

**THE COLLEGE SENATE
MEETING OF 7 DECEMBER 2015
Craven Lounge, 3:00 P.M.**

The sixth regular meeting of the College Senate of the State University of New York College at Oneonta was held December 7, 2015 in the Craven Lounge of the Morris Conference Center at 3:00pm. The Presiding Officer and Secretary of the Faculty were present and serving in their elected capacities.

Dr. Stephen Walsh (Marketing) motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2015. Dr. Kelly Gallagher (Chemistry & Biochemistry) seconded the motion. There were no objections, and **the minutes of the Senate Meeting of November 23, 2015 were approved.**

The Presiding Officer, Dr. Michael Koch, gave his report. There were four items.

Regarding Applied Learning, Dr. Koch spoke with Provost Mackin on Friday regarding the first phase of the SUNY mandate on Applied Learning. The details can be found in the College Senate Organization on Blackboard, in a folder entitled "Applied Learning" in the "Content" section. The college has created a group called the Applied Learning Liaisons Group, led by Amy Benedict, to collect and report the info required. The Steering Committee raised concerns that this was not going through faculty governance, but the college has decided that given that this report is due at the beginning of February, faculty governance will not be consulted during the first phase. The Applied Learning Liaison group will be responsible for this phase, given that the process has started, we're late in the process, we are two weeks before break, and we will not come back until shortly before the deadline. We have been given assurance that in the succeeding phases, governance will be consulted. Dr. Koch has asked the head of Applied Learning Liaisons group to communicate to him the make-up of that group, but had not received a response at the time of the meeting.

Some faculty members expressed concerns about decorum and propriety regarding the presentation during the Legislative Open Forum of the November 23, 2015. The concerns are about how appropriate it is to call out individuals and make accusations about individuals where those accusations are posted in a public place in the minutes, and the individuals accused have no opportunity to respond. Steering Committee discussed this last week, and there was a sense this is a legitimate concern. There is a distinction here between what is proper conduct during the senate, which is governed by Robert's Rules, which specifies parliamentary procedure and forbids ad-hominem speaking against individuals, and our legislative open forum, which is aside from regular parliamentary procedure and to which Robert's Rules does not apply. The Steering Committee is considering creating some rules for proper conduct during the Legislative Open Forum. Dr. Koch expects that the Steering Committee will be presenting a draft of those rules early in spring semester.

Also in the previous Legislative Open Forum meeting, there was a question asked about course renumbering. Based on a conversation with Provost, the college has no plans for any kind of comprehensive course renumbering at this time. However, if

individual departments believe there are good reasons to renumber some of their courses, it is appropriate for them to propose such renumbering.

While there were concerns about what is appropriate to say during Senate or the Legislative Open Forum, the Steering Committee believes there were important issues raised in the address to the Senate. The Steering Committee will be working on a list of questions regarding Financial Aid and degree applicable credit, which it will bring to the college in the hope of resolving some of these issues. These are concerns that are felt by faculty and many students on campus, and because of that the Steering Committee believes it is important the College address these concerns.

There was a question clarifying that there is currently no moratorium on course renumbering. Dr. Koch confirmed this. There was a request that the Applied Learning Liaisons group inform the camps of the various types of applied learning they plan on reporting, specifying exactly what times of learning will count as applied learning. Also, it was pointed out that we do not need to wait until this phase of the applied learning process is completed before deciding how faculty governance will participate in later stages.

The President, Dr. Nancy Kleniewski, had no report.

The Provost, Dr. James Mackin, gave his report. He confirmed that departments who do not believe their current course numbering is the best should consider renumbering their courses within the current system. He also announced that the Center for Online Teaching Excellence has announced the opening of a MOOC for designing and teaching courses for all learners. He will send an announcement to the faculty.

There was a question whether a SUNY-wide numbering system might be put into place. Dr. Mackin responded that he didn't think that would happen, though making acronyms uniform might be a possibility.

The Student Association President, Ms. Kainat Malik, had no report.

The University Faculty Senator, Dr. Renee Walker, had no report.

There was a report by the College Library Committee (CLC). Dr. Jerome Blechman, chair of the committee, spoke about the document that was circulated with the meeting agenda, entitled "Final Library Recommendations." Last year, beginning in the fall, the CLC started asking what they should recommend for the renovations. In the spring, they held focus groups, which led to an exhaustive report by the facilitator, the head of South Central Regional Library Council. Based on this, they identified common themes in the feedback from students, faculty, and staff, which led to this set of recommendations. There are two process recommendations, which the CLC is adamant about. There is a Library Partial Renovations Steering Committee (LPRSC), but it is unclear how this differs from the CLC, so it is recommended that the charge of the LPRSC be clarified. Also, since the CLC is the faculty governance unit of this process, they believe they should be working with the LPRSC. They are also requesting transparency through regular public forums. Dr. Blechman went over the bullet points of the recommendation, and emphasized the need to maintain ample space for the physical collection of books.

He also pointed out the recommendation that if academic departments are to be moved out of the library, and other departments moved in, those departments moved out should be given a permanent appropriate space on campus. He mentioned that the recommendation for a 24/7 study space came from the studies.

There was a question whether the request for "more technology" includes more electric outlets, and Dr. Blechman stated that it was in the report. Dr. Ronald Bishop (Chemistry & Biochemistry) raised concerns about recommending webcams during construction, that this might be a liability issue with most contractors. There followed a discussion of compact shelving, and the use of secondary storage to help maintain physical books, along with a discussion of "weeding" or "refreshing" books in the library.

There followed the discussion of whether the Senate was to simply accept the report or whether they would be voting to endorse the recommendations. It is the latter. Dr. John McCaslin-Doyle (Theatre) moved to endorse the recommendations. Dr. Kathryn Finin (English) seconded the motion. Dr. Bishop (Chemistry & Biochemistry) moved to amend the motion by striking the clause relating to posting of 24/7 webcam. This motion was seconded. There was no debate on the amendment. **The amendment passes audibly.** The question was raised about the urgency of a Senate endorsement of the recommendations, as some Senators felt they would benefit from more time discussing the issue with their colleagues. Dr. Finin called the question. This was seconded, and a vote commenced to end debate. This vote passed audibly, and debate ended. **The senate voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation from the College Library Committee, as amended.**

There was no new business. The proposal for a "Faculty Governance Internship" was removed from the agenda due to concerns that were raised.

There were no College Community Reports.

In the Legislative Open Forum, Dr. Cynthia Klink, acting as co-chair of the Committee on Part-time Faculty Concerns, read a statement regarding the email from the President of the College on the topic of pay for adjuncts. She began by commending the administration on beginning to take action to increase the minimum pay for adjuncts. She then raised a number of concerns. The first being that the raise of \$500 brings starting salary to \$3000. This is considerably lower than the \$5000 the union was asking for, which is based on prorating the minimum salary for lecturers. The \$3000 salary continues the practice of significantly underpaying adjuncts for the same amount of work. Second, this increase has no effect for an estimated 50% of all adjuncts, particularly those who have shown loyalty to the college by years of service, and it causes salary compression amongst adjuncts. All adjuncts hired since Fall 2010 will now receive the same pay, and those who have been at Oneonta longer will be receiving only a negligible amount more than the new base pay. Finally, Ms. Klink noted that the process did not appear to be transparent, and in particular the committee on Part Time Faculty Concerns was not consulted. Even though this committee attempted to take part in the conversation, there was inaction on their requests and "explicit denial" of their right to be involved in any conversation on adjunct pay.

Janet Nepkie (Music) expressed gratitude to those who were involved in the openness regarding the threat to the campus over the previous weekend. She expressed that she believed that the immediate communication was the best way to allay any concerns. There was some discussion on this topic. Leah Bridgers (MCS) raised concerns that there was little feeling of preparedness in the event of such an incident. Mary Lynn Benson (Library), who is involved with the Campus Safety Committee, mentioned that the campus has had "table-top" exercises in past months, which involved a large number of campus members, and they hope to hold more.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Jones
Secretary of the Faculty