

Academic Senate  
January 24, 2023

**Members Present:**

J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice-President), J. Andersen, J. Battye, L. C. Chu, P. Clifford, B. Clinton, B. Alves, N. Germain, M. Hall, L. Kelley, J. Knapp, P. Lemieux, E. Espitia-Loaiza, M. Lowe, B. Lynch, E. Michalski, J. Oliver, E. Pagano, C. Pardan, J., M. Phillion, Porzuczek, T. Shizume, D. Walsh

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes (Motion from S. Buchbinder, Second by M. Phillion)
  - a. Correct Jon Andersen's spelling (from Anderson)
2. Academic Program Planning Committee – our representative, B. Dubovsky-Porter, has a conflict (they hadn't planned meetings when we elected her).
  - a. Monthly meetings are on Mondays at 2 pm (the first meeting is today 1/22)
    1. B. Dubovsky-Porter will abdicate and allow us to elect another representative or someone proxy for her.
    2. No faculty members in attendance offered to replace her or be her proxy at the meetings. J. Spjut will inquire for more information (e.g., committee charge, release time, responsibilities out of committee) and solicit the faculty for a fill-in for the February meeting when a date is set.
3. Update on upcoming CT State Senate Agenda for 26 Jan 2024 – Norly Germain
  - a. Reminder: the CT State Senate meetings are open for discussion of CT Statewide issues
  - b. In the December meeting, they discussed the final exam schedule issues from last semester and a draft of the new spring 2024 schedule, which J. Lewis sent out asking for feedback (John shared a draft and is looking for feedback). The schedule will be addressed at the January meeting, and feedback can be solicited until this Wednesday.
  - c. There was no time to discuss the academic affairs committee. The committee often can't get through the agendas.
  - d. Norly will send out the final agenda to J. Spjut or the Academic Senate list.
4. Use of financial aid for the bookstore is unavailable online (see <https://qvcc.edu/>)
  - a. This is a CT state-initiated change last Thursday due to no log-in required to use financial aid and concerns of fraud.
  - b. Problems with the change at the start of the spring semester.
    1. Willimantic students are disproportionately impacted by this since many used online purchasing and mail delivery and now need to go to Danielson to use financial aid for books, which is an unacceptable burden.
    2. Also, QV home campus students taking online courses at another campus will need to drive to that campus to use financial aid for books, which is an unacceptable burden.
  - c. Faculty comment:

1. Tamieka Davis, the Interim VP of Enrollment Management for CT State, sent the announcement. Who decided to make this change this the first week of class? Who is accountable?
  1. B. Donahue-Lynch asked which committee is responsible and can address this since it's a CT State-wide issue.
  2. This is an equity issue. Where is there no bookstore representation in Willimantic? Not all people can pay out of pocket and wait for financial aid.
- d. Resolution for immediate action since this is an major issue the first week of classes.
  1. First resolution: "Students must be able to use financial aid to purchase course materials, regardless of where they live and which course they are enrolled in. The Quinebaug Valley Academic Senate requests that Quinebaug Valley campus ensure that is the case for students at both Danielson and Willimantic equally, and that CT State ensure that all students can place orders using financial aid through Follett Online. This must happen by the first week of classes so that students don't fall behind in instruction."
    1. Motion by J. Spjut and second by M. Phillion, passes 22 in favor and 1 abstention
    2. Second resolution with edits for clarity: "Revision "With immediate effect, Quinebaug Valley Academic Senate urges campus and system leadership to guarantee that students, regardless of home campus or cross-campus course enrollment, are able to use financial aid to purchase books through Follett Online. The impact to student success, retention and enrollment cannot be overstated."
      1. Motion by E. Pagano and second E. Espitia-Loaiza. Passed with 22 in favor.
      3. J. Spjut will follow up with J. Green and L. Tashea that this isn't acceptable.
5. Faculty Course Load discussion – were there struggles for Spring 2024?
  - a. There was a discussion facilitated by J. Battye, and below are notes compiled by J. Battye.
  - b. The sense that once robust classes are now struggling is widespread among faculty
    - QV Spanish students are going to other campuses because they have online languages, but QV does not have them.
    - The number of classes students can now take to satisfy Arts and Humanities has greatly expanded. It dilutes the number of students who used to take our bread-and-butter classes, and there is a sense that this is exacerbated by us being so far down in the listings.
      - i. For example, Intro to Humanities, which used to always run, has struggled for enrollment and has been canceled this year.
      - ii. Introduction to Software has been canceled, and this always ran
    - Another barrier to enrollment is that some classes that used to have no prerequisites now have them. This happened during the discipline meetings 2 years ago and is proving to be a barrier to registration, as per a conversation with advising.
    - It was noted that teaching CCS classes should not become standard procedure for faculty who are professionals in specific content areas where they bring depth and understanding to the classroom.

- There is concern that upper-level classes should be taught on-ground, with Abnormal Psychology being the example. QV campus students have signed up for online Abnormal Psychology as they saw it first on the schedule. The content specialist/faculty member overseeing this area is concerned about students being able to adequately cover material at this level online.
  - HSER/CJS classes have been canceled across the system resulting in stress on faculty who need to scramble for sections.
  - Manchester seems to be at the top of the schedule in many instances. This is not alphabetical and possibly not fair.
  - Full-time faculty have asked the following and received no clear answer:
    - a. To teach classes on other campuses to ensure a full load.
    - b. To bump an adjunct from another campus to ensure a full load.
    - c. To take some students from a full class at another campus to ensure a foundation course for a full-time faculty member at QV.
6. The remainder of the agenda was pushed to the February meeting:
- a. Resolution on CT State Course Search by Home Campus
    - 1. CT State merger combined course search for all campuses.
      - 1. Current Banner programming puts certain campuses on top of the search (highly placed) regardless of home campus (e.g., Manchester).
        - 1. The current system has contributed to priority enrollment in online courses for highly placed campuses at the top of searches)
      - 2. Having students take online courses at home or local campus (when available) is important for a variety of reasons.
        - 1. Students benefit from connecting with faculty and staff on campus local to them (e.g., library, tutoring, student services)
        - 2. Students benefit from local faculty & continuity that will help with recommendation letters, field placements, and office hours.
  - b. ECSU No Confidence in Chancellor Cheng (see <https://ctmirror.org/2024/01/16/ecsueastern-ct-university-terrence-cheng-cscu/>)
  - c. Discipline-specific scheduling issues (avoiding cross-campus competition)
7. Motion to Adjourn at 1:11 pm by S. Buchbinder and J. Spjut seconded.

The next Academic Senate meeting will be Monday, 2/19, at 2 pm.