

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Meeting of April 17, 1996(approved)
(revised 10/3/95)**

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The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM in the Jeannette Martin Room of Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Update on the FSA](#)
4. [Retirement Options and Budget Implications](#)
5. [Faculty Tenure and Privileges Committee Interim Report](#)
6. [Old Business](#)
7. [New Business](#)

ITEM 1: Report of the Chair

Professor Welch reported that:

- Professor Johnstone would be available at the April 30, 1996 Faculty Senate meeting for discussion of his paper on faculty productivity.
- Professor Huefner has agreed to chair the Teaching and Learning Committee.
- Comments had been received from the Budget Priorities Committee regarding the draft resolution on Informational and Library Resources. The importance of priorities for allocations was noted.
- He had attended a UB Council meeting as the faculty's representative. Topics covered included DARS and "smart card" with the details thoroughly covered in The Reporter.

- Senior Vice Provost Levy and the Chair of the Presidential Review Board (PRB), Professor Nyberg, had met with approximately 45 faculty members regarding tenure and promotion. Suggestions were offered to insure that the process worked optimally. Professor Welch noted that the meeting was the result of a Faculty Senate resolution.
- The Provost had met with groups representing the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Letters to discuss the potential appointment of Dean Grant as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Professor Nickerson had presented information from the Graduate School Executive Committee on social and other relationships between faculty and students.
- The Academic Planning Committee (APC) had met with Vice Provost Triggles for a discussion of the analysis of the data on graduate program quality. Professor Malone stated that the APC planned to continue to meet with Provost Headrick over the summer.
- Electronic privacy, support for the libraries and the University admissions and retention policy were current topics for Senate committees.
- Provost Headrick had scheduled three Deans' meetings at which "Visions" prepared by the fifteen Deans would be discussed, with Professor Welch in attendance.
- He had received e-mail from Jean Dickson, the UUP President, requesting faculty agreement to sign a joint letter encouraging students to attend a "teach out" next Tuesday from noon to 2:00 PM. Professor Welch stated that he would not sign the letter since it was not his role to speak on behalf of the faculty without consultation. He stated that the issues could be addressed within individual classrooms. He voiced the deep interest and concern of the Faculty Senate with budget issues and stated that the Faculty Senate was firmly committed to restoration of funds. He mentioned various strategies, such as differential tuition, which were not favored by the leaders of the "teach out". He commented on increasing responsibility for the design and implementation of academic programs and decisions regarding spending of public and private funds.

Professor Boot stated that officially scheduled classes should not be canceled. Professor Malone agreed with Professor Boot and stated that the timing for the "teach-out" might be from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Professor Welch suggested that the already scheduled time would be acceptable for faculty and students not in class during that period. President Greiner stated that a make-up class would be inappropriate. Mr. Maisonett, the newly elected President of the Student Association, stated that faculty support was needed. Professor Welch stated that there was a difference between individual and collective support. He suggested alternative political stances including organizing writing of petitions, encouraging voter registration and attending meetings. President Greiner asked the reason for the selection of the time; Mr. Maisonett replied that lunchtime had seemed a time when attendance would be maximized.

Professor Welch stated that the Faculty Senate would meet on April 30, 1996 to consider vital budget matters, among other matters.

Mr. Weber, a representative from the Student Alliance Against Budget Cuts, stated that the students would not allow public education to be destroyed. He urged the faculty to support restoration and stand together with students and staff. He noted that voter registration and lobbying with petitions to Senator Rath had previously been completed. He stressed that public education was the most important social program.

Professor Welch suggested sharing the message with the Spectrum and The Reporter. Mr. Weber asked Professor Welch to send a letter to faculty changing the locations of classrooms to the location of the "teach-out". Professor Welch explained that he would not send that type of letter. He invited the student representatives to remain for the remainder of the meeting.

ITEM 2: Report of the President/Provost

Mr. Pierce, the student representative to the University Council, introduced a draft policy for an alternative to animal dissection in labs. Professor Welch stated that he would forward the request to the appropriate committee of the Faculty Senate, and requested another copy.

President Greiner stated that he had an "extended conversation" with approximately fifteen to twenty students last week and he had exercised the policies of being "gentle, kind, clear and firm". With Vice President Palmer, President Greiner stated that norms for appropriate behavior within the University and the rest of society had been shared with the students. President Greiner stated that the University was unusually open to all kinds of discourse and therefore it was important that the rules of civility be maintained at all times. He noted that there had been minor criminal law violations of trespass, disorderly conduct and assault. He noted that Vice President Palmer had avoided the need to invoke New York State law and student conduct proceedings. He stressed the need to remind students of various ways to deal with issues and commented that the University would invoke all legal means if necessary. President Greiner stated that students and others have the opportunity to express concerns but that the expression could not take place in private areas, could not violate the laws of New York State and could not intimidate staff. He remarked that he would be patient and kind but would not tolerate uncivil behavior.

President Greiner supported the idea of the "teach-out" but questioned the timing of the event. He stated that displays do not influence the University leadership to be sympathetic to a cause. He agreed that the students had a right to feel frustrated and angry regarding the budget situation. He noted that students were reluctant to learn that change was a long, slow, difficult process. President Greiner emphasized that he was willing to meet with groups on a reasonable basis, following a request, not a demand. He stressed that threats would not be tolerated. He volunteered to meet with the student leadership at a mutually convenient time. The bottom line according to President Greiner was that the rules of civility must be observed. He stated that he did not intend to repeat the destructive actions of the 1970s. He voiced optimism that the student press could be more constructive.

Professor Jameson encouraged President Greiner to initiate communication with the students. President Greiner replied that he had written to the student leadership and Professor Jameson stated that it was possible that the students had not read the information. President Greiner stated that he was entitled to ask the student leadership to read relevant information prior to a meeting. He noted that he was not willing to treat students as children and preferred to treat the students as young adults. President Greiner stated that a level of responsibility was expected amongst the student leadership.

President Greiner stated that he had not received one letter from parents regarding the tuition issue. He noted that tuition had been abnormally low and that the crazy spiral was a cruel reality. He stated that it was important to make the financial aid system work better.

President Greiner encouraged the Student Association to organize the students to register to vote. He noted that Senator Rath might view the situation differently if students registered locally. He emphasized that it was important for SUNY students and parents to be active. President Greiner stated that voting was an "all powerful tool". He noted that the Governor would need to address the issue of SUNY before the next election and that it was necessary to persuade the Governor to have a positive agenda for SUNY.

President Greiner stated that he believed that students would support differential tuition if they possessed an understanding of the manner in which funds were allocated in the SUNY system. He noted that it was difficult to explain why the University should get