

The College Senate
Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2010

A regular meeting of the SUNY College at Oneonta College Senate was held on Monday, February 8, 2010 in the Craven Lounge of Morris Hall on SUNY College at Oneonta Campus.

Steve Garner, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted by a motion offered by Achim Koeddermann (Philosophy) / Stephen Walsh (Management, Marketing & Information Systems).

There were no announcements for the good of the order.

Presiding Officer's Report - Mr. Steve Garner

Garner reported that he had met with Nancy Wolters to discuss the current status of the update of the Faculty Handbook. He reported that policies and procedures will be on the web page and will be searchable. These pages will include revision histories so that searchers can see what was changed and when. He also reported that it is unlikely that the updates will be done this semester, but that completion during the summer is likely.

Garner also reported that there are efforts underway to develop a tracking form for policies approved by Senate and sent to the Provost so that interested parties can follow the administrative implementation process and note when and where any changes are applied to the text of the policy as adopted by the Senate. He spoke with Wolters about this and will be working with her to finalize the form.

Garner reminded the Senate that they would yield their meeting time on March 15 to SPARC. More details would be provided during SPARC chair Larry Guzy's report later in the meeting.

Finally, Garner reported that the Senate steering committee is interested in hearing from our standing committees for their annual reports. They will be contacting chairs in the near future. He reminded the Senate that the Business Committee would soon be setting up elections for 2010-2011.

College President's Report - President Nancy Kleniewski

President Kleniewski invited everyone to a reception honoring Vice President for Community Relations Carol Blazina, to be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Craven Lounge, refreshments provided.

President Kleniewski reported that a progress report is now available on the first year of the strategic action plan for equity, diversity, and inclusion from the college website at: <http://www.oneonta.edu/admin/oei/StrategicPlan/Progress09.asp>.

President Kleniewski reported that the Council for Aid to Education, who are in charge of the Collegiate Learning Assessment test, chose SUNY College at Oneonta to be one of two schools to participate in a webinar on the CLA results (the other was Carleton College). Other highlights about our assessments included a National Study on Student Engagement (NSSE) result that showed that we are improving our scores on engagement over time and that we scored significantly higher than SUNY and national peers. In particular, we scored very highly on categories involving students working with faculty, students attending events, student participation in practicums and internships, participating in co-curricular activities, and participation in community projects compared with peer institutions. Dr. Kleniewski feels that our performance on these assessments is due to our faculty and staff and offered special praise to the Center for Social Responsibility and Student Development for their fostering of engagement and service learning.

Richard Lee (English) asked how many SUNY peers use the CLA assessment. Patty Francis replied that 2 SUNY peers participated, but that the results included many other nationwide peers. She replied further that the SUNY system would be piloting a CLA project next year with 19 SUNY schools.

Student Association President - Mr. Rick Heil

There was no report.

Alternate University Faculty Senator - Dr. Richard Lee

Senator Lee (English) reported as alternate UFS; Orlando Legname (Music) is on sabbatical this semester.

Lee reported that there was a plenary session last week. He uploaded several documents on the College Senate webpage including his complete report from the plenary. He reported that the Joint Task Force on Student Mobility presented on new Board of Trustees policies in the wake of Seamless Articulation and Transfer. Of particular note from their work are that graduates of two-year SUNY schools are guaranteed admission to full-time status at baccalaureate institutions (though not necessarily the ones they choose), first- and second-year courses will be accepted in the major at the transfer school, students with two-year degrees will be accepted as juniors in parallel programs, and transcript review must be done prior to admission. More information is available in the UFS corner on the College Senate webpage.

Lee reported that there have been a wide range of responses to budget constraints across sectors. His report delineates many of those responses.

Vice Provost Pedro Caban, who directs Office of Diversity and Educational Equity (ODEE) gave an informative presentation, which is available online at the UFS corner of the College Senate webpage.

Interim Provost David Lavalley presented on several topics. He assured the UFS that campuses would control assessment, with system assistance prior to Middle States review. There were some contradictions regarding the intent of the student mobility and seamless articulation discussions between his current comments and previous statements. More clarification is likely to be coming.

Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Monica Rimai reported on cuts to SUNY required by the Governor's budget and then reiterated that the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act will address these shortfalls. Chancellor Zimpher's report seconded those thoughts.

Robert Compton (Political Science/ALS) asked about the effect of the resolution on changes to assessment on Middle States accreditation. Lee replied that while SUNY-imposed reporting on General Education courses will be suspended, accrediting bodies still require documentation and therefore, before a campus accreditation comes up for review, help from administration will be provided.

Lee concluded with a point of information regarding a failed resolution at the plenary: that Roberts Rules of Order requires a 2/3 supermajority vote to suspend rules for certain voting procedures, in case that would be useful for future College Senate activities.

Committee Reports

Committee on Administrative Review - Dr. Jerome Blechman (Earth Sciences)

The committee chair, having sent the committee's report including a resolution on reporting election results from the Fall 2009 SPARC election to the presiding officer, was recognized.

Stephen Walsh (Management, Marketing & Information Systems) / Rhea Nowak (art) moved to place the committee's resolution on the floor for debate. It originally read:

Whereas, transparency is vital to ensure confidence in the Strategic Planning and Resource Council (SPARC) and the strategic plan that it develops, and Whereas, the faculty of the College was asked to elect its representatives to SPARC through a democratic process, and Whereas, in order to ensure that democratic processes were followed, it is essential that the full results of the election be reported, Be it resolved that the College Senate requests complete vote tallies for all candidates in the SPARC task force election be released by the College Administration to the College Senate at the March 1 Senate meeting.

Blechman reported that proposed reorganizations and governing actions are the purview of the committee and that SPARC is part of their discussions. When SPARC was first proposed, the election was held by this body and at the end, just the winners' names were posted.

Richard Lee (English) / Robert Compton (Political Science) proposed an amendment:

Add the following as an additional clause: *Be it further resolved, in the future all elections of the Senate will have their tallies reported in public.*

The amendment was adopted.

President Kleniewski (President) / Brian Lowe (Sociology) proposed an amendment:

Strike from the fourth clause: *the College Administration to*

The amendment was adopted.

Bill Wilkerson (Political Science) / Stephen Walsh (Management, Marketing & Information Systems) proposed an amendment:

Strike from the fourth clause: *at the March 1 senate meeting*

The amendment was adopted by divided vote, 31 in the affirmative and 18 opposed.

Michael Koch (Philosophy) / Robert Compton (Political Science) proposed an amendment:

Cause the fourth clause to be changed so that it reads: *Be it resolved that the College Senate requests complete vote tallies for all candidates in the SPARC task force election be released to the College Senate by the March 1 Senate meeting, furthermore;*

The amendment was adopted.

The main motion, as amended, was adopted as follows:

Whereas, transparency is vital to ensure confidence in the Strategic Planning and Resource Council (SPARC) and the strategic plan that it develops, and; Whereas, the faculty of the College was asked to elect its representatives to SPARC through a democratic process, and; Whereas, in order to ensure that democratic processes were followed, it is essential that the full results of the election be reported, Be it resolved that the College Senate requests complete vote tallies for all candidates in the SPARC task force election be released by the College Senate by the March 1 Senate meeting, furthermore;

Be it further resolved, in the future all elections of the Senate will have their tallies reported in public.

Don Hill (Anthropology/ALS) rose to a point of parliamentary inquiry asking if we needed a 2/3 supermajority for the preceding motion according to Roberts' Rules of Order. Acting parliamentarian Todd Ellis (Earth Sciences) responded that this action was indeed consistent with the rules governing the College Senate and that a supermajority was not needed in this case.

Ron LaFrance (Educational Psychology and Counseling) rose to a point of information asking about the difference between voted and appointed members and asked how the process for filling the SPARC committees worked. Larry Guzy (SPARC Chair/Psychology) explained that appointments balanced different demographic categories left vacant by election.

College Community Reports

SPARC - Larry Guzy

Guzy reported that there would be a SPARC Open Forum held on Wednesday, February 17 in Craven Lounge. At 3 p.m. the Institutional Distinctiveness task force would speak about their report, followed at 4 p.m. by the Governing Ideas task force. He also expressed his thanks to the Senate for their yielding of time on March 15 to discuss goals and action initiatives reports.

Old Business

None reported

New Business

None Reported

Comments/Discussion for the Good of the Order

Craig Bielert (Psychology) rose to a point of parliamentary inquiry and asked if the resolution previously adopted regarding vote tallies was in fact redundant with the College Senate governing documents. Acting parliamentarian Ellis informed him that it was likely redundant, but since it was consistent with those rules and asked only for the enforcement of those rules, it was not out of order.

Brian Lowe (Sociology) / Terry Helser (Chemistry) moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Todd Ellis, Acting Secretary