

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

2023-12-01 Faculty Senate Meeting

Current and Ongoing Items:

Issues Facing Committees:

- FRRC will likely not get a copy of the faculty handbook to review until next semester. Academic affairs changed the process to give President prior review. This has the advantage of making sure that anything that comes to FRRC to review will be acceptable but has the disadvantage of making the process a bit longer. We still hope to have a faculty handbook finalized by the end of Spring 2024.
- TLRC has raised some concerns about appointing a director to the CETL from the faculty, and has asked for the director to be a professional hire. The problem is the lack of resources to get a full-time professional hire in this position. But the CETL should be a priority, perhaps something to think about in strategic planning?

Other issues:

- SSEI Institutional Transformation Assessment survey was sent out on 11/8. It came from Kyle (andersonk@oldwestbury.edu). There are many high-level questions, but you can always answer "unsure" if you don't know. That is also an important data point that can help guide communications to faculty in the future around student success. This is a long-term, multi-year project. It is due Dec. 11th.
- Campus + University Teaching Environment survey closed on 11/17. There were 114 respondents. Before the next semester, FS will look at the results of the survey to determine priorities for the semester.
- Presidential Committees: Working this week to appoint people to the new, updated Presidential Committee structure (Campus Life, Operational Excellence, Planning & Budget, and IT Governance and Advisory are the four Presidential Committees according to the new structure). If you served on a Presidential Committee in the past and would like to continue serving, please email andersonk@oldwestbury.edu.
- Provost Search: We invited four great candidates to campus, and I hope you all got a chance to see them. The President is in the feedback and background check phase of the search, which can take up to 3 more weeks. He expects an announcement on our next Provost in early January. He further expects Dorothy to continue well into the spring semester as our Interim Provost. He and Dorothy are proceeding with the goal of having the least possible disruption to our academic enterprise during this transition.

- Online program registration: SUNY regs have traditionally said that, if a student can take 60+ credits of a 120 credit major online, then the program has to be registered as an online program. (This is an authorization to do the program all-online, but not an obligation to do so.) During COVID, a waiver was granted so all courses could go remote. Since then, SUNY has been issuing waivers to this regulation. This year, those waivers are expiring and at some point in mid-October, SUNY gave campuses a Dec. 1 deadline to mass submit all programs for online registration. There was some talk about trying to get a request in by this deadline, but due to faculty pushback and the President hearing that and acknowledging it, that effort has been delayed. **We will not be registering all programs as online programs this semester.**

Vacancies:

- Camille Jones has agreed to serve on the **Student Conduct Committee**. Thank you for your service, Camille!
- We still have three vacancies on the **Student Conduct Committee**: 1 SAS and 2 At-Large
- **Call to service:** looking for faculty to serve on the Student Success & Growth Strategic Planning Subcommittee, and the Operational Excellence and Campus Life Presidential committees.