

## **The College Senate Minutes of the Meeting of March 29, 2010**

A regular meeting of the SUNY College at Oneonta College Senate was held on Monday, March 29, 2010 in the Craven Lounge of Morris Hall on the SUNY College at Oneonta Campus.

Steve Garner, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

The minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected by a motion offered by Amy Crouse-Powers (Community Relations) / Joseph Chang (Chemistry and Biochemistry).

### **Announcements**

Kathy Meeker (Grants Development Office) announced that April 1 is the deadline for students to indicate that they wish to participate in the Student Research Show. Abstracts will be due soon afterward. She also announced that the second-round deadline of the Student Grant Program for Research and Creative Activity is April 2.

Andrew Kahl (Theatre) announced that the Public Events Committee has asked for funding nominations for 2010-2011. There is a new process for applying online and there is \$8,500 available for distribution.

Suzanne Black (English) announced that author Randall Kenan would be coming to campus on Wednesday, March 31. At noon, he will host a brown bag in Union Square in Hunt Union, and he will give a reading in the CME in Lee Hall at 7:30 pm.

Patty Francis (Assessment Office) announced that the Academic Program Assessment Committee (APAC) is sponsoring Dr. Kathy Yancey, who is hosting a workshop on assessing writing across the curriculum from 1-3 pm in the Upper Hall of Lee Hall on Wednesday, April 14.

### **Presiding Officer's Report - Mr. Steve Garner**

Garner announced that the Call for Nominations for local College Senate elections should come out in the next couple of days via email. Time at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be available for any candidates for Presiding Officer who wish to speak for a few minutes about their candidacy. We only have two meetings left (April 19, May 4), so please get all committee reports in as soon as possible.

Garner also announced that **Senate Healthy Tidbits** is something that he does to tell the faculty about how important their health and wellness is to the college. It isn't a part of the Senate business, but a way for him to offer personal thanks to faculty and staff. Janet Nepkie (Music) thanked Garner for offering his expertise.

## **College President's Report - President Nancy Kleniewski**

President Kleniewski announced that the position vacated by Carol Blazina has been restructured into two positions. New Senior Assistant to the President Colleen Brannan will be doing governmental and community relations. There is another search for a professional director of communications to handle press and internal communications. This restructuring will save costs over the previous structure.

President Kleniewski has also been receiving many questions about how the campus is responding to state budget cuts. She is trying to craft a response that is both informative and honest. Looking over the three-year budget cycle (2008-09 through 2010-11), appropriations have been cut by \$11M, while the state added back \$5M for a net loss of \$6M for our campus. In response, the campus has frozen 28 FTE positions: 12 teaching faculty and 16 non-instructional. Of these, five are new faculty positions, seven are vacancies that will remain open, and the remaining positions have been scattered evenly across divisions. The campus has also saved money through hiring for replacement positions at lower salaries than incumbents had earned; discretionary spending has also been reduced. We have increased revenues through modest increases in student enrollment, and we have shifted costs from the state budget to IFRs, RF, and OAS as possible. Her message for Senators to share with their departments is that the sky is not falling, but we are tightening belts and that we have reached limits on what we can do to respond. We will have to look at reallocations in the 2011-2012 budget and be prepared to get used to a new "normal". We will likely need new priorities, adjusted based upon our strategic plan. She announced that more specific information would be available shortly.

## **Student Association President - Mr. Rick Heil**

Applications for seven SA scholarships are available now and due April 14<sup>th</sup>. Heil asked faculty and staff to recommend students to stop by to pick up applications for these involvement-based scholarships.

Heil announced that the SA budget process is in full swing – please check with the State Times to see the full budget as it currently stands. Todd Ellis (Earth Sciences) asked about the apparent discrepancy between certain academic and non-academic clubs on campus. Heil responded that allocations are based largely on numbers of students impacted, but if there are specific grievances, club officers should contact the SA Treasurer Tiffany Brenner to make an appointment to discuss the grievances.

## **Alternate University Faculty Senator - Dr. Richard Lee**

Lee mentioned that the UFS is preparing for another plenary session in April. In the meantime, recent efforts have focused on the "Higher Education" Act. He announced that the "UFS Corner" webpage has been redesigned with relevant information readily available in the center of the page. In addition, there is information about participating in the Conference on Technology and Ethics on April 22 at New Paltz; there is also a link to self-nominate for SUNY-wide committees and governance within the University Faculty Senate.

In discussing the upcoming legislation, Lee announced that recent changes make it so that differential tuition will now only apply to university centers, not comprehensive colleges. On the UFS Corner webpage, there are links to much of the correspondence on the UFS resolution that is pending as well as positions of many of the interested parties in the SUNY system. Lee felt that it was in the campus's best interest to stand mute on this resolution since many of the issues that would affect us are not well defined by the Higher Education act and may not be well defined before being approved legislatively.

Leif Hartmark (VP College Advancement) clarified that there still are many parts that apply SUNY-wide. For example, while differential tuition would affect only university centers, there are proposed changes that could give trustees more control over setting system-wide tuition. More information on these changes will be made available on the UFS Corner.

### **Committee Reports**

None Reported.

### **New Business**

None Reported.

### **Comments/Discussion for the Good of the Order**

None reported

Janet Nepkie (Music) / Tim Welch (Communication Arts) moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Dr. Todd Ellis, Acting Secretary