

The College Senate
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF November 17, 2008
Craven Lounge, 3:00 P.M.

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm by Adam Ryburn, Chair

2. Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2008

Motion to approve minutes by Stephen Walsh (Management, Marketing, and Information Systems) and seconded by Tim Welch (Communication Arts) with two corrections.

3. Announcements

A. Maureen Artale (Registrar's Office): The College at Oneonta's SEFA/United Way campaign is currently underway. By now, every faculty and staff member should have received their United Way packets with information on donating. At this point, as a campus we are about \$5,000.00 short of our goal. Due to the national and regional economic challenges, this year, the United Way- and their community partners- need our support more than ever before. As a reminder, SEFA, the State Employees Federated Appeal, is the only authorized charitable solicitation of state employees. Since SEFA, is a federated campaign, employees can designate their contributions to a wide variety of health, human service, environmental and advocacy federations and organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. Join your colleagues across campus in making a real difference this fall with your participation in the 2008 SEFA/United Way Campaign. As an added incentive, they will be raffling off several prizes to anyone on campus who donates. Also, the United Way in conjunction with Reinhardt Home Heating will be entering anyone who donates more than \$2.00 per week or (\$104) into a drawing for \$1,000 in free energy.

4. Reports:

A. Presiding Officer – Adam Ryburn

- December 8th meeting will be held in the Waterfront at the Hunt Union.
- Online elections are now taking place to fill Faculty Committee vacancies. Voting will continue through this Friday (November 21st) at 5 p.m. Follow the link on the College Senate website to submit your votes.
- Reports from committees and departments were heard regarding the Draft Plan for Planning and Assessment. There was substantial time for the discussion of the plan which provided additional feedback to Patty Francis. Also, on Wednesday, November 19th from 3-4 p.m. there will be an open forum addressing the plan in Milne 318. If you have not discussed the plan with your colleagues, please do so as soon as possible. There are numerous supplementary materials located on the College Senate website which include the plan itself, and reports from various committees. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, a vote on the endorsement of the plan will occur at our next meeting on December 8th.
- As stated at a past meeting, the duty of a Chair of this body is to facilitate discussion and not take part in it. The Presiding Officer report does give the opportunity for the Chair to provide some thoughts and opinions, which were discussed.
- A proposal was submitted by the Steering Committee at the last meeting. Some concerns have been raised about why the appointing of members to the IAC and GEAC were based on recommendations over an elective process.
- The appointment process parallels that of other assessment related committees on our campus and across SUNY.

- By having the Presiding Officer nominate committee members and this body confirming the appointment of the members, we can achieve numerous goals: 1) this body plays a sizeable role in deciding who will serve on these committees, 2) those serving on these committees are knowledgeable about the work they will and are performing, and 3) those serving on these committees are willing to serve. These folks will be nominated and can easily decline the nomination if they choose. No one will serve if they don't want to.
- The committee selection procedure will likely go as follows: the Presiding Officer contacts the Divisional Vice President and Academic Deans to ask for consultation on members that will serve the committees. At the same time a call will go out to departments and administrative units asking for volunteers who wish to serve on these committees, in which recommendations are forwarded to the Presiding Officer. With further consultation with the Vice Presidents, Deans, and the Steering Committee, the Presiding Officer will submit the names of nominated members to this body for confirmation.
- If this body wishes to take action on the committees structure only as part of an amendment to the Plan itself, then Adam Ryburn supports that and asks that this motion be made later in the meeting.
- As pointed out previously, this plan was brought to the Faculty by the administration for comment, feedback, and ultimately endorsement. This entire process, up to this point, has been an excellent example of shared governance in which the administration wants "buy-in" to an action of this magnitude, prior to implementation, and highlights Dr. Kleniewski's desire for transparency. Patty Francis has been extremely patient with the College Senate as it has taken significant time to fully evaluate the Plan. Adam Ryburn wishes to thank the administration for this opportunity.

B. President – Nancy Kleniewski

- All are invited to attend the Breakfast Reception honoring the 2008 Retired Faculty and Staff and Faculty Accomplishments. Reception will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18th in the Otsego Grille, Morris Conference Center.
- Because of computer complications, the survey that was mentioned at our last meeting was not sent. The survey will be sent via email tomorrow.
- Budget numbers are in. The cumulative effect of the budget reductions in State support for the Oneonta campus is \$2.4 million reduction for this year, which will grow to \$2.7 million for next year. These cuts represent a 14.3% reduction in State support. Budgetary reductions have been accommodated through a combination of an increase of \$620.00 in resident undergraduate tuition, and proportionate increases in non-resident and graduate tuition; holding positions vacant; by reviewing a number of budgetary measures such as increased overhead charges on non-State accounts and generation of additional revenues that could produce additional savings.
- Since receiving budget information, College Cabinet will be meeting on Thursday to look at ways to save money.
- Thank you for considering the Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment. The Plan is a good one and President Kleniewski is hopeful that we can move ahead.
- Gave United Way contribution to Maureen Artale.

C. Student Association President – Dean McGowan

- Thank you to all faculty and staff who attended Indian Night and Asian Night last Friday. Both events were very successful.
- The Student Association is holding a Holiday Tea on December 4th from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the Union Square. All are welcome to attend and show your support.

D. University Faculty Senator – Orlando Legname

- The Comprehensive Colleges, reported to the Chancellor that we are concerned about four issues. The issues that are of concern are transferability, budget costs, administrative intrusion into campus governance, and administrative improprieties regarding curricular design. The Chancellor responded to questions and concerns.
- The issue of Transferability and Articulation raises two concerns. First, transferability presents significant problems by awarding baccalaureate credit for courses taken through NY community colleges that are taught by secondary school teachers. Second, transferability may create assessment problems for programs that are involved in licensure and professional accreditation, by requiring acknowledgement of a program not registered to a licensing board or accreditation agency. Despite these problems, the comprehensive colleges endorse the joint committee's resolution on transferability. The Chancellor responded by saying he applauded the colleges' endorsement of the joint committee's resolution.
- The Comprehensive Colleges detected six infractions by administrative offices on several different campuses. The intrusive practices include, 1) violation of standing committee appointment procedures, 2) inclusion of management/confidential personnel on campus review committees, 3) refusal to acknowledge the legitimacy of a duly elected CGL, 4) continued administrative "creep" when ad hoc committees are established to governance procedures. The Chancellor responded by saying that he is not aware or familiar with individual cases and that these should be taken up by the respective Faculty Senates and, if necessary, referred to the University Faculty Senate to determine if further action is warranted.
- The Comprehensive Colleges noted several instances in which the administration launched curricular changes without approval or proper consultation with faculty. The Chancellor referred to the Faculty Senate's Governance Handbook: "*Campus presidents and academic administration are statutorily responsible for the quality of academic programs and policies. However, the presidents and administrations cannot develop and implement curricula without the active participation of the faculty...*"
- The Comprehensive Colleges noted that faculty want to proceed proactively in assisting the University as it maintains campus missions during reactionary fiscal period. They are urging System Administration to instruct campus presidents to publish their short-term tactics, for the next two financial quarters, so that we can plan together to minimize expected mid-year budget cuts. The Chancellor responded by saying that budget transparency is critical for both the faculty and the college community to have both the appropriate information and the opportunity for discussion and input so the right decisions are made regarding the financial future of the respective institution in question.

5. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee – Deborah Farro-Lynd (Mathematics)

- Changes to History Major: motion made by committee and accepted by Eileen McClafferty (Academic Advisement) and seconded by Achim Koeddermann (Philosophy). Motion passed.
- Report was given on changes that were made to the Music Performance Minor.
- Report was given on the Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment. A summary of their discussion can be found on the College Senate web page.

B. Committee on Instruction – Brian Beitzel (Educational Psychology & Counseling)

- The committee highlighted the concerns they have regarding the plan. A summary of their discussion can be found on the College Senate web page.

C. Committee on Administrative Review – Michael Koch (Philosophy)

- The committee highlighted the concerns they have regarding the plan. A summary of their discussion can be found on the College Senate web page.

6. Addresses from Members of the College Community

A. Patty Francis (Instit. Assessment & Effectiveness)

- Continued discussion of the Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment. (found on College Senate Website)
- Highlighted and answered the top concerns that may lead to a better understanding of the Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment. Possible concern or question that we may be asking ourselves is “Why a plan?”; “Why this plan?”; “What does Middle States say?”; “What is the plan?”.
- Responded to some of the concerns that we have about the plan.

7. Old Business

A. Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee brought to the floor the Proposed Committee Structure for the Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment.
- Motion made by Michael Koch to postpone the decision on the committee structure and have it be added to the Action Plan that will be discussed at the December 8th College Senate meeting; seconded by Achim Koeddermann. Motion carried.

8. Comments and Discussion

A. Draft Action Plan for Planning and Assessment

- Department representatives gave opinions on the Draft Action Plan.
- Some of the concerns and issues that were raised were the scarce resources we have to use during a period of budget crisis; the increase in non-instructional obligations of faculty and staff; the top-down feel of the plan; a one-size-fits-all model; stability and fairness of committee structures.

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by Deb Sperano, College Senate Secretary