

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 26, 2003 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of February 26, 2003](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President](#)
4. [Report on the role of Counseling Services - Sharon Mitchell](#)
5. [Report of the Research & Creative Activity Committee - John Ho](#)
6. [Report of the Governance Committee - Dennis Malone](#)
7. [International students with F-2 visas - Stephen Dunnett and Maureen Jameson](#)
8. [Executive session](#)
9. [Old/New Business](#)
10. [Adjournment](#)

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of February 26, 2003

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair said that the Faculty Senate will meet next Tuesday, April 1st. The following day is usually the Provost's meeting, but she'll be gone then, so we'll have a regular FSEC meeting on the 2nd. The Provost's meeting will be moved to the 16th.

Professor Hepfer reported that the Elections Committee had counted the ballots, and Professor Peter A. Nickerson has been elected Chair for 2003/05.

Chair Cohen said we'll select two SUNY Senator alternates in executive session. At present, the 2003/04 SUNY Senators with alternates are Senator Peter Nickerson/Linda Brodsky (alternate) and Senator Judith Adams-Volpe/David Smith (alternate). There are no alternates for Senators Baumer or Kramer at this time, nor are there established guidelines for selecting them. The SUNY Senate office has left it up to us to decide how alternates will be chosen when there's no second-highest vote-getter.

The Presidential Search Committee has been selected. Seven names (instead of the anticipated six) were submitted by Chair Cohen when Jeremy Jacobs requested additional representation from the College of Arts & Sciences.

Item 3: Report of the President

President Greiner said the University will support the right of students and faculty to speak openly and freely about the war in Iraq. Faculty should be sensitive to the situation, however, and keep dialogue about the war open and fair for all points of view. We shouldn't take sides in ways that could adversely affect campus operations.

Faculty should be collegial with each other and supportive of students. We need to maintain proper balance and fair treatment during a time that could become increasingly stressful if the war becomes lengthy.

Item 4: Report on the role of Counseling Services - Sharon Mitchell

Dr. Mitchell said she became director of UB's Counseling Services three weeks ago. Their role is to counsel students or refer them for outside treatment. Counselors help students to understand their feelings, behaviors, relationships, choices, and decisions. Services are available for students with alcohol and drug addiction, paranoia and delusions, social anxiety, eating disorders, and a wide variety of other problems.

Student visits have increased as war tensions have mounted. Many international students have expressed fears or concerns about the current situation. Counseling Services has been working with other programs such as Student Life and International Scholars to facilitate discussions about students' feelings about the war.

The Counseling Services staff is comprised of six psychologists, two social workers, two consulting psychiatrists, and three pre-doctoral psychology interns. A typical wait for a first-time appointment may take up to a week, but students in crisis situations are seen immediately. Students see counselors around 4.5 sessions on average. Over 1,000 students have received services this year.

Counseling Services is located in the Ellicott Complex at 120 Richmond Quad. Their Web site is at <http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu/>. Brochures are available to help faculty and staff recognize and deal with students in emotional distress.

Item 5: Report of the Research & Creative Activity Committee - John Ho

Professor Ho said that currently the promotion and support of undergraduate research occurs largely at the departmental or individual faculty level. There is only modest funding, such as the Research & Creative Activities Fund in the Honors Program and the federally-funded McNair Achievement Program available to selected students.

The R&CA Committee recommends:

- undergraduates should be encouraged to participate in research and creative activities by their academic advisors
- there should be a central clearing house for information on internships, fellowships and other awards; this info should be available online via MyUB
- the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs should provide advice and assistance to undergraduates for applying for awards
- departments should make use of the Work Study Program to provide students with paid research and creative assignments
- units should showcase the participation and results of undergraduate research, either by organizing Research Days or by online expositions
- it is not practical at this time to require a capstone research or creative activity for all undergraduates
- faculty effort in mentoring undergraduate research should be recognized as an important teaching activity

The Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs seems to be the most appropriate place to centralize the information mentioned in the second bulleted item. Chair Cohen said he'll contact ADAA Kerry Grant.

The Chair will also contact the Provost about how hazardous waste disposal should be covered as a part of grant-funded research.

Item 6: Report of the Governance Committee - Dennis Malone

Professor Malone, chair of the Faculty Senate Governance Committee, reported that they met last semester to consider

"Procedures for Review of Academic Deans," dated February 1994. From their deliberations came two resolutions, both of which relate to earlier resolutions:

Resolution on Decanal Selection and Appointment:

Resolved that, a clear definition of the process for selection and appointment of deans with evidence of meaningful consultation with faculty be made known to faculty. (Cf. the Faculty Senate Resolutions on Faculty Governance II, C. (Resolution: Search Procedures for Senior Administrators) See: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/governance/fac-sen/new/documents/resolutions.html>)

Resolution on Decanal Review:

Resolved that, the process outlined in Procedures for the Review of Academic Deans, adopted by the Faculty Senate February 1994, continue to be implemented. (Cf. <http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/governance/fac-sen/new/documents/resolutions.html#AC>)

Chair Cohen suggested that the resolutions should be broadened to pertain to all senior administrators. He also said that the 1994 resolution calls for a five-year review, as if deans have term limits. They don't, so perhaps the second resolution should make clear that a decanal review can be done at any time.

Professor Schack said that many universities do have term limits for deans, so maybe we should revisit that issue. He also recommended that the second resolution should have a provision that faculty may petition for a review of their dean.

The consensus of the group was that broadening the resolutions to apply to more than deans would "muddy the water," so the vote was to present them to the Faculty Senate in May as written.

Item 7: International students with F-2 visas - S. Dunnett & M. Jameson

Dr. Stephen Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education, said that international students have F-1 visas and their spouses and dependents have F-2 visas. The Immigration & Naturalization Service, at the urging of the Attorney General, passed a new regulation last year that persons with F-2 visas can no longer take university courses; they're limited to avocational programs. This has been problematic here because many wives and children of international students had been enrolled in English Language Institute and other UB courses. Several students have dropped out as a result; in some other cases, the spouses have applied for their own student visas, but that's become a lengthy process. It's very unlikely that we'll see the ruling reversed, so we're working with the affected international students to help as much as possible.

Professor Schack asked whether we could bend the interpretation of "avocational" by saying that, unless students are registered in degree programs, any courses they enroll in are deemed recreational. Dr. Dunnett said the interpretation is up to the local immigration service, and they're being very conservative here now.

Information about all of our international students has to be entered into the SEVIS computer program, which forwards it to a federal office in Washington, DC. UB needs government authorization before students can be enrolled here.

Students who had been admitted to degree programs at UB will probably be regularized by the coming fall semester.

Potential international students with dependents who want to take courses are now being advised about applying for appropriate visas before they come to UB.

Should a Faculty Senate Committee address this issue? It seems relevant to several committees. Chair Cohen said that he and Chair-elect Nickerson will develop a charge for the Student Life Committee so the topic can be presented to FSEC in early fall semester.

Professor Swartz said that assigning this to the Student Life Committee seems to mislabel the problem.

Item 8: Executive session

Discussion was about how to elect alternates for University Senators Baumer and Kramer. Alternates serve by attending SUNY Senate meetings when the "main" senator cannot attend.

Professor Baumer suggested that the alternates be elected by polling all FSEC members via e-mail. Chair Cohen said he'll send a message soliciting votes for the two positions.

Item 9: Old/New business

Professor Ringland introduced a revised version of the Resolution for University Support of Open Software. The version that was presented at last month's Faculty Senate meeting had been postponed amidst an amendment vote due to lack of a quorum. He said that the Computer Services Committee had considered all the comments made regarding the original version and had rewritten the Resolution so it should now be acceptable to many more senators.

According to parliamentary procedure, the revised document should be introduced as an amendment to the earlier amendment by total substitution. This will be the first agenda item at the April 1st Faculty Senate meeting. [Text of the revised Resolution will appear in the April 1st minutes.]

Professor Baumer, chair of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee, presented a proposed policy change regarding course resignations [additions in italics; deletions underlined]:
Students may resign from one or more of their courses at any time

before the midpoint of an academic term (the deadline for resignation may be extended for students in their first term of study at UB) end of the eighth week of the semester. Resignation from more than five courses during a student's study at UB requires prior consultation with an academic advisor. Such courses will appear on the student's record with a grade of "R" (resignation), indicating that the student dropped the course in a timely manner with no academic penalty.

Professor Schack protested that the Grading Committee's proposal wasn't on the agenda, and wasn't urgent enough to warrant immediate attention.

Professor Baumer said he had alerted FSEC at the last meeting that a proposal would probably be forthcoming this month. It was distributed by e-mail prior to the meeting, and the Chair has the prerogative to allow discussion if he wants. He moved (with a second) that the proposal be placed on the April 1st agenda of the Faculty Senate. The motion carried by one vote.

Item 10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: W. Hepfer

Architecture: S. Danford

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, S. Bruckenstein, S. Schack

Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Graduate School of Education: R. Stein
Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen, R. Mayne
Informatics: F. Tutzauer
Law: L. Swartz
Public Health & Health Professions: G. Farkas
SUNY Senators: H. Durand, M. Kramer, P. Nickerson
Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Guests:

W. Coles, Professional Staff Senate
J. Ho, FSRCAC
M. Jameson, CAS
D. Longenecker, Reporter
S. Mitchell, Counseling Services
J. Ringland, FSCSC
L. Stewart, EDAAA

Excused:

Management: J. Boot
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger
Pharmacy: G. Brazeau
SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe
University Libraries: CA Fabian

Absent:

Arts & Sciences: C. Smith, K. Takeuchi

Institutional/General: O. Mixon

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett, F. Morin
Nursing: E. Perese