Faculty Senate Chair's Report

2024-12-06 Faculty Senate Meeting

Current and Ongoing Items:

Issues Facing Committees:

- FRRC: planned and held a second forum on the faculty handbook. I did not attend this one as chair, because I wanted to allow faculty to freely express their feedback without getting in the way. There will be a report from FRRC on the agenda later discussing the results of the forums. Please read the updated handbook and let myself or someone on the EC know if you have any specific suggestions for improvement.

- LEC: has been presented with a draft of SUNY General Education updates. The two proposed new domains are "Information Literacy," which includes but is not limited to Artificial Intelligence, and "Civic Discourse in Democracy." These domains are not finalized yet and are still currently under discussion.

- SLC: has been meeting with students and identified four issues of concern for them: 1) Lack of information/clarity regarding the changes in the federal FAFSA program and how that impacts financial aid (it has caused some to not come back to campus this semester according to the students present in the meeting). 2) Scarcity of food on campus as part of the meal plan (not available at needed hours, limited food options, students are forced to user external delivery food services in addition to paying the meal plan). 3) Cost of textbooks. 4) Shuttle bus service (an issue also for faculty), especially on the weekends. The service is not reliable and students need to use Uber.

- TLRC: A workshop on difficult conversations was organized by TLRC and co-sponsored by the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) center, which was chaired by Keisha Goode (SOC), Samara Smith (ASMC), Elizabeth Schmermund and Jessica Williams (ENG).

  It was well-attended, and brought up two important issues which, in my estimation, merit campus-wide discussion. First, the process of reporting sexual assault or other Title IX violations, which faculty felt were often not addressed because they were told they "did not rise to the level" of a legal violation. Second, the mental health counseling center, which is understaffed and consequently has long wait periods (sometimes exceeding multiple months) before students can be seen.

Other Issues:

- Public Education is a Public Good: The SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) is taking up the cause of funding public higher education. Later on the agenda, we will be discussing an endorsement of a UFS resolution on this topic. I would also like to bring your attention to a UFS-sponsored conference in Albany next February, Public Good U: Strengthening the Case for Public Higher Education. There is still time to **submit an abstract** to present at the conference. We have **six different tracks** that you can speak to, and **multiple formats available** (everything from 75 minute panel discussions down to 6 minute Ignite sessions). If you have thoughts about public higher education in the new political landscape that we will be moving in to next year, I encourage you to share them. Also, **registration is now open** for the conference.

- Transportation Survey: On Thursday, VP SA Randall Edouard sent out a transportation survey that "may lead to the expansion of public bus access on our campus." Please take a moment to fill out the survey, which you can access with the QR code or the link below:

  Transportation Survey



- Academic Integrity Policy
  Changes in the process of reporting breach to the Academic Integrity policy are under discussion in the School of Arts and Sciences. The proposal is to report breaches of academic integrity to Department Chairs instead of the Dean. The hope is that this would encourage more faculty to report breaches when they occur, with the sense that the severity of the consequence is less if the letter comes from a chair instead of a Dean. Meanwhile, the Academic Integrity policy

still has not been updated, as far as I know, to reflect the resolution that this body passed last year, November 16, 2023, “Academic Practices and Policies Committee Resolution on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.” I was told in September that this process had begun but that it would take time and is now

- Upcoming Academic Freedom discussion: You’re invited to join a December 4 discussion on **Academic Freedom and UUP**. In this virtual workshop, we’ll discuss the current national environment for Academic Freedom, relevant case law on the topic, and the specific protections that UUP academics are afforded under our contract. The sessions will be presented by myself and NYSUT Staff Director for UUP Jeremy Ginsburg. All UUP members are welcome to attend, but the session will be dedicated to Academic Freedom as it applies to UUP academic employees.

  Sessions will be held **December 4** from 12-1.30pm and 3.30-5pm; **click here** to register.

Vacancies

- SCC (FJC): three vacancies (1 SOB, 1 SAS, 1 At-large)

- NCMCC: Thank you, Lisa Lewin, for filling the final role for an SOB member on the NCMCC!