

STUDENT SENATE REPORT

WHAT IS STUDENT SENATE?

Student Senate comprises of the Student representatives on the College Senate. We have voting rights within the Senate, and we each are voting members of one of the four subcommittees of College Senate. The official description of the responsibilities of College Senate can be found at <http://www.geneseo.edu/senate> and are as follows (as stated on the website): “The College Senate is a representative governing body of the Faculty. It is empowered to recommend policy relating to matters dealing with the faculty affairs, student affairs, undergraduate academic affairs, graduate academic affairs, and any other matter of general faculty concern not coming within the purview of one of the Standing Committees of the Faculty; to discuss and express its view on any matter deemed to be of general College or

University interest; to make recommendations on any such matters to the President of the College, the College Council, the University Chancellor, the University Board of Trustees, the University Faculty Senate, or any other appropriate individual or body.” This newsletter will relate what has happened in the committees during the semester.

UNDERGRADUATE POLICY SUMMARY

Considers Changes to the Undergraduate Academic Policies

In the Undergraduate Policy Committee, we worked on three policy changes with regard to “attendance at the beginning of the semester,” “major/minor overlap,” and “mandatory advisement.” For the attendance change, the committee proposed changing the policy, so that it would no longer give professors the ability to “drop” students from their classes on the basis of class absences during the drop/add period. For “major/minor overlap,” the committee proposed that, in order to complete a minor, a student should have to take “nine distinct credits” for that minor – meaning these nine credits could not “overlap with Major Requirements or overlap with a minor or other concentration.” The committee proposed officially stating in the Bulletin that Geneseo will only allow students to have two majors and two minors in total – which has been ‘in practice’ for quite a while (Note: If

you are an Edgar Fellow, the Honors Program does not count as one of your ‘allowed’ minors). Finally, the committee also proposed bring the mandatory advisement language into harmony with ‘practice’ by removing the section that says “AOP students in their first four semesters” have mandatory advisement; in practice, AOP students haven’t had mandatory advisement during their first four semesters for a little while now, so the language has just been adjusted to reflect this practice.

All of these items have made their way through Senate; they just now have to be approved by the President.

*Quoted sections are from documents provided to the committee, and information was drawn from <http://www.geneseo.edu/senate/POL>.

FACULTY AFFAIRS

Deals with Tenure Personal and the Issues that Affect Them

The Faculty Affairs Committee is working to create evaluations for non-tenure track faculty (i.e. adjuncts, lecturers, visiting professors). There is not currently a uniform document or procedure; however, evaluation sheets have been approved to be voted on by the College Senate. The committee is also working on

recommendations to potentially revise the tenure and promotion process for faculty.

UNGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Review Purposed Changes to the Course Catalog

The Committee for Undergraduate Curriculum discusses proposed changes to majors, minors, and courses at SUNY Geneseo. Highlighting this semester, the committee has reviewed the addition of a new Dance History minor, the addition of instructor prerequisites to BIO 208, BIO 230, and BIO 264, and various changes to the Music Concentration for Early Childhood and Childhood with Special Education. The committee also discussed the lack of an individualized, self-directed

major; the college reported not being opposed to the self-directed major on pedagogical grounds, but rather it is not equipped to handle the logistical obstacles.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Deals with Student Concerns Relating to Faculty-Student Relationships

Our work this semester was a review of (1) College efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of students, and (2) our campus response to sexual assault, specifically The Responsible Community Action Policy (RCAP). In addition, our consideration was guided by recent revisions to New York State laws, and new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights concerning best practices for higher education institutions in relation to sexual assault response. We reviewed the Student Code of Conduct and made the suggestion that the President initiate a change to align the Code with NYS law (Penal law 220.78) in order to increase the likelihood that students will seek assistance for life threatening medical emergencies'. The SAC

reviewed the President's response to the suggestion, noted the change to the Student Code of Conduct with the Responsible Community Action Policy, and reviewed this topic with Vice President Bob Bonfiglio, Student and Campus Life, and Lenny Sancilio, the Dean of Students.

(Some of this was taken from the final report issued by Student Affairs.)