to add (IN PERSON) to first meeting of the year. Beneficial to meet once in person for brainstorming and to move forward from there.

Questions?

Next resolution – Advocating for money for SUNY in executive budget.

Fiscal year 2024 money. Thanks to Governor Hochul for support in last budget and advocates for more. Advocates for more funds for operational budget and maintenance.

Questions?

Please bring resolutions back to your area. Will be voted on during next meeting.

### **D2L Brightspace URL** – Lauralea Edwards

One of the things involved with implementation is what links students click on to get into the system. Multiple drop-down menus would be cumbersome. Using a vanity url allows students to log in directly to URL. Callus Center met with Marketing and Communication and

recommended something simple so same url can be kept over time. Selected ODE (Online.Delhi.Edu). Please bring back to your areas to gather feedback. Questions or comments?

Lisa T. – When looking at D2L, will students be able to see all of the courses taken from all schools? Consideration of having something else named Vancko, as this was in memory of the former president of school.

Lauralea E. – Thank you for alerting me to this issue. Happy to take it back to committee to discuss. Students will see all courses they are taking across all of the SUNY system.

### **Mission Vision Refresh – Lauralea Edwards**

Erin W. calls for point of clarification. What was shared?

Lauralea E. -- Shared what was sent out to leadership team. Get us aligned with mission vision for middle states. All evidence found that councils and committees that make up our structure have reviewed the mission vision, but no evidence that a vote took place (no evidence in writing). Governance body must vote on mission and vision. Doing this now in order to become compliant with Middle States. Wanted to revisit them to make sure we are taking into account all of the transformation that has taken place in order to solidify identity. Open forum between now and the 28<sup>th</sup>, open to campus, for questions and feedback.

Erin W. – Good direction. Student input might be useful for further retention efforts. Is there a link to see that input?

Lauralea E. – Link to idea board:

<https://ideaboardz.com/for/Mission%20Vision%20Refresh%20Student%20Edition/4663896>

### **November Curriculum Proposals – Lars Schweidenback (Curriculum Committee)**

Applied Tech and Architecture – first three architectural programs, updating to new GEs and rearrangements made. Name change in applied tech. CNST 150 name change and CNST 230. Will be reactivated and SLOs changed. GE updates as well.

Motion to approve made by Doug H. and seconded by Michael T.

Discussion – none

Vote taken: Yes – 27, no – 0, 2 abstains. Proposal approved.

LAS -- Interpersonal violence course as part of criminal justice. Updates to GEs.

Motion to approve made by Terry H. and seconded by Jenny C.

Discussion –

Cheri R. – Interpersonal class (22-23) is this going to be in person, online, blended?

Lars S. – Schedule type is in person and distance learning. Has been approved for both.

Cheri R. – Will this be approved as a Gen Ed?

Lars S. – Not approved for Gen Ed. Restricted to BS students.

Vote taken: Yes – 26, no – 0, abstains -- 3. Motion passes

Business and Hospitality – GE update to every Hospitality track.

Motion made by Terry H. and seconded by Lisa T.

Discussion – none

Vote taken: Yes --24, no -- 0, abstains – 3. Motion passes.

GE updates almost done. Deadline for last meeting is 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. Please continue to work through your GEs.

### **Universal Grading Policy – Lauren Sloane (Academic Policy Committee)**

Universal Grading Policy across campus to hopefully prevent students from getting inconsistent grades. Feedback from across campus is considered when looking at our policies. There are not many SUNY's who employ this system of grading. (Duchess and Cobleskill are the exceptions). Many of the CUNYs do, but they differ between schools. Not common to have universal systems across entire institutions. Not required for Middle States. Some of the factors that have come into conversation over the last few months. Faculty should supply students with the grade ranges used in each class.

Academic Policy Committee sought to clean up this policy.

Motion to approve made by Jason C. with second by Terry H.

Discussion –

Erin W. – Thank you to committee for all their hard work. Less standardized grading schemes, pedagogical research points to contract grading and other methods of non-standardized scales.

Lauren S. – Good question. Universal grading policy might not be what faculty want as it infringes on academic freedom.

Simon P. – Great job! Good compromise. Useful framework

Brigid F. – Concerns that this doesn't really resolve the issues that we've had from program to program. Has prevented some students from across programs to not enter honors. Students in different programs have been unable to graduate with honors because of this inconsistent grading. When faculty can decide what a + or – means, it can lead to this.

Lauren S. – With specific grading scale included in syllabus, it is clear what is expected of students. Students need to know what is a C in nursing/LAS/Vet Sci.

Brigid F. – sometimes the C/C- does not transfer to other colleges.

Lauren S. – Onus must fall on student to earn what they need.

Michael T. – Concerns: one of the questions was why is this being proposed in the first place? Bringing it forward would be helpful because the proposal does not seem to answer the question of why are we making this policy change? General sense is there is little to no support in the Applied Tech. school. Seems like not changing it is more straightforward

Lauren S. – Every faculty on campus is required to have grading scales in their syllabus. Defining more specifically what an A range, B range, etc is. Each school can still vote on their own scales.

Shannon S.- Constituents question why is this coming up now if we are all required to have grading scales in our syllabi. Some occasions where this must be modified, especially when being held to industry standards. Infringement of academic freedom. Up to student to figure out what grade they need based on syllabi.

Lisa T. – Likes, as this allows for more freedom. Concerns for those who feel they want or need to curve, how will this affect that?

Lauren S. – This issue was part of the discussion. Is meant as a compromise on what we received. It is a legitimate concern for UGP.

Max D. – Applied Tech. has concerns. If each program can determine what grades are within each range then aren't you just moving back to where we were before. It still stay confusing. What is graded in each class is up to each program and instructor anyways.

Lauren S. – Important that all Schools have the same policy within it. Up to each Program/School to determine

Cheri R. – Inconsistencies. This will solve problems but was unaware that there even was a problem. Where was the pressure to do this coming from? Is this based on student complaints? Modified scale does not seem to do anything to solve this problem.

Lauren S. – On May 5<sup>th</sup> we were asked to approve this and push this through. Possibly come from several cases that were brought to Administration's attention, possibly from Dean's council. This policy impacts everyone on campus and requires feedback from everyone. Did not realize this was a problem at all until it was brought to the attention of APC.

Brett M. – Came out of Deans Council. No mandate to approve anything, but was trying to give suggestions to committee to solve a problem. Currently, with no standards, students can get the same numerical score in two different classes, but get different letter grades within the same program. Then when calculating academic honors or quality points, they will still have a different grade from that. The idea was not to take away academic freedom, but to make it simpler and more understandable to students. The way it is written now seems like it is more nebulous. Another scenario: taught one section of First Year Seminar this semester. I am a Vet Sci professor. My class was all Vet Sci students. Do I get to determine the scale for that based on

Vet Sci, or should I use Liberal Arts? There was no mandate to approve things, but rather an effort to bring a problem forward to discussion.

Michele F. – Particular hardship for nursing program. Is there an option on the nursing part to accommodate them. Voting based upon grades: numerical grade will not change, but now it must change to a letter – so how does that mapping interfere with how we want to grade.

Lauren S. – Only difficult for those moments where it can be the difference between a C+ or a B-.

Doug G. – Question of equity. As long as it is in the syllabus within each class then it is equitable. Diversity of grading within each school. Important to remember we teach students, not material.

Lori C.—Looking at school on screen, C-, C, C+ and that nine point range. What will happen if this passes. Will it still be further broken down? Possibly that it will create more problems.

Terry H. – Thanks to Lauren and committee. A few points: sounds like solution in search of a problem. As long as everything is posted, equity is upheld. If curve and extra credit is applied to all students in a given class, again this addresses equity.

Erin W. – Impression of this discussion is that grading is somehow different from the teachers. It is not an automatic process. There is no scale that can be created that will create a strictly objective process.

Lauren S. – There are many ways to grade.

Lisa T. – When you have different instructors teaching material, then you will always have different grading methods. You will never be able to truly take individualism out of the grading processes. Better to possibly make sure grade scales are clearly posted.

Lauren S. – Thank you for all feedback.

Vote taken: Yes – 0, no – 23, abstain – 6. Motion does not pass.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.**