

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 25, 1998 (approved)

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

- [1. Approval of the Minutes of February 11 and February 25, 1998](#)
- [2. Report of the Chair](#)
- [3. Report of the Academic Planning Committee](#)
- [4. Discussion of "Faculty Fellows in Administration: A Proposal"](#)
- [5. Report of the President](#)
- [6. Report of the Budget Priorities Committee](#)

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of February 11 and February 25, 1998

The Minutes of February 11 and February 25, 1998 were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Professor Nickerson reported that he had compiled the (mostly negative) responses to the plan for the North Campus paid visitor parking, and forwarded them to the Director of the Parking Office; the Director indicated that a new plan is being considered.

The new policy on the outside reader for doctoral dissertations will most likely be implemented after the February 1, 1999 conferral of degrees. This policy will be communicated to the Graduate Faculty in the Fall 1998 semester. The Chair noted that the Graduate School Executive Committee had discussed

whether there should be a formal policy on the use of TAs/GAs in graduate courses; since no problem seems to exist, the GSEC decided not to study the matter further.

The Chair sought and received approval from the FSEC to schedule a special meeting of the Faculty Senate for May 13, 1998, in order to accommodate second readings on two items from the Grading Committee.

The Faculty Senate Public Service Committee has made final plans for the symposium featuring Dr. Checkoway. His lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at 2:00 PM in the screening room in the Center for the Arts. Professor Nickerson sent out a message to the Faculty Senate on the listserv.

The Affirmative Action Committee met on Monday and reviewed the progress of the Committee this past year. It asked whether the Task Force on Minorities had yet been appointed by the President; Professor Nickerson said he would try to find out through the Office of the President.

Item 3: Report of the Academic Planning Committee

Professor Welch reported that the Provost, after reviewing computer engineering departments at Berkeley and Cornell, had asked the units of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering to engage in planning discussions toward a similar model. The Provost applauded their efforts, but expressed some disappointment at the results of these discussions, saying the resulting plans were "not particularly bold"; consequently, he issued a detailed plan in the expectation that the two units would find a more feasible merger solution.

The Academic Planning Committee is concerned with the ways in which changes of this magnitude are discussed, approved, and implemented, particularly with respect to the faculty who are parts of these programs. Professor Welch thought it fair to say that ample discussion has taken place to this point, both prior to and following the Provost's plan; the APC intends to resume discussion of the proposed merger with the Provost at its next meeting.

Professor Faran felt that the FSEC, as an advisory body, should also be consulted as the plan progresses, not only to insure that appropriate procedures are followed, but also to judge how a certain plan might affect other units and programs at the University.

Professor Sridhar was concerned that most of the discussion and presentation has come from the chairs of the affected units, with "no serious representation" of some of the faculty involved, in particular the junior faculty. Professor Nickerson asked about the "dual reporting" mechanism involved in and between the two decanal units. Professor Welch commented that "the way it is spelled out does rest on certain impossible-to-prove premises", e.g. that a chair should report to the Engineering School dean for "administrative and financial matters" --- a phrase which covers a great deal of territory. He mentioned one other, very important provision in this dual relationship: namely, that a candidate for promotion would have the right to choose the unit in which he/she would be considered for promotion.

Professor Welch added that it was "highly unfortunate" that the Faculty Senate was not included in the discussions from the start, given its stated responsibilities.

Professor Ram, asked whether there was general agreement with the proposed merger, conceded that it is a very bold step, one that, if implemented correctly, could turn out to be "fantastic" in the years to come; the biggest concerns center around *how* to implement it, and *who* will make sure it is done right. Professor Malone added that the merger will prove positive for the University, in terms of enrollment and reputation. For the same reason, it will benefit both Computer Science and the School of Engineering; but whether it would benefit Electrical Engineering remains to be seen, since the number of majors in this field is likely to decline, which in turn would endanger the program. ("And habit tends to make us believe that, in about a year, some unnamed bean-counter will appear with a smile on his face and announce, with surprise, that "The number of majors has dropped!" --- and that's of course like shooting somebody in the foot and then complaining that that person is now limping.") The most disturbing statement in the Provost's report is the one concerning the "re-allocation of three positions currently in Electrical Engineering, as such turnover occurs", which seems to leave little doubt about its future.

Item 4: Discussion of "Faculty Fellows in Administration: A Proposal"

Professor Nickerson presented a proposal, "Faculty Fellows in Administration", which he designed in response to two problems: First, President Greiner has repeatedly mentioned that UB was "underadministered", and secondly, that there were not many people "waiting in the wings" who had sufficient experience in higher administrative posts. Under the proposal, a faculty member would be assigned to a senior administrative officer and given a project related to the area of expertise and needs of the administrator. The fellowship would be part-time, allowing the faculty member to continue teaching with reduced load and research, and would be facilitated by the University providing an appropriate amount of release time. Among the advantages are

- the opportunity for selected faculty to participate directly in the activities associated with the senior administration at UB;
- · direct faculty viewpoint/representation in upper administrative matters;
- · administrative experience for faculty, allowing a University-wide perspective of central issues;
- · preparation of talented faculty for administrative roles when needed;
- · an easing through sharing of the administrative workload;
- · increased communication and understanding between faculty and administrators.
- Professor Welch suggested a few concrete examples of matters in which such an arrangement could be particularly helpful, among them student access to computers and student retention. Professor Nickerson added that the Provost approved the idea, but had not yet consulted the President on this issue. In response to Professor Jameson's concerns that such a program might undermine the role of the Faculty Senate, Professor Nickerson reminded the FSEC that Faculty Fellow appointments would not be permanent, and doubted it would weaken the Senate's role.
- **Item 5: Report of the President**
- **President Greiner reported positive news on the progress of the five-year capital program proposed by the governor. The New York State Senate has taken the plans submitted to the construction fund and converted them into line items, so that now UB has a \$96 million line for capital improvement, which includes the new Math**

building the rehabilitation of Acheson Hall, and other projects. Thus UB's programs are in the budget, and the President is happy about it. He also mentioned that UB will be "very aggressive" about the matching funds program, the top priority of which will be the Student Services Building; UB plans to ask the State for \$17 million, and intends to raise the other \$7 million.

- · **Item 6: Report of the Budget Priorities Committee**
- · Professor Gates reported on the activities of the Budget Priorities Committee to bring the FSEC up to date and to solicit suggestions for activities for the following academic year.
- · He informed the Committee members of a couple reports in the Faculty Senate office which might be of interest, including "Straight Talk about College Costs and Prices" (by the American Council on Education), and the SUNY Senate IFR Report on income fund reimbursable projects, such as the dormitory construction at UB.
- · He summarized the activities and discussion topics of the BPC this past year:
- **Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM)**, soon to become SUNY-wide, which is an algorithm for dividing up tax money. There is presently an attempt to move tuition income out of the RAM formula. For UB, tax money accounts for about one third of the budget; tuition income brings this up to 42%, which RAM presently covers.
- **Responsibility-Centered Management (RCM)**, a system of internal accounting, as well as an attempt to locate costs and revenues, and to develop financial policies at the level at which the costs and revenues are incurred.
- **The Academic Information System (AIS)**, which is currently being developed to better enable RCM to function optimally.
- **The Workshop on the Budget**, in collaboration with the Chairs of the Faculty and Professional Staff Senates; few faculty, but several members of the professional staff attended and found it helpful enough to want a follow-up workshop, possibly this Fall semester.
- **The BPC has begun to hear of the local IFR process; Dean Grant is currently examining IFR accounts and how these are being handled.**

- · The release of "Budget Processes at UB", a "budget primer" designed to inform UB faculty and staff about budgetary issues and mechanisms at the University.
- · The development of a "Budget Information Network", a local e-mail network for budget information. This developed out of the Workshop on the Budget.
- · The BPC had also discussed Kevin Seitz's "All Funds Report", a summary of the work he and others conducted on "trying to make sense out of budget processes on campus from an all-funds perspective". Among the findings is the "shocking" discrepancy in the several accounting systems.
- · Possibilities of streamlining accounting and purchasing processes at UB.
- · The Committee discussed student fees --- in particular, a proposal to itemize fees on the students' bills with explanations of what these fees cover.
- · The five-year capital budget, including both core and matching-fund projects at UB.

After some discussion of accounting procedures, 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

Architecture & Planning: Sherri Wallace

Dental Medicine: Robert Baier

Engineering & Applied Sciences: Ramalingam Sridhar

Graduate School of Education: Thomas Schroeder

Health-Related Professions: Judith Tamburlin

Management: Ramaswamy Ramesh

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Ronald Batt

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

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Guests: William R. Greiner, President

Terry Gates (*Chair, Budget Priorities Committee*)

Keith Herms (*Professional Staff Senate*)

Sue Wuetcher (*The Reporter*)

Excused: Information & Library Studies: George D'Elia

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Absent: Arts & Letters: Martha Hyde

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Boris Albini, Herbert Schuel, Cedric Smith

Pharmacy: Nathan