

College Senate Meeting Minutes

12 October 2020

Attendance

Senators Attending via Zoom: E. Frisbee, S. Jones, A. Krause, L. Jones, J. Fishner, L. Tessier, T. Hamblin, E. Wagner, R. Celli, J. Cash, L. Aleksa, D. Gashler, A. Balcom, A. Calabrese, D. Krzyston, M. Wake, E. Ericson, S. Shoemaker, L. Ciafardoni (proxy held by L. Aleska), W. Shaffer, C. Rossi (proxy held by A. Krause), M. House (proxy held by D. Krzyston), R. Piurowski, E. Liberatori, S. Babcock, J. Lindsay, D. Conklin, D. Cutting, D. Aikens,

Senators Absent: D. Green, K. Dushko, M. Fields, J. Warren

Guests: S. Deane, T. Jordan, C. Bishop, J. Tessier, T. Phillion, J. Ward,

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm by Presider, E. Frisbee via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the 9-28-2020 meeting minutes: J. Cash, W. Shaffer; seconded: approved

UFS Alternate Nomination & Vote

- Lori Ciafardoni put her name forward for this; Motion made by Rich Celli; seconded by Dennis Aikens; 1 abstention

E-Board Updates

- Letter is written and will be going to Gwen Kay to start process
- Met with the President to discuss updates including the Consultation process
- Liz reached out to Provost regarding the Academic Planning Committee to advocate for faculty being on this committee
- USF Plenary is coming up this week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) – Lisa and Liz will be attending and will report back at the next meeting
- Alice – when we reached out regarding more faculty on Academic Planning Committee, what was the reaction? Liz – there was a willingness to consider it, but thought the Deans representation was sufficient; concerns making the committee too large. Alice - this is a concern that came up repeatedly in the Consultation feedback and should be considered.

Curriculum Committee Update - Alice Krause

- Compiling CC20-1 through CC20-4 together as these are all about adding online/internet format for a mode of delivery for various ARTS courses (ARTS 103, 110, 115, and 250). Motion: Erin Wagner; Second: Jason Cash; motion passes (1 no, 2 abstentions)
 - Following the vote there was discussion regarding Applied Lab versus applied learning – listing of all applied learning attribute – none of these courses are listed – the change to studio will not impact this (Susan Deane) – Nancy (registrar) did not mention this – not an issue;
- CC20-5 – withdrawn at Curriculum Committee
- CC20-6 – another proposal to add online/internet format as a mode of delivery for HUMN 102 Intro to Music. Motion: Dan Gashler; Second by Donna Cutting. 1 abstention – motion passes
- CC20-7 through 24 were all tabled at the Curriculum Committee meeting. Alice encouraged the Criminal Justice program to revise and improve these proposals so they would be top-notch for the proposed MS degree in Criminal Justice.

Resolutions Committee Update - Lisa Tessier

- Met today for first meeting of year; will need an additional participant this year; focusing on amending the process; looking to have an official response from administration for resolutions passed through senate; will bring this amended language forward to next Senate meeting; pre-resolution of case manager at health center – in August we felt to table that bc health center was restructuring and wanted the language of the resolution to best reflect their needs; with Lori's retiring – they're one dept with 2 co-directors (health and counseling) – unclear what structure will be like going forward b/c of pandemic – putting this resolution on hold until we know more;
- Past resolution – lactation spaces – hold onto this resolution given budget and campus being closed to general community
- Continue to advocate for previous resolution regarding online class cap
- Dan and Jason will be amending hazard assessment resolution
- New resolutions – UFS has resolutions that they will bring forward at plenary
- New resolutions – advocating for more faculty voice in academic planning processes

Academic Planning Committee Update - Lisa Tessier & Dan Gashler

- Tentatively discussed for Spring Schedule – Dr. Jordan and Dr. Deane can jump in as well;
- Start date of Feb 1 online; Feb 15 – face to face coursework for hands on labs; second wave of students later – unclear; LA&S will be asynchronous because the labs will be compressed again; no break in the Spring – all end May 14 (including finals week); J session start feb 1; K end may 14;

- Students want to feel connected to their instructors
- Concerns about academic freedom re: mode of delivery and knowing best practices
- Importance of quality course design and training (give faculty time to know what the plan is and implement that plan)
- Respondus issues re: server
- What is guiding our planning – are we trying to reduce our number?
- Advocated for course caps online; faculty/staff input in process; hazard assessment of the class spaces
- Ward – if our classes start Feb 1 and tech students go to lab on Feb 15, how are we expected to run classes that are majority tech students (chaotic start this semester – unsure how to meet/start the semester; Provost – challenge of doing classes synchronous vs asynchronous; students will be aware that their classes will begin and start online earlier; logistics still need to be ironed out – but asynchronous will help allow students to take compressed in-person classes;
- Alice – the way courses are listed is very confusing for the students (asynchronous vs synchronous); how this is communicated needs to be clear; students don't understand what asynchronous vs synchronous means necessarily
- Provost – parental concerns as well regarding what their students are doing and what their tuition is paying for;
- Susan Deane – solutions can't be one size fits all because of our very diverse programs; Nancy/registrar making attributes for synchronous/asynchronous for courses online; need to articulate this to students and parents; looking back at what we put out this semester and revise this for clarity;

Budget Presentation - Carol Bishop

- Carol has shared this with Leadership, Academic Council, UUP executive board;
- Looking at 4 year trends
- Info from the state changes quickly and frequently – many unknowns surrounding state support
- Fall 2020 operating budget process is complete; this is available in Confluence – link went out in Delhi Today; Mary Wake and Ward Shaffer are our Senate reps on the Budget Committee
- SUNY-wide spending controls and hiring freeze
- 10% state support tax cut for the previous year (retroactive)
- 20-21 Tap/Excelsior awards funded at 80%
- Delhi issued student refunds for Spring 2020
- University-wide programs funded at 25% (e.g. EOP, Access & Equity)
- Additional min 20% reduction in state support for 20-21
- Enrollment decline

- Annual operating disbursements – payroll is the bulk of our operating costs; spending control plan in 2020 did work (saved almost 2 million in comparison to previous year)
- Need to take action to get us through financial future as we wait for state funding
- Need to think about prioritizing (academic program evaluations; identify services to reduce or eliminate; possible layoffs/retrrenchments)
- Don – how long can we self-sustain in this direction? Unclear until we know what's happening with state funding; by end of calendar year we will know more; 25% minimum reduction we need to plan for; heavily reliant on enrollment;
- Alice – FTE – what does this slide really mean? Instructional (faculty) vs non-instructional people/positions; full-time positions; increase in non-instructional (approx. 30) compared to faculty over same time (approx. 2 positions)
- Alice – next slide – is this what we call the reserves? (historical cash balances) – for lack of a better term, yes; we frequently get asked the question “where did the reserves go?” – seems like the numbers fluctuate a lot – Carol – this is a very high level analysis; have there been increases in the spending to go along with this? Spending slide.
- What's in Confluence is each dept's request for 2020-21;
- Hiring freeze – replaced faculty except for 1; non-faculty positions holding vacant as well;
- Dan – some of this data goes back to 2016, do you know what the cash balances in June 2016 – started with 20m; this pattern has been consistent for the past few years; 80% of our revenue comes from enrollment;
- Lisa T – seems like this shows that our spending was going up at the same time there were concerns about enrollment; put in spending controls more recently – some of this seems pre-Covid though; decline in revenue due to enrollment; state support issue because of Covid; we could not have predicted a cut in state support in April;
- Shelly – reserves were at 6 million as reported at the 10/7/19 Senate meeting; how? Difference between restricted versus non-restricted funding;
- Tom P – does your team create different models of what if's? Carol – we started in the spring, but b/c the numbers change so quickly, we stopped – we're at the state's mercy;
- Terry – what else can be done short-term/long-term to control spending? Continue to do spending control (explain why spending is critical when someone wants to buy something); short of staff, there isn't a lot to cut (spending money on testing, Covid, additions to the budget; energy/heat; cleaning supplies);
- Don – Are we looking to lower our requirements for enrollment to increase enrollment?
Rob: we are looking to working with the Deans to think about where are students are succeeding and increase retention; Rob's happy to go over enrollment numbers at a future Senate meeting; the market of students has changed; certain program areas – industries are falling apart; need to have conversations with academic areas regarding modes of delivery, title changes (attract more students); would rather have students who will succeed and stay and graduate rather than a rotating door of students;

- Terry – Sees reserves as a rainy day fund – so the historical cash balances graph makes it look like we're funding the deficit; some of this is restricted – but at some point it may or may not be restricted anymore;
- Jason F – do you know how are cash balances compare to other campuses? Carol – unclear, there are some that weren't financially stable before and aren't now; state looks at SUNY as a whole – SUNY has the majority of the state's cash;
- Liz – are we one of those unstable campuses? Carol – no, we aren't; the more money we have, the better obviously – but right now we're able to pay our bills – unclear if we'll have a lot when we get through this;
- Erin W. – Thanks, Carol, for taking time to answer our questions; looking at the Confluence document – a few places went up in the budget whereas most areas went down; Carol didn't go through the budget line by line – still under the spending control – so they had to submit a justification for why critical before approved;
- Alice – big uptick in disbursements in 2018-19; is that a combination of the UUP raises and the additional hires – yes;
- Thanks, Carol!

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm

See you at the next meeting!

Next Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2020 @ 4:30pm (Zoom)