Minutes of the College Senate of the State University of New York College at Oneonta
4 October 2010

The third regular meeting of the 2010-2011 College Senate of the State University College at Oneonta was held on October 25, 2010 in the Morris Conference Center at 3:00 p.m. The Presiding Officer of the Faculty and the Secretary of the Faculty were both present and serving in their elected capacities for this meeting.

The minutes of October 4, 2010 regular meeting of the College Senate were distributed before this meeting and were presented for approval. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent and will be posted on the Senate website.

The report of the Presiding Officer of the Faculty, Renee Walker, was received. She reported on the discussions of the meetings of the teaching faculty that were held this past month. She also commented that the Steering Committee has called for an ad-hoc committee to be formed to explore amendment of the by-laws of the faculty.

The report of the College President, Nancy Kleniewski, was then received. She reported on an additional $500,000 cut to SUNY coming from Albany, and discussed mechanisms for dealing with the cut through existing processes. She also reported that the Budget Advisory Committee would be meeting for the first time on Friday, October 29, 2010 for the purpose of soliciting feedback and distributing information about budgetary issues. She thanked the Faculty and Students for their contributions to all of the events of the last weekend, including Life of the Mind, Homecoming, and Family Weekend.

The Student Association President, Rick Heil, had no report.

The University Faculty Senator for the College, Richard Lee, was then received. His report will be made available by Wednesday or Thursday on the Senate website, and would recommend that all who are interested in his complete report. Main topics that were discussed include 1) Budget, Staffing, and Reorganization; 2) General Education and Seamless Articulation; 3) The importance of participation on State-wide Committees, and; 4) A desire to continue to publicize how much cutting SUNY will impact quality of education in the state.

The Graduate Committee reported through its chairperson, Cynthia Falk, regarding a letter of intent for a proposal for a new Master of Science degree in Science Museum Studies to be offered by the Cooperstown Graduate Program. The letter of intent was distributed to Senators prior to the meeting. William Walker (Cooperstown Graduate Program) moved that

Having reviewed the letter of intent for a new graduate program in Science Museum Studies, be it resolved that the College Senate endorses the new MS program and recommends that the letter of intent be submitted to SUNY System Administration with the understanding that the courses Marketing, Leadership, and Finance will be correctly identified as the existing courses titled Museum Marketing, Museum Leadership, and Museum Finance.
The motion carried.

The Provost Search Committee reported through its chairperson, Gretchen Sorin, regarding the Provost search process. She solicited feedback on the qualities that the faculty wanted to prioritize in a Provost candidate search, to be delivered at a variety of campus forums, including a dedicated email address provostsearch@oneonta.edu. The committee distributed a preliminary list of requirements and the chairperson solicited feedback from the body and this feedback will be used to prioritize the qualities sought in a new Provost.

The resolution relating to the Logging of College Camp, which was postponed from the last meeting, was then taken up. This motion, as amended, was postponed until after an open forum on the topic was to be held later that month. After further debate and amendment, the main motion, as amended was considered:

Whereas, OAS has contracted a commercial logging operation to harvest 617 or more trees in the college camp forest, and;

Whereas, the College Camp forest is being used extensively for instructional purposes for classes in the Biology, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Philosophy and Physical Education Departments as well as for recreational and social activities by faculty, students and staff, and;

Whereas, The College Camp, infrastructure and physical facilities provide an extremely valuable asset to the College, its faculty, students and staff for instructional, recreational and social uses,

Be it resolved, that we recommend a moratorium on any additional logging activities until a comprehensive plan that uses the best practices for forest sustainability can be developed with input from all stakeholders and one or more non-commercial foresters and under the oversight of the V.P. for Academic Affairs.

We further recommend that the forest in College Camp be managed according best practices for sustainability.

The motion passed.

The Committee on Administrative Review reported through its chairperson, Jerome Blechman, regarding a resolution on faculty consultation with regards to the Provost and Deans’ Search Committees. Michael McAvoy (Economics, Finance, and Accounting) moved that the body adopt the resolution, reading:

WHEREAS, the State University of New York College at Oneonta (hereafter, the “College”) has begun a national search to appoint a new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the College, and;
WHEREAS, the State University of New York Policies of the Board of Trustees (hereafter, the “Policies”), Article IX, “College Officers and Organizations”, Title B, “College Administrative Officers”, Section 2, “Appointment” states “Appointment of academic officers such as vice-president for academic affairs, academic deans and others with similar responsibilities shall be made after consultation with the faculty”, and;

WHEREAS, the Policies, Article X, “College Faculty”, Section 4, “Responsibilities”, state that, “The faculty of each college shall have the obligation to participate significantly in the initiation, development and implementation of the educational program”, and;

WHEREAS, an announcement to the College Senate as representative body of the faculty was made on September 22, 2010 that the job description and advertisement for the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the College had been written, the search committee structure had been decided, and individuals had been invited to serve on the search committee, and;

WHEREAS, at one of its regular meetings, at the request of the Steering Committee of the College Senate, the Administrative Review Committee discussed actions that may constitute consulting the college faculty and that committee decided that the actions announced do not constitute consultation with the faculty,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty of the College and faculty in the Division of Academic Affairs in particular be consulted prior to all further decisions and steps taken towards searching for and employing a new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the College, and;

BE IT RESOLVED that consultation with the faculty include direct communication at regularly scheduled or special meetings of the faculty, the College Senate, or the appropriate faculty committee, soliciting input and opening a dialogue between the faculty and administration personnel, and;

BE IT RESOLVED that the College Senate requests that, when direct communication at regularly scheduled or special meetings of the faculty, the College Senate, or the appropriate faculty committee is not possible, that communication in the form of e-mail, surveys, or similar means to all the teaching and non-teaching faculty be utilized, with an invitation for further dialogue, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all future searches for academic officers of the College, such as vice-president for academic affairs, academic deans and others with similar responsibilities, shall be conducted in close consultation with the Faculty of the College and its representatives starting from the time when the position in question becomes open.

The previous question was called for, and the motion passed. The main motion was then considered, and the motion carried.
The Committee on Instruction, through its chairperson Brian Beitzel, arose to the purpose of moving a package of resolutions regarding a proposed Student Response to Faculty Instruction instructor assessment instrument. Beitzel moved that we adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Student Perception of Instruction (SPI) instrument has been in use for 19 years without any direct evidence of its validity; and

WHEREAS, the recently developed Student Response to Faculty Instruction (SRFI) instrument has been subjected to two pilot studies and has demonstrated acceptable levels of both reliability and validity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the SRFI instrument shall replace the SPI instrument beginning in the spring semester of 2011.

Quorum was called at 4:31 pm. 3/5 of the voting membership being 54 votes, quorum was not met as there were only 51 voting members in attendance. After further discussion expressing general disappointment and anger about our inability to conduct business after 4 p.m., the meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ellis
Secretary