

## **FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of February 25, 1998 (approved)**

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on February 25, 1998 in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 1998](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity](#)
4. [Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Public Service](#)
5. [Report of the President](#)
6. [Review of the Revised Resolution from the Faculty Senate Governance Committee](#)
7. [Approval of the Agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting of March 4, 1998](#)

#### **Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 1998**

Pending a more accurate rewording of a phrase in Item 3, the Minutes of January 28, 1998 were approved.

#### **Item 2: Report of the Chair**

The Chair had attended a conference on "Networking for SUNY 2000", arranged by the New York State Assembly. The conference featured among other speakers the former SUNY Provost Joseph Burke, and focussed on facilitating dialogue between students, faculty, and political leaders. Professor Nickerson had also been invited to attend a meeting of a committee of administrators appointed by the Provost to gather information about the Statistics department and to discuss how it should be organized, including aspects of teaching and research. He noted that there was a "tight turn-around time of April 15".

The Graduate School Executive Committee passed a revised policy on outside readers for dissertations. In addition to a form which must be received prior to the thesis defense, the

policy will also create a mechanism for the Dean of the Graduate School to use when an outside reader finds the dissertation unacceptable. In addition, an *ad hoc* committee reported on a policy for transfer credits, especially as they relate to multiple degrees. The committee is recommending that the proportion of credits eligible for an M.A. degree be set at 30%. It also recommends a de-coupling of the approval of transfer credits from the process of advancement to candidacy. For doctoral programs, no more than 50% of the total graduate credits may be transferred. The GSEC plans to examine the feasibility of the R grade for graduate work, using as a model the Faculty Senate resolution adopted last year.

Dr. Thompson is working on the Graduate Admission and Database project; requests for information are already being handled electronically.

The Office for Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action will relocate from Capen Hall to the Commons; the Chair joined others in voicing concern about the change from the original proposal (relocation to Crofts Hall).

A new policy on North Campus parking was distributed prior to the meeting; the Chair invited comments through e-mail on how the Faculty Senate should respond.

Professor DesForges (Department of History) has asked the FSEC to endorse, on a faculty-wide level, inviting Professor Tu as a "Faculty Choice Speaker"; Professor Tu is an expert in East Asian Studies at Harvard University.

The Chair reported the following activities of the Faculty Senate Committees:

- The Budget Priorities Committee met and discussed policies for fees, as well as the consolidation of several of these for billing purposes. Also discussed was a new approach to budgeting indirect costs.
- The Academic Planning Committee met with the three deans of the Arts and Sciences to discuss their approaches, as well as the advantages and limitations to the Academic Information System currently being developed. Professor Welch added that

another primary issue is the deans' response to the Provost's request for taxonomy. The APC will be using these discussions to report to the Faculty Senate later this Spring.

## The Information and Library Resources Committee met and discussed development of the libraries and information technology issues.

### **Item 3: Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity**

Professor Baier, Chair of the Committee on Research and Creative Activity (CRCA), reminded the FSEC of its charge to the CRCA, namely, *To identify factors underlying the downturn in research revenue at UB, and consider the actions that central administration, centers and institutes, as well as departmental and decanal structures should take to reverse this trend.* He presented a list of the Committee's findings, paired with its recommended actions, and distributed copies of this to the FSEC for its consideration. From these, he selected a few for comment: The CRCA noted first that research and creative activity, together with teaching and public service, define the UB faculty mission; accordingly, it encouraged the President, the Provost, and the deans to clearly and more frequently enunciate the value of the University's research and scholarly mission.

The data it considered clearly indicated that most of the downturn in research revenue is due to decreased revenue in the Life Sciences; the CRCA recommends a sharper focus on near-term retention and recruitment efforts for the Life Sciences faculty, as well as the establishment of a full-time Sponsored Programs office on the South Campus.

Mentoring of junior faculty is at best uneven, and generally absent, across the University. Recommendations include revamping orientation sessions for new faculty, and using a database [of faculty and senior research personnel] to establish mentoring programs within departments and across traditional academic units. In particular, we should target those who know best "how to shake the money tree".

To combat a growing perception of diminishing incentives, as well as a perception of conflicts with respect to promotions and rewards within centers and institutes, the CRCA suggested (1) reminding deans and department chairs to use the existing system of rewards and resources, (2) identifying, creating, and publicizing new incentives, and (3) establishing faculty appointments *within* the centers and institutes themselves.

Vice-President Landi noted that the quantitative measures of decreases in research revenue lumped together the North Campus unit of Psychology with the South Campus Life Sciences units, and pointed out that the losses stem primarily from the North Campus. Regarding the CRCA's finding (included on the handout list) that there is a lack of information about the numbers of researchers, their specialties and common interests, he commented that this is "odd, because we have one of the most effective databases which can make those kinds of connections"; its main shortcoming, he surmised, is the reluctance of faculty members to enter their CV's. Furthermore, there is a good website that gives access to all funding possibilities "with a click".

*[Some commentary absent due to poor tape quality - RGH]*

Professor Schuel called the absence of a Sponsored Programs Office on the South Campus a "major irritant", as is the reluctance of the North Campus Office to stay open past 5 PM on deadline days; this complicates the faculty's ability to compete for funds. Vice-President Landi replied that faculty are now able to do their budget work online, obviating the need to move from one campus to the other. The former office on the South Campus used to be open a few days per week, but did not get much business.

As a possible alternative, or supplement, to the database, Professor Meacham suggested a "packaging and brokering" medium, similar to the dating section in the local newspaper, through which researchers might contact each other and work together to secure funding for research projects. The Vice-President welcomed the idea, adding that his Office does have some discretionary money which can be used for such initiatives.

Professor Nickerson said the New Faculty Orientation program has been somewhat abbreviated in recent years, and that it would be a good idea to expand it through inclusion of a presentation on research. We should also look into hiring and developing junior faculty who are "already on board" in receiving funding for research. The Vice-President added that we should also look more at home, and make stronger efforts to make some of our researchers more a part of our faculty. Professor Welch commented that the Orientation program at the beginning of the Fall semester is already crowded, and it would be better to schedule research orientations a few weeks later into the semester.

Professor Tamburlin asked about efforts to encourage faculty to write research proposals; Vice-President Landi responded that his Office did sponsor certain programs and contests in the past, which vanished because of

budget cuts. Professor Malone pointed out that a SUNY-Senate project produced videotapes on writing proposals; they have been well received throughout the system, and are still available.

Addressing another finding of the CRCA, Professor Nickerson wondered how we can improve our efforts in encouraging and appreciating our faculty in their research efforts. On a personal note, Vice-President Landi felt that, for reasons he did not fully understand, research did not seem as much a part of the University culture as it is at other institutions. He suggested the CRCA investigate how we might better incorporate research and a sense of its importance into undergraduate education.

Professor Meacham suggested that the next draft of the report contain a third column listing the persons responsible for executing the recommended actions, and possibly target dates as well. Professor Baier mentioned that certain Committee members have already started developing a seminar series, through which colleagues can test hypotheses and develop a sense of community, making better use of the atrium and a common green (in warmer months) as gathering places.

To overcome some of the problems which plague UB --- geographical separation, fragmentation of research, and the lack of appreciation for research and scholarly activities --- Professor Schuel suggested we hold research for both campuses, throughout the year.

#### **Item 4: Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Public Service**

The Committee on Public Service (CPS) reported at the end of the past academic year its intention to focus, especially within the context of the Arts & Sciences units, on what public service might mean, and how to make public service a "legible part" of the faculty's work. The CPS identified three areas which needed attention:

Consultation and conversation with chairs and people on personnel committees who are responsible for mentoring faculty and evaluating the public service section of their dossiers;

Examination of the interests and dilemmas facing Associate-level faculty with respect to public service, i.e., how it could better integrate with their missions and enhance their promotion chances;

Discussion with untenured faculty about how best to incorporate public service into their activities.

Professor Frisch, Chair of the CPS, highlighted the unique opportunity now of integrating public service more prominently into the University mission; in particular, the Founders' Committee (of which he is a member) has as one of its charges the creation of a

new culture of Arts & Sciences, into which it can incorporate public service more successfully. The CPS has been working extensively with both the Founders' Committee and with the Office of Public Service and Urban Affairs; one of the fruits of their collaboration is the upcoming symposium featuring Professor Barry Checkoway ("*The Research University and Public Service*", April 7, 1998), which the CPS hopes to use as a prelude to a series of discussions and workshops on public service scheduled for the "launch semester" Fall 1998 for the College of Arts & Sciences. The Committee does not intend to sell public service, he added, but to explore what it means and how it relates to *and is part of* the other missions of the University. The symposium should not be regarded as a one-time event, but rather an important dimension of our efforts over the next few years. He urged strong attendance.

Vice-President Gresham viewed her Office as one helping to facilitate discussion on public service; since its inception in 1993, the Office of Public Service and Urban Affairs has tried to shape a definition of public service which "brings the scholarship activity on this campus closer to the community" in that it involves applying our knowledge and scholarly expertise to social needs. UB needs to overcome the "ivory tower" image of an inaccessible academic institution distancing itself from the community in which it operates. Although we do perform a good deal of public service, we do not publicize these activities enough. Her Office consequently pursued the strategy of providing an RFP and seed money to encourage faculty to perform public service projects. The Office also helped in inviting Professor Checkoway, who will explain the direct relationship between research, productivity, and public service. She emphasized the public service is not meant to replace research or teaching, but rather to enhance them, to help create synergies among the three missions.

#### **Item 5: Report of the President**

President Greiner first gave an update on the New Paltz situation. The Chancellor explained that his memorandum was an attempt to bring closure to the controversy, but by no means was intended to constitute a new policy; free speech continues to be governed by the current policies of the Trustees, as well as by State and Federal law. No campus president is

expected to conduct prior review of the content of publications, conferences, or the like; however, the campus president is expected, when controversies arise, to handle these effectively and provide leadership and damage control. For other items (such as a recent Op Ed piece in a student newspaper) which may be offensive to people in the University community, as well as in the community at large, the President urged a better understanding of what constitutes civility. To this end, both he and Dennis Black, Vice-President for Student Affairs, "are pledging to work much more closely with student governments and other groups of students in the coming year" to see how to best address this issue as a community. One idea under consideration is to have a weekly column in the *Spectrum* in which some University official addresses a topic of central concern to students; another is to enhance students' knowledge of the history of the institution --- he cited as one example the fact that the pacemaker was invented by faculty in Engineering and in Medicine.

He announced the establishment of a day-care center on the North Campus by September 1998, to be located proximate to the arena, between the Triple Gym and Baird Point. The building will be a temporary structure, between 3,000 and 3,500 square feet in size, relatively inexpensive yet well-built and insulated, "a very attractive facility that will serve the needs of this campus".

As a final remark, he called for a meeting between senior administration and the Faculty Senate to discuss in detail two items, mission review and resource allocation methodology. The meeting would achieve two main objectives, that of informing the Senate of the University's plans to be presented in Albany, and of providing a rare opportunity to bring to agreement and closure the issue of the UB mission.

#### **Item 6: Review of the Revised Resolution from the Faculty Senate Governance Committee**

Professor Albini briefly presented the revised proposal and invited discussion. Professor Malone, addressing the first item which stipulates that an affected faculty review

proposals *in accordance with their bylaws and policies*, asked what would happen if a faculty had no bylaws; he suggested deleting the italicized phrase. He also suggested adding to the phrase "*within a reasonable period of time*" the wording "*as designated/determined by the FSEC*". Professor Albini accepted both suggestions.

Professor Hyde noted that "*units*" was vague, to which Professor Welch replied that it was deliberately general in scope to include all departments and schools; he also commented that this term was left out of the operative part of the proposal.

The FSEC agreed to transmit the document to the Faculty Senate for adoption.

**Item 7: Approval of the Agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting of March 4, 1998**

The agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting of March 4, 1998 was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Hoeing

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

**Present: Chair:** Peter A. Nickerson

**Secretary:** Robert G. Hoeing

**Arts & Letters:** Martha Hyde

**Dental Medicine:** Robert Baier

**Engineering & Applied Sciences:** Ramalingam Sridhar

**Graduate School of Education:** Thomas Schroeder

**Health-Related Professions:** Judith Tamburlin

**Information & Library Studies:** George D'Elia

**Management:** Ramaswamy Ramesh

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Boris Albin, Herbert Schuel

**Natural Sciences & Mathematics:** Melvyn Churchill, James Faran

**Nursing:** Powhatan Wooldridge

**Social Sciences:** Jack Meacham, Simon Singer

**SUNY Senators:** John Fisher, Maureen Jameson, Dennis Malone, Claude Welch

**University Libraries:** Marilyn Kramer

**University Officers:** William R. Greiner, Thomas Headrick

**Guests:** Dale M. Landi, *Vice-President for Research*

Michael Frisch, *Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity*  
Mary Gresham, *Interim Vice-President for Public Service and Urban Affairs*

Sue Wuetcher (*The Reporter*)

Kevin McCue (*Graduate Student Association*)

Christopher Connelly, (*Pre-Professional, SIH*)

**Excused: Architecture & Planning:** Sherri Wallace

**Absent: Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Ronald Batt, Cedric Smith

**Pharmacy:** Nathan