

Academic Senate
September 16, 2024

Members Present: J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice-President); B. Kaufman (Curriculum Coordinator); B. Alves; J. Andersen; J. Battye; L.C. Chu; P. Clifford; B. Clinton; B. Donahue-Lynch; B. Dubovsky-Porter; N. Germain; T. Greer; K. Griffiths; M. Hall; L. Kelly; J. Knapp; P. Lemieux; J. Lewis; M. Lowe; E. Michalski; E. Pagano; M. Phillion; C. Shirshac; T. Shizume; D. Walsh; K. Zvoma.

Agenda

1. Approval of June Minutes. The motion was made by S. Buchbinder and seconded by B. Clinton (passed with 21 votes and 2 abstentions).
 - a. Note: Going forward, we will use a consent agenda.
2. QV Academic Senate Year in Summary 2023-2024
 - a. Jakob created and shared an academic year summary, which included all the minutes and a summary of the major items addressed. There is no requirement for this, but it is good practice to increase transparency.
3. New Senate Leadership and membership
 - a. Jakob updated the membership. There are 38 members, and a quorum is 20 (half membership +1). It will take 13 votes to pass a motion with a quorum this year.
 - i. Note: One Academic Senate member left, and there are 2 new members. If people should be removed or added, let Jakob know.
 - b. Curriculum Coordinator: Brian Kaufman
 - i. In this new role, he will help with curriculum issues (e.g., finding the answer). He will reach out to everyone in state-level governance by email.
 - ii. There is a governance review meeting on Friday, October 11th at the Manchester campus. The Academic Senate heads have been contacted, and some SDC, SACC, and CC leadership may be invited. Look out.
 - iii. J. Andersen is on an advisory board to the Board of Regents. Contact him about BOR-related issues.
 - c. CT State Senator representing QV faculty: Jayne Battye
 - i. She checked with Provost Hynick on the Home Campus search issue and was informed it was fixed when students were logged in. Senate leadership checked, and it's not fixed.
 - ii. She will keep reporting to this body.
 - d. General Education Committee: Brian Donohue-Lynch.

- i. He is on a subcommittee on assessment and is the QV contact. So far, the committee isn't focused but is engaging in shared governance and is working quickly.
- 4. CT State – Quinebaug Valley English and Communication Area Policy on Plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence with Optional Examples (Jon Andersen).
 - a. J. Anderson & English and Communication faculty developed a policy for those disciplines. These are optional guidelines for non-English and Communications courses. Other courses can adopt it. This is part of larger conversations across disciplines and classes of what students can expect from class to class.
 - b. There are upcoming events, including a TLC Lunch and Learn in October with J. Andersen about the policy and events with T. Greer and P. Clifford.
- 5. Follow-up on Resolution on CT State Course Search by Home Campus (passed 18 March 2024)
 - a. Faculty shared there are continuing issues with Home Campus search, including classes that historically ran being canceled.
- 6. QV Academic Senate Website (Jakob Spjut)
 - a. He met with CT State website folks on 13 June 2024 (along with D. Hernandez, M. Hall, and P. Bennett) about various things, including ensuring that the QV Academic Senate keeps the ability to post information like minutes to a website.
 - b. After that meeting, our QV Academic Senate webpage disappeared, and we don't yet have a replacement on the [main shared governance page](#). Jakob just followed up on 14 Sep. 2024, so hopefully, we'll see action soon.
 - c. There will be a QV Governance Site (with Academic Senate information) on the CT State site
 - i. There is a CT State space – that needs to be updated (e.g., add minutes)
 - d. Note: The QVCC site will disappear at the end of this academic year, and things may be taken down with no notice, so start archiving important things on the CT State website.
- 7. Priorities for this year in Academic Senate
 - a. Concerns about how to address shared issues. Who to go to? How do I follow up?
 - i. There are simple policy issues. For example, there are issues with IT losing local permissions. We can display names to show our campus (which makes working harder and erases our identity).
 - ii. There are bigger issues like Willimantic and shared governance. How do we not get run around? (e.g., go talk to X, no go talk to Y).
 - b. Textbook issues with Follett: They are running out of books (not ordering enough). For example, they ran out of BIO 1210 at the start of this semester. They may be ordering books based on past semester orders. This is important since students use financial aid to purchase books through the bookstore. This will be looked into.
 - c. Willimantic concerns are a priority (and the next item).
- 8. Willimantic concerns

- a. Jakob Spjut sent an email with concerns on August 22nd, receiving a quick reply from Dr. Gomez the same day.
 - b. Concerns were discussed again during a meeting with Academic and Staff Senate leadership on Sep 4th
 - i. Dr. Gomez affirmed that there wouldn't be equal amount of resources due to the size of the center. There is a lack of clarity on what is sufficient for access to an equal education.
 - c. The Willimantic campus was a focus on Sep 9th Academic Division Lead meeting
 - i. Dean Griswald shared heat maps for scheduling and staff coverage for Willimantic and Danielson.
 - 1. The recommendation from the meeting was for there to be a staff generalist hired to help with all types of student services. This is on the Staff Senate agenda.
 - a. There were requests in the Academic Senator for a Director or Coordinator level position.
 - 2. It was shared that there won't be any hiring unless the budget changes and/or enrollment increases.
 - ii. Dean Griswald sent feedback to Jakob before this meeting:
 - 1. Some issues were addressed (no IDs, scheduling, book sign-out process). There is scheduling for the Willimantic Center currently happening on a subcommittee.
 - a. S. Buchbinder noted that three weeks into the semester, there had been no new IDs for most students and no work-study students.
 - d. Current Willimantic situation
 - i. No additional state resources were given to QV after the renovation.
 - 1. Last year, the budget was cut the budget (lost interim director position)
 - 2. Won't put more resources in until there are more students (but the center needs more resources to attract and maintain students),
 - ii. Good issues for the upcoming Town Hall with a rescheduled date TBA.
 - 1. All Quinebaug Valley community members are invited to share questions ahead of time, and you may submit your questions anonymously. There are two ways that you can do this:
 - a. Submit your question using this link
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeK77n6ObMtvnR7kr9T2v-kLbHTFIZL39ovYjmNwkCESIJ9xQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
 - b. Write your question on a piece of paper and deposit it in the locked box in Lois Kelley's office.
9. New Motion: The QV Academic Senate requests course releases or additional responsibilities for FT faculty members to serve student affairs generalists as a stop gap

until a full-time person is hired. The motion was made by S. Buchbinder and seconded by K. Zvoma (Passed with 23 votes and 1 abstention)

- a. Discussion:
 - i. There's a concern that this tactic won't be effective since previous attempts have been ignored.
 - ii. We need to be clear that this is only a stop gap, and our goal is for a FT person to be hired.
 - iii. This motion is aimed at spring 2025 (fall 2024 is already negotiated, and loads have been made).
 - 1. For fall 2024, can people volunteer to move office hours to Willimantic to cover time?
 - iv. Volunteers for spring 2025: S. Buchbinder and B. Clinton. Anyone else interested should email J. Spjut.
- b. J. Spjut will send this motion to Dean Griswold since he negotiates schedules and workload.
 - i. Note: The Academic Senate's summer inquiry about Willimantic went to CEO Gomez because many of the issues concerned him, including Willimantic Center Leadership.

10. Old QV Policies

- a. Many Academic Senate policies are not relevant or out of date. Options:
 - i. Update current policies. Email J. Spjut if you're interested.
 - ii. Use CT State policies

Agenda Items Tabled.

1. Display names for faculty emails could show campus affiliation [Note: This issue was resolved after the meeting].
2. CCS 1001 course assignments – are faculty concerned about a misallocation of resources (instructors teaching out of discipline)? Is it strategically wise to base so much of our load on a course that doesn't transfer many places?
3. Academic Engagement emails: a specific example of information overload causing miscommunication.
4. Academic Program Review (tabled from May 2024) – Brian Donohue-Lynch
5. NASA CT Space Grant Consortium – open for proposals (see <https://ctspacegrant.org/>)
6. Ensuring that CT State courses continue to transfer: any concerns or strategies?

Adjourned at 3:17 pm. The motion was made by P. Clifford and seconded by B. Kaufman.