The fifth regular meeting of the 2010-2011 College Senate of the State University College at Oneonta was held on November 29, 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 November 8, 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 then received. She reflected on the semester just past and expressed pleasure with how much work had been accomplished during the first semester of the academic year, and reported on current and ongoing activities of the steering committee.

The report of the College President, Nancy Kleniewski, was then received. She discussed efforts to deal with current budget challenges, and the impact of those efforts on the campus community. These include planned restructuring efforts and specifically mentioned how little the academic mission of the college has been affected by the challenges. Her full report, with details of these efforts, will be made available on the Senate webpage.

The report of the Student Association President, Rick Heil, was then received. He expressed his thanks for a great semester and expressed his wishes to see us all next semester if his academic plans permit.

The report of University Faculty Senator for the College, Richard Lee, was then received. He reviewed new information under current issues, including that the SUNY Chancellor is serving as a co-chair of the NCATE Blue Ribbon panel. He also highlighted the most recent report from the Comprehensive College sector institutions.

The Curriculum Committee reported through its chairperson, Deborah Farro-Lynd, regarding proposed curricular changes to the Music Industry program that had been approved at the last meeting. After brief discussion, the resolution was passed.

The Committee on Instruction, through its chairperson Brian Beitzel, was then recognized to resume consideration of a package of resolutions regarding a proposed Student Response to Faculty Instruction (SRFI) instructor assessment instrument. Resolution C was then moved by Larry Guzy (Psychology). After several amendments and further debate, the resolution was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, SRFI data must be handled with integrity; and
WHEREAS, meaningful comparison data are necessary in order to establish an understanding of whether improvement in instruction is needed; and

WHEREAS, half of the courses in which the SPI is administered are 100-level courses; and

WHEREAS, modern statistical tools allow greater flexibility in reporting results that are integrated with comparative data, thereby saving valuable time of faculty members; and

WHEREAS, individuals or groups examining SRFI data should understand the limitations of these data; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that SRFI results shall not be returned to faculty until after the last deadline for submitting grades for that semester; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SRFI results returned to faculty shall include the mean, median, and standard deviation for each item, and the frequencies of each response choice for each item; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SRFI means shall be reported to no more than one decimal place and standard deviations to no more than two decimal places; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SRFI results for each course shall be compared to those of (a) the department in which the course is taught and (b) the course level (i.e., 100-level, 200-level, 300-level, and with 500- and 600-level combined), never the College-wide average; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SRFI results shall be returned to faculty in a format that can be placed directly into dossiers without re-configuration or integration of comparative data; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the guidelines published by the Committee on Instruction for interpreting SRFI data shall be included as a cover sheet for any SRFI data submitted by faculty for review; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a mandatory review of the SRFI results be conducted after two semesters of its initial adoption from this campus and that it shall be continually evaluated as necessary by the Committee on Instruction, with the consultation of a statistician from this campus.

Resolution D was then moved for consideration by Ben Dixon (Geography). After amendment and further debate, the resolution was adopted as follows, by a divided vote of 28-12, with 15 abstentions:

WHEREAS, excellence in instruction is integral to the College’s Mission and Vision; and
WHEREAS, faculty have expressed a desire for improved guidance in the process of providing feedback to peers in the area of teaching; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that faculty shall be encouraged to seek informal peer reviews to improve their teaching

Jen Bueche (Human Ecology), the new Faculty Athletic Representative, was recognized to present a college community report regarding her role and responsibilities and the importance of a strong relationship between faculty and athletics. Her report will be available on the Senate webpage.

Donna Vogler (Biology) was then recognized to present a college community report on the SEFA United Way Campaign. She encouraged everyone to consider participating in the current fundraising drive.

Announcements for the good of the order were then entertained from the floor. The meeting was then adjourned at 4:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ellis
Secretary
Transcript:

Will Walker amendment - 300-level, 400-level, and 500-and 600-level combined addition. Passed.

Jen Schlesinger? - amendment - RESOLVED, that a mandatory review of the SRFI results be conducted after two semesters of its initial adoption and that it shall be continually evaluated as necessary by the Committee on Instruction.
After discussion – passed

Leah Bridgers – amendment IN CONSULTATION WITH A STATISTICIAN FROM THIS CAMPUS - passed on a divided vote

Tom Horvath – rose in opposition – objection to consideration of the main motion. After clarification - failed 18-30-9

Tom Horvath – amendment – replace mean with median failed

Trudi - median, mean, and std. dev - passed.

On the main motion – passed

Resolution D – Ben Dixon moved

Rob Compton – ALS – strike second clause. Passed

Rob Compton – ALS – strike first clause Passed

The main motion, as amended, was then passed 28-12-15