

**MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE SENATE OF SUNY ONEONTA
MEETING OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The second regular meeting of the 2015-2016 College Senate of the State University of New York College at Oneonta was held September 28, 2015 in the Craven Lounge of the Morris Conference Center at 3:07pm. The Presiding Officer and Secretary of the Faculty were present and serving in their elected capacities.

Achim Koeddermann (Philosophy) moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded, and as there was no debate or objection, **the minutes were approved.**

The Presiding Officer, Michael Koch, gave his report, which consisted of four items.

The first item was discussion of Senate membership. Dr. Koch indicated that the Steering Committee is still attempting to determine representation, particularly regarding professional faculty. The goal is to establish a model so that the precedent is clear for incoming Senate officers, and he hopes to have this determined before the next Senate meeting.

The second item was the announcement that he has created a Blackboard "Organization" for the College Senate. One can find it under Community -> Browse Organizations -> and searching for "College Senate". Instructions will be emailed to faculty. Anyone with access to the Blackboard site can become a member. The plan is to use this site to post Senate business prior to it coming to the floor so that members of the community who are interested in the item can be informed about it, and will have the opportunity to comment on it through discussion forums.

The third item was a discussion of how concerns can be brought to the senate. There are three pathways. (a) Faculty Committees. Every committee is empowered to bring items before the senate, so those with concerns related to the charge of a committee can ask that committee to look into it. (b) Steering Committee. Faculty can ask the Steering Committee whether they believe it appropriate for a concern to go before senate, and there are two ways to do this: submit an action item to be added to the agenda, or ask the Steering Committee to endorse an item and bring it before the College Senate. (c) Make a motion during a meeting of the College Senate.

The fourth item was the announcement of three task forces being formed. These will be on a Degree of Distinction, First-Year Student Engagement, and the Faculty Development Center. There was agreement between President Kleniewski, Provost Mackin and the Steering Committee that each task force should include representatives from those committees whose charges overlap with the charge of that task force. Each would consider independently the issues raised by the task force, and any resolution regarding the conclusions of the task force would go through those committees for consideration prior to coming to senate to seek endorsement of senate.

President Kleniewski gave her report. The job description for the Provost candidate search is complete, and that search will begin. President Kleniewski attended the SUNY Presidents' meeting, and one of the speakers was George Kuh, of Indiana University, who is a national expert on teaching and learning for engaging students. The theme of his talk

was applied learning, and President Kleniewski brought back materials to bring to the task force on engagement.

Provost Mackin gave his report. He will be attending the SUNY-wide Chief Academic Officer (CAO) conference, and will be reporting back on that meeting.

Student Association President Kainat Malik gave her report. She began by introducing the students serving as representatives to the College Senate for SA. She discussed some issues brought to her by students attending committee meetings. In particular, two students who attended a meeting expressed concerns that they were not recognized or kept informed by faculty committee members. She pointed out that students are on these committees for a reason, they can give good input, and she does not want them to think they are wasting their time. If a faculty member finds that a student is not responding their emails about meetings, they should feel free to contact Ms. Malik. The SUNY Student Assembly has passed a resolution about unpaid credit-bearing internships, which provides minimum guidelines to follow. President Malik will bring the resolution before the SUNY Oneonta SA on September 29 to either endorse or deny it. Finally, President Malik expressed concern that a professor in one of the departments has made students take extra courses outside their schedules, and is cutting the class short before the semester ends, even though it is a full-semester course. She is seeking input from the faculty on this process, as to whether it is appropriate and how students can deal with it.

There was some discussion on these topics. Janet Nepkie (Music) stated that if internships or other experiential learning is getting credit, then it should have syllabus, learning outcomes, and a standard assessment. Donna Vogler (Biology) mentioned that if any student has a concern about a class; they should go to the chair of the department; then the dean if they are not satisfied.

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

There were no College Committee Reports.

There were two items of New Business. Dr. Koch announced the appointment of Brian Beitzel, (Educational Psychology and Counseling) as his designee to the Chancellor's Awards Committee. Dr. Beitzel will serve as Chair of this committee.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the Assistant Secretary of the College Senate. Audrey Porsche self-nominated for the position. Kainat Malik nominated April Harper, who declined due to other obligations. Oscar Oberkircher moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded. There was no debate and no objections. **Audrey Porsche was elected Assistant Secretary unanimously.**

There were College Community Reports.

Professor Rhea Nowak (Art) spoke as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Council (SPC), which she co-chairs with Todd Foreman (VP Finance). The purpose of the SPC is to facilitate creation and implementation of Strategic Plan. It is composed of faculty, staff, students and community members. Last year, the College Community wrote the vision,

goals, and objectives for the Strategic Plan. The goals are to increase engagement; promote inquiry, service, and scholarship; broaden access to programs; and strengthen the college's financial sustainability. Additionally, SPC began the assisting in the development of specific action items to go with the objectives for the goals. This year, the SPC is developing those action items, including meeting with each of the responsible parties. President Kleniewski will make an official announcement, but interested faculty can find a "sneak preview" by searching for "SPC" on the campus website. The first link should lead to the SPC web page. There are two important links: "Strategic Plan 2015" provides an overview of Goals and Objectives, and there is a link to the action plan itself, which is an excel spreadsheet. Professor Nowak gave a brief rundown of the various areas of the spreadsheet. The spreadsheet changes regularly, as changes are made to the plan. Professor Nowak asks faculty to take a look when they get a chance, and if they have questions or thoughts, please feel free to contact her or Todd Foreman.

A discussion about plans for enrollment growth followed. In response to questions, Dr. Kleniewski indicated that there is a need for some growth and mentioned in particular that the projection is to have a "head count" of 6322 by 2020. The goal is achieve that growth through such things as new graduate programs and other new programs, increasing the number of international students, and to try to avoid growth in particular for those departments that are already over-burdened. The Chancellor and Provost of SUNY have a goal of 150,000 degrees or certificates completed per year SUNY-wide.

President Kleniewski then presented the draft SUNY Oneonta Performance Improvement Plan. This document was mailed to the College Senate listserv prior to the meeting. She gave an overview of the five areas of metrics, Access, Completion, Success, Inquiry, and Engagement, for which the College will be submitting targets. The College must also explain how it plans to achieve them. The deadline for submission has been extended to October 21. The draft plan should go out to the campus within the week, and there will be contact information for feedback. There followed some discussion of issues and questions regarding these metrics. Dr. Koch pointed out that the deadline for submission is before the next meeting of the College Senate, so faculty who wish to express their opinions on whether the plan should be endorsed (by the Steering Committee) can contact the Steering Committee. Dr. Kleniewski mentioned that they are seeking consensus, but something must be submitted by that deadline.

There were two items in the Legislative Open Forum.

Dr. Leah Bridgers (MCS) spoke regarding the changes to orientation currently being put into implementation. She is concerned by what appears to be a lack of transparency in the decision to change to an "all-August" orientation. Dr. Bridgers felt that some questions are still unanswered. The sense is that students are not engaged enough in the first year and that this change is supposed to help with that. But the questions remaining are: "What is it about what we have been doing that is not working? How will this change fix those problems? And, what evidence is there that this change will fix those problems?" She is seeking better communication about how this decision was made, and asked if the College Senate could get involved in finding answers to those questions.

Dr. Nepkie (Music) spoke regarding a September 10th memo from SUNY that was sent to campuses about Applied Learning, which contained information pertaining to the academic program. She asks that Faculty Governance share anything along these lines that comes to them with the rest of the campus.

There were Announcements for the Good of the Order.

Achim Koeddermann (Philosophy) announced there will be a joint discussion on the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Wednesday, October 30, at 7:30 in the IRC Room #5. The French Club, the Italian Club, and the Philosophy Club cosponsor this event.

Betty Wambui (ALC) announced two events; the Ralph Watkins Lecture on the topic of Immigration, "Aliens in Atzlan..." on Thursday, October 1, in the Alden Room of the Milne Library, and the documentary, Brothers of the Black List, on Monday, October 5, in IRC 4.

Renee Walker (Anthropology), as chair of Chancellor's Award Committee, gave a reminder that the Chancellor's Award for Adjunct Faculty nominations are due October 16. The Committee is happy to help faculty prepare nominations. Also, on Friday, October 10, there will be a workshop on Student Chancellor Awards.

Tim Newton (Music) and Gayane Torosyan (Communication Arts) are hosting a series of lectures with London-based music documentarian Jonathan Tolansky via Skype. Following a successful launch with Bizet's Carmen on September 25, the next event is scheduled for Friday, October 16 from 4 to 5:15 in IRC B-19 conference room, where light refreshments and audio/video clips on a high-definition screen will accompany a lively discussion of Verdi's Othello. Issues of race, class, gender and sexuality add contemporary dimensions to the fine analysis of masterpieces with this world-class expert, whose archive of music documentaries is housed in the Department of Communication Arts and online.

Eileen Morgan-Zayachek (Academic Affairs) announced two plenaries and mini-Institute. On Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the Waterfront Café Tia McNair talk on "Integrative Learning." On Friday, Oct. 23, 8:30-9:30 am, in the Craven Lounge, Thomas Nelson Laird will talk on "Student Academic Engagement." Following the second plenary, there will be a mini-institute, for groups interested in furthering these goals. Emails with additional information have been sent to all faculty and staff.

Karlis Kaugars (ITS) announced a series of presentations on faculty technology. On Thursday, October 8 there will be a talk on Cooperative Online International Learning (COIL). Additionally, there will be talks on using iPads in Organic Chemistry, the Digital Humanities, and twenty-first century technology and student disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.