

College Senate Meeting Minutes

23 November 2020

Attendance

Senators Attending via Zoom: E. Frisbee, S. Jones, A. Krause, L. Jones, J. Fishner, L. Tessier, T. Hamblin, (proxy via Alice Krause) E. Wagner, R. Celli (proxy via Shannon Shoemaker), J. Cash, L. Aleksa, D. Gashler, A. Balcom (proxy via Jackie Howard), A. Calabrese, M. Wake, S. Shoemaker, L. Ciafardoni, J. Lindsay (proxy via L. Jones), D. Cutting, D. Aikens, K. Dushko, C. Rossi, D. Holub, M. Fields, E. Ericson, J. Warren

Senators Absent: D. Green, M. House, D. Krzyston, W. Shaffer, R. Piurowski, E. Liberatori, D. Conklin, S. Babcock

Guests: Lindsay Walker, Lars Schweidenback, Susan Deane,

Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm by Presider, E. Frisbee via Zoom.

Apologies for the date of the meeting; calendar had changed.

Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the 11-9-2020 meeting minutes: E. Wagner made the motion, Doug Holub seconded: approved

E-Board Updates and Consultation Update – Liz

- Thank you for your participation and for your advocacy for this process. The team has already started writing their report and plan to have a rough draft by first week of December.
- E-board had a meeting with the three leadership delegates (Katie Bucci, Thomas Jordan, Tomas Aguirre) to discuss next steps, how we want to move forward with shared governance. We have not decided anything specific until after the Consultation is finished. Planning to use this report as a framework. Goal to build a timeline and new goals for that timeline so we can see real progress.

Academic Planning Committee Update - Lisa Tessier & Dan Gashler

- Have not met since the first meeting – only one meeting
- Do have representatives from the five schools for when there is another meeting.
- Thomas Jordan did say he would have another meeting – not sure when.
- Nothing scheduled yet.

Vancko Hall Updates – Susan Deane

- Thank you first for all your efforts this semester.

- Typically upgrade Moodle in August after A/B sessions and Nursing summer L sessions; 1.5 week window for upgrade
- Moodle upgrade this past August didn't go well;
- Lot of changes/implications to courses that were unexpected
- Is August really the best time to do this? Moodle comes out with changes/patches in Feb.
- Faculty need access to Vancko for a bit after the semester ends in case there are issues; could do it early in Summer instead of end of Summer (fewer summer courses); would impact Nursing and LA&S;
- Nursing open classes the Wednesday before classes start – need to factor that in
- Plan to make the upgrade in May and move the summer classes (May 30 – July 9ish? And then another session allowing 2 weeks between summer and fall) – need to think about the timeline and coordinate
- Alice: Normally we update Moodle in August 2 weeks before Fall semester; the change would be to do it in May instead. This way if there are issues, fewer courses would be effected over the summer.
- Shannon: was anything done to reach out to the summer faculty to see if this would affect their willingness to teach? Susan: the deans know about this and haven't raised concern.
- Amanda: Need to be aware of impact on support services and impact on students regarding availability of support; Susan: largest impact was Nursing, so we addressed it there; trying to communicate about possibility of this change: inform, plan, and then address potential issues;
- Alice: the decision to do it was made to do it in May after the Spring grades are posted; Susan: the registrar wants a window in case there are grade issues;
- Ericka: We like to have a window of five days for the upgrade (to coordinate between CIS and Callas, etc.) in case things come up.
- Lisa: there will be no break between session A & B? Susan: That's right. They would be back to back if we move the Moodle update to May instead of August. Lisa: If people teach both sessions, that will be really tight.
- Liz: So this is just for this year as a trial period to see if this works, if there are issues, etc. Is it possible if things need to change in the future, can you come back to Senate with this info? Susan: I think this update makes the most sense changing from August to May. If it continues or changes, we'll come back and let everyone know. Liz: The concern about the no break between A & B might be a problem. If it's for one year, okay. But if it continues, we might want to readdress it. Susan: Do you want me to wait to hear back from Senate? Or can we move ahead with CIS/Callas?
- Ericka: I'm a bit biased because this affects my work load, but we would love to know the sooner the better, so we can have more time to test.

- Comments from chat: folks want time to discuss with areas and get feedback about this. Summer stipend budgets – might influence who teaches; summer payment. \$500 stipend from Provost's office is gone from the budget permanently.
- Liz: Susan, can you join us for the Dec 7 meeting so we can give you feedback then? Yep!
- Thank you, Susan!

Curriculum Committee Updates – Alice Krause

- Changes for CC for Spring
 - SLO writing – working with assessment committee on this; how can these two committees work together to help faculty write their SLOs
 - Program Announcements from SUNY
 - Empire State College BBA – could impact us, but we don't have a stand alone degree – so we can't really protest this degree;
 - Alice's term is up; Lars Schweidenback will be the Chair for the next two years; he will be giving us the December update;
 - New Member: Erin Wagner will represent LA&S on CC starting in January 2021
- CC20-27: Minor change to course description and SLOs for NURS 400: Motion: Lisa Tessier; Second: Amanda Calabrese; no discussion; Motion passes.
- CC20-28 & 29: Minor changes to course description AECT 450; change to Carnegie units MECH 370; Motion: Jason Cash; Second: Donna Cutting; Question: is the title changing or just the description? Will it still have a sustainability component for our Sustainability degree? A: Title is the same – still a sustainability focus; taking out the dated buzz words. Passes.
- CC20-7 through CC20-26: Courses for the Master's in Criminal Justice. Completely online degree. These had been tabled previously to tighten up SLOs and course descriptions so it will make it through SUNY and SED. All new courses for the new degree. Motion to bundle together: Erin Wagner; second: Lisa Tessier. Are we going to see what the courses are about? Alice: I usually just include the rationale rather than the course descriptions in this format. Shannon: Homeland Security 20:15? Alice read the course description. Vote: Motion passes.

Bylaws Update – Alice Krause

- Language for election process for At-Large and Area represented senators
 - Increasing transparency and establish a timeline for these elections to take place
 - Discussed with the Operations Committee as well to discuss
- Area-elected seats (5 representatives of the Schools and the Library) really need to be filled when they become vacant
 - Timeline: 2 week nomination period with 1 week voting
 - Voting be done through the LMS (Vancko); right now votes are done in different ways in the areas; majority vote; secret ballot;

- Should we leave the nomination process and election process up to the areas or should the Operations committee run them?
- Operations Committee will verify the results provided to them by the Dean/Director of Library and will share with the Senate, not just the constituency
- Process and timeline would happen in the regular election cycle or if the seat became vacant in the middle of the year
- If this is a Bylaws change, do we have to see it twice before we vote? Yes. Needs to appear on an agenda twice. Alice: if we do have revisions, I'd rather have us vote on a clean version. Liz: we're also missing a bunch of folks including our Operations Committee, so let's not vote today.
- Comments on Area-Elected Reps:
 - There should be a standard process regardless of the school, but it would be a big ask to have the Deans set it up themselves. Operations Committee is already doing them and happy to do it.
 - If we have a process in place that works, we should make that across the board.
 - Ericka willing to work with the Operations committee to help with the technology for the votes.
 - Consensus seems to be to have the Operations Committee have it. Could help with transparency and reduce some internal politics if that's a concern.
 - Notification wording may need adjusting; sometimes the Dean knows about a vacancy first and sometimes the Senate knows first. Person running the election should make the announcement.
- At-Large Seats
 - We've been holding At-Large elections whenever seats become available. Looks bad when we have so many elections in the middle of semester and has become rather unmanageable to keep having mini-elections for vacancies.
 - Proposing that we only have at-large elections in the Spring during the normal timeline.
- Comments for modifications of at-large seats:
 - Remainder of the term be more specifically described in the verbiage. Unclear at the moment. If it's filling a seat that was vacated, then they are filling the remainder of the term that was vacated, or if it is a new term.
 - Want to keep the at-large seats staggered so that way there isn't a mass exodus at one time.
- Thank you, Alice and Bylaws Committee!

UFS Resolutions – Lisa Tessier

- Resolutions from the UFS Plenary
 - Vote of No Confidence in the Politically Appointed Members of the SUNY BOT – cannot modify the language; can ratify it to show support from our campus
 - Motion: Doug Holub; Second: Alice Krause; motion passes; 2 abstentions
 - Racial Equity and Social Justice Curriculum – supporting programing and coursework on these topics; this was sent to Thomas Jordan, Tomas Aguirre, and Jarvis for feedback – they were supportive as well
 - Motion: Jason Cash; second: Erin Wagner;
 - Alice: when we look at this locally, this might be a good place for diversifying our teaching faculty as this is a challenge we have here; we didn't take advantage of PRODiG – need to look at this more
 - Lisa – loop back around to a previous resolution that discussed PRODiG and see what that said
 - Vote: Motion passes.
 - Importance of Maintaining Shared Governance Practices during times of Crisis – reminder from the Chancellor; offers some resources in terms of how we operate during the summer or during crises;
 - Motion: Lori Ciafardoni; second: Doug Holub
 - Vote passes
 - Thanks, Lisa and the Resolutions committee!

Spring Senate Meeting Dates – Liz Frisbee

- Previous concerns over meeting dates interfering with holidays/breaks
- Should we change our meeting times/days with new (online) normal?
 - Lori – how many holidays does the Spring impact?
 - Started on Feb 8 to avoid President's Day holiday for staff; April 5th = Monday after Easter
 - Last day of faculty obligation is June 18, 2021
 - Alice: Spring course semester is already set – so keeping the meeting time the same makes sense; few classes at this time
 - Liz: e-board willing to change day/time in the future; happy to have this conversation and think through alternatives;
 - Shelly: the fall tends to be more conflict-heavy with holidays; the Spring has MLK day and President's Day for Mondays, but we're already avoiding those.
 - Mary: if the meeting were at a different time, there might be other meeting conflicts;
 - Ericka: Senate meetings often run long – can't schedule meetings after if we had Senate meetings earlier (e.g. 1pm); but a 4pm rather than 4:30pm start might be enough of a change to help;

- Liz: let's bring it back up again when there are more Senators present; consider the 4pm start time;
- Jason Fishner: meetings have been running late; so even a half hour earlier might help; DA's break is the week of April 5; folks can proxy as needed; how long have the meetings been on Mondays at 4:30?
 - At least as far back as folks can remember (10-15 years)
- Lori: if there are big things to vote on, maybe vote later in the meeting instead of first thing in case folks need to arrive later (if we change to 4p start time)
- Alice: If we're looking to make big changes, let's be consistent and make long-term changes rather than on a semester-basis.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm

See you at the next meeting!

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020 @ 4:30pm (Zoom)