Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2025

Members Present: J. Spjut (President), S Buchbinder (Vice President), B. Kaufman (Curriculum Coordinator); B. Alves; J. Andersen; J. Battye; P. Clifford; B. Clinton; D. Hernandez; N. Germain; T. Greer; M. Hall; L. Kelley; J. Knapp; P. Lemieux, J. Lewis; C. Ling-Chaun; B. Lynch; E. Michalski; J. Oliver; E. Pagano; M. Philion; T. Shizume; S. Van Orden; D. Walsh; K. Zvoma

1. Meeting convened at 2 pm.

2. February minutes approved with no corrections.

3. Vote for a new faculty representative to the CT State College Senate (starting Fall 2025)
   a. Erin Pagano is willing to serve in this capacity and has state governance experience.
   b. **Vote to approve Erin Pagano (20 approve & 2 abstentions). Erin Pagano will be the CT State Senator for QV for a 3-year term starting Fall 2025.**

4. Vote for faculty to serve on the Campus Advisory Committee for the Presidential Search
   a. Jess Porzuczek will willing to serve.
   b. **Vote to approve Jess Porzuczek (20 approve & 2 abstentions).Jess Porzuczek is on the Campus Advisory Committee for the Presidential Search**

5. CT State Senate Update – Jayne Battye
   a. Review the Proposed CT State Partnership with Charter Oak. Highlights include that they want to find more students and create a stackable 2+2 degree (concurrent). They want to triple enrollment over 5 years.
   b. **Send feedback to Jayne**.
      1. Discussion:
         1. The CT State population that is ONLY online is small. Most take some in other formats. Our students balance formats. Is this growing together or in competition? (E.g., would they try to teach the online ENG 1010 classes for us)
         2. There is a tuition differential (much lower at CT State)
         3. Charter Oak classes are mostly PTLs. Would this be a way to reduce full-time faculty needs at CT State? NECHE has no full-time ratio requirements.
         4. Formalizing a seamless 4-year online degree option could be good, like TAP to 4 State Universities.
         5. What does the local campus and community have to say about online classes? Is faculty governance going to disappear?

6. Learning in Retirement update – Jayne Battye
   a. Update from Jakob: There was a resolution and was taken to the administration and LiR. CEO has reached out to President Chris Burke. No response from LiR as of last week.

    b. Update from Jayne: Called Karen Hynick for history.
        1. Said they wanted them to stay (but in order of importance: classes, QMC, then LiR)
        2. Needed to be changed
            1. QV couldn't remain the fiduciary, LiR is now a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, but the financial transition was troubled.
            2. LiR couldn't be continuing education students anymore.
    c. Current situation: LiR are meeting off campus this spring. Can QV get them back? QV administration is in charge of the communications.

7. Door Locking Policy Follow-up
    a. Update from Jakob: Dr. Gomez has no intention of removing the policy. He is prioritizing advice from Chief Chute to have the policy over our concerns. He hopes that hiring another security guard will improve execution of the current policy.
    b. From Jayne (through the Dean): The symbol on the classroom board is unknown (not known to be threatening). The policy will remain for this semester and will be reassessed for the fall.

8. Generative AI Policy – feedback solicitation
    a. Policy to avoid infringing on intellectual property and to protect personal information.
        1. **Review Policy: Generative AI Policy draft.docx. Send feedback to Jayne Battye and cc. Jon Andersen**

9. New Shared Governance – likely won't roll out all at once, but we will likely need to alter our campus-based shared governance somewhat.
    a. AY 2025-2026: Likely transition to the SDCs will still exist in the fall.
        1. Governance is being developed and feedback to the Curriculum Congress
    b. Campus governance will realign to fit the new process (e.g., the College Council will be the Campus Senate).
        1. **Upcoming Bylaw Revisions: Contact Jakob if you're interested in working on bylaw revisions.**

10. Eligibility to sit on statewide committees such as SDCs or SACC (for their successors) – Philip Lemieux
    a. Request: Is there a role for non-faculty instructors (e.g., in advanced manufacturing) on SDC/SACC/CC
        1. Currently the faculty positions are contractually designated, but people can advocate now for a change as governance is being restructured. Contact Jason Seabury the Chair of the Curriculum Congress, to advocate.

11. Motion to Request at Least Half Non-ESOL Willimantic Courses are Late Start Fall 2025: In Spring 2025, over half the scheduled non-ESOL classes in Willimantic were canceled. To avoid these cancellations, we request at least half the fall 2025 non-ESOL classes in Willimantic be late start to avoid cancelations before the semester begins and to increase center enrollment (which might include Danielson students whose sections have been canceled).
    a. No vote was taken. Concern about telling faculty what to do.
    b. **To do: Faculty, program coordinators, and department chairs look at fall Willimantic course schedules to see if some can be offered as late start in fall 2025 classes ASAP. Fall courses go live next week.**

12. CT State will transition to Blackboard Ultra from our current Blackboard Learn. The complete switchover to Ultra will begin in January 2027. Starting fall 2025 faculty will be able to request a sandbox or piloting of Ultra.
    c. Look out for communications and requests to pilot.
13. Next meeting **April 21, 2025**
14. The meeting adjourned at 3.13 pm.

Minutes prepared by S. Buchbinder