

Faculty Senate Meeting September 25, 2025
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Jessica Pearson at 4:03 p.m.

1. Welcome
 - 1.1. Welcome everyone to first faculty meeting
 - 1.2. Welcome anyone who is new, thank you for being here
 - 1.3. Hoping SGA president will be here so she can be here and leave right away
 - 1.4. Comments in chat are fine, but keep questions and discussions out of chat, email Tanya Hewitt or Sheila Neal to speak on your behalf
2. President Suzanne Smith reported
 - 2.1. Welcome everyone to Fall 2025, welcome to Susan Perkins
 - 2.2. A few updates based on questions and comments that have been received
 - 2.2.1. What's happening with Dunn hall space
 - 2.2.1.1. It's fenced off, starting to seed space, 14 trees are going in around perimeter, wont see much change for awhile -- about 6 weeks away from fence going down
 - 2.2.1.2. Students will be asked, WISER center will be asked
 - 2.2.1.3. It will be a green space, but suggestions being received, it will be a usable space for our campus -- feel free to send ideas to President
 - 2.2.2. Questions about the budget - and seems to be confusion around the 15% budget cut - needed to reach our deficit
 - 2.2.2.1. Information can do but be painful, can do but catastrophic
 - 2.2.2.2. We are figuring out what we can do within the painful category
 - 2.2.2.3. No department was told they will receive a 15% cut
 - 2.2.2.4. In middle of conversations about this
 - 2.2.3. Campus update on October 30 at 4:00pm
 - 2.2.4. Are doing an event on October 24, Dunn time capsule will be unveiled at the Dunn event
 - 2.3. New SUNY Initiative - Momentum approach
 - 2.3.1. General ideas, each first-year student should have 30 credits in first year, degree maps, they should have a course in their major in their first year. SUNY is rolling this out, we will find out more about the timeline soon. We will be asked to track these things, and FASFA, and completion rates.
 - 2.4. Final thing, reminder, mentioned at the opening, campus professional days January 12 through 14th. Feel free to reach out to officers, to ask for feedback on this
 - 2.5. Any questions at this point, but more time will be available -- hearing none
3. SGA President Kadi Palmer reported
 - 3.1. I am this years SGA President

- 3.2. Biggest goal is to increase club engagement - to allow students to feel part of campus community
- 3.3. Working on trying to get SGA out there more, working on a Publicist position
- 3.4. Not too much going on, things are running smoothly
- 3.5. Any question for SGA? Hearing none -- thank you Kadi
- 4. Provost Susan Perkins reported
 - 4.1. Intro, bio, pleased to see that I have met most of you, if I have not met you, happy to meet departments
 - 4.1.1. Am a Potsdam grad, 1993, was a student athlete, rode on equestrian team, tennis team, and worked a lot in Maxcy
 - 4.1.2. Did my PhD and University of Vermont
 - 4.1.3. 2020 became a Dean at City College of NY for over 5 years,
 - 4.1.4. Wanted to come to Potsdam, was a member of Alumni board
 - 4.2. Campus commitment to student success is a culture here, who we are and what we do here, and the on campus experience
 - 4.3. Academic Momentum looking forward to working with campus on those
 - 4.4. Once a month meets with cabinet, and every other week meet with committee to work on student success - NACE Competencies; Fields of study approach builds in competencies based on degree planning, helping students craft their best plan to reach the hidden work force that 83% of jobs are part of; Scott and Ned are going to be here on campus on October 24th; hope that you can come. Some concepts are part of A&S reorganization
 - 4.5. A&S Reorganization is helping us right size our campus, and opportunity to hone our curriculum
 - 4.6. Working with Alan Hersker, putting in new programs, letters of intent, a little frustrated with the slowness of SUNY System
 - 4.7. Had a meeting with Dean of Lewis health science at Clarkson, good opportunities with partnership
 - 4.8. Assessment -Potsdam is doing a fantastic job with it. Summit in January
 - 4.9. Two questions forwarded
 - 4.9.1. Evaluation of new advising staff will be handled by the Provost office
 - 4.9.1.1. if you are hearing of things, let Provost know
 - 4.9.1.2. They have a chance to talk to students in a certain way
 - 4.9.2. Question about Final Exam, we are required to have 15 weeks of contact, 14 weeks of in class time, 1 week of final exam; any exception of this should go to a Dean - keep it simple
 - 4.9.2.1. Policy now is robust
 - 4.9.2.2. Please ask any questions
 - 4.10. Any questions?
 - 4.10.1. Clarification, the questions about the whole program, not the staff
 - 4.10.1.1. Response the advising will have to be assessed, welcome input from faculty and staff
 - 4.10.2. From floor: Clarification on final exam, and one question, does virtual final exam time count as contact time, or does distant learning need to be listed differently?

- 4.10.2.1. If class meets in person, but the final exam is virtual -- will look into this, it makes the class hybrid, if it has been an in person class, I would think the final needs to be in person as well
- 4.10.3. From floor: question for the Dean Search
 - 4.10.3.1. Working on this, asking for feedback on the ads, hope is that we are moving forward with the advertisements by early October, timeline will be similar to the Provost search, but maybe a little earlier
 - 4.10.3.2. It will be a lot to manage, will have three, and various constituents will be meeting with all of them
 - 4.10.3.3. Moving forward
- 5. Jessica Pearson, Chair's report, reported
 - 5.1.1. Nominations Committee nominations from the floor
 - 5.1.1.1. Will like to get this done while everyone is still here
 - 5.1.1.2. Nominations committee does the elections, do not have the reapportionments this year
 - 5.1.1.3. We get nominations from floor, and then we will vote
 - 5.1.1.4. We need representation from each school, and as many as 7 members
 - 5.1.1.5. Blair Madore, self nomination, Liberty Stanavage, Amanda LeDesma, Heather Wheeler
 - 5.1.1.6. Voting started for these delegates
 - Regarding the slate of nominees to the nominating committee, how do you vote? **Passes 100% - 45 votes in favor, 0 opposed**
 - 5.1.2. Reminder re: excused absences
- 6. Chief Diversity Officer Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio reported
 - 6.1. Quick updates:
 - 6.1.1. center for Diversity there are events/programs for our students
 - 6.1.2. Director is working with students planning and supporting students
 - 6.1.3. Reminder CSTEP program and Science Technology -- Heather West is the contact
 - 6.1.4. Program provides assistance to students
 - 6.1.5. Thank you all who attended program last week, focusing on student success equity
 - 6.1.6. DEI Symposium session please attend
 - 6.1.7. Thank you to all who have invited me to attend meetings
- 7. Action Item: Revisions to Adolescent Education Major
 - 7.1. Laura Brown presented on program, goal is to ensure we are competitive, we are bringing students in, and reduced redundancies, merged courses, created new courses to ensure students are well-prepared
 - 7.2. Chairs of APCC and BAC to speak on this
 - 7.2.1. Jan Trybula presented APCC voted to move it forward
 - 7.2.1.1. There is concern older programs are double degree programs, if a student is partway through, students will have trouble picking up the other major

7.2.1.2. Wondering if students need to be warned 4 year programs are packed, and if a student needs to repeat a course, it could put them in an overload, and be cautious the way the schedule have been put forward.

7.2.1.3. For a number of the subjects they are scaffolded by advising, they do not have prerequisites built in

7.2.1.4. Referring back to revised impact statements, we are hoping everything follows, students be assigned an advisor

7.2.1.5. Impact statements about working groups, we hope this happens

7.2.2. Savit Hanspal BAC, committee met, financial impact, had a conversation with Laura Brown about these; looking at the answers we were satisfied

7.2.2.1. Questions about second majors not being counted as far as faculty lines; if adjuncts or additional faculty are required

7.2.3. Call for questions or feedback, call for questions from floor, hearing none; **Move to vote on this:**

Adolescent Education Major, how do you vote?

Motion passes: 95% in favor, (44 responses) 42 votes in favor, Opposed 1 (2% opposed) Abstain 1 (2% abstain)

8. Standing Committee Reports

8.1. Academic Policies Standards and Advising Committee (APSA) reported

8.1.1. Liberty Stanavage reported that the committee is working on Standardized accommodated services statement for syllabus with links; improved statements, and drafting a guidance document to help clarifying things

8.2. Admissions - Sam Santich reported no updates at this time, working with Bridges once applications start coming in in November

8.3. Academic Programs and Curriculum (APCC) Jan Trybula, no other business

8.4. Business Affairs (BAC) Savita Hanspal nothing else

8.5. Goals and Planning (GPC) Anna Sorenson reported no charge right now, but ready to meet when we do

8.6. Graduate Affairs (GAC) Sheila Neal reported no charge right now, but ready to meet when we do

8.7. Student Affairs (SAC) Maria Freitas Ladouceur reported no charge right now

8.8. Nominating Committee - just formed, and no chair yet

9. Announcements

a. Nicole Bacon-Ward – President's and Chancellor's Award nominations

i. Committee met this week, prepping and getting ready for nominations

ii. Adjunct teaching category is in the same timeframe

iii. we will accept nominations October 14 through Dec 14

iv. We will be posting to social media with QR codes

b. April Fullerton – Update on Counseling Center

i. Update everyone on major change in center meeting needs students in crisis and urgent needs

ii. Revised structure -- everyday of week a crisis counselor is assigned for walk ins

iii. Please call counseling center if you have a student in need

10. New Business

10. 1 Sam Santich reported starting a new exercise class in Maxcy, please email Sam for information

Call to adjourn meeting from Jess Pearson

Meeting adjourned 5:35 pm - by Jess Pearson

Notes by Sheila Rae Neal, Faculty Senate Secretary