

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 31, 2004

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 , in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following **agenda** :

1. Approval of the minutes of March 10, 2004
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Report of the Vice Provost for International Education – S. Dunnett
5. Report of the Grading Committee – W. Baumer

6. Old/New business

7. Executive session (if needed)

8. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of March 10, 2004

The minutes were approved after noting the following corrections:

- Professor Schack's March 10th correction regarding his comments at the February 25th FSEC minutes wasn't that "The CAS Policy Committee should consider inviting an FSEC member to be a member of that group." Rather, it should have said "The

CAS Policy Committee should consider inviting the CAS representatives on the FSEC to be members of their group and its steering committee.

Chair Nickerson noted that he was recently contacted about erroneous numbers reported for Bob Davies's alumni update in the February 18 th minutes. The second paragraph under Item 4 should have said:

There are 176,650 living UB alumni; 94,607 live in New York State , and more than 56,000 of them live in western New York . UB graduates are in all 50 states and 122 countries. Only 14,000 or so are without contact information.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Peter Nickerson reported:

- UB Council chair Jeremy Jacobs announced at a recent meeting that the Council's role has expanded. The new role is advisory rather than managerial. Six committees will be formed. Chair Nickerson suggested that the Faculty Senate (FS) work closely with the Council to avoid duplication of governance activities.
- President Simpson has initiated planning processes for developing a vision to 2020 as well as the SUNY-required Mission Review II.
- Vice President Dennis Black has reported that the election of a student member to the UB Council will be Web-based for the first time.
- FSEC combined with the Professional Staff Senate Executive Committee in interviews with the three finalists in the UB Provost search.
- Lou Rosenthal, the SUNY Counsel covering UB, will attend the May 4 th FS meeting and talk about legal issues facing faculty.

- The Budget Priorities Committee met recently and discussed the executive budget. Most of the capital construction money will be needed for critical maintenance of existing facilities. The Committee is considering possible changes for its role in the budget process.
- President Simpson made a surprise visit at a recent meeting of the FS Affirmative Action Committee. Equal opportunity was the main discussion topic.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

None

Item 4: Report of the Vice Provost for International Education – Stephen Dunnett

Vice Provost Dunnett was unable to attend today's meeting, so Steven Shaw, Director of International Admissions, updated the FSEC regarding UB's recruitment of international students. There are presently 3,267 international students enrolled here. Foreign students comprise 13% of UB's student population, and we're aiming to increase that to around 15%. UB ranked 17th nationally in the number of international students enrolled here in 2003; we ranked 1st, however, with the highest proportion of foreign students among public universities.

The number of applications, especially graduate applications, from other countries is down significantly, but that situation is prevalent at most colleges and universities nationwide. More restrictive immigration policies causing delays in getting visas is partly to blame. Even so, UB is doing quite well compared to many peer institutions because we've been able to

make more offers without lowering academic standards. This has been due to strong recruiting efforts to get completed applications for processing.

Most – around 70% – of UB's foreign students come from Asian countries. The 10 countries contributing the most to UB's international student population are India , China , Korea , Taiwan , Canada , Japan , Malaysia , Singapore , Indonesia and Turkey .

Questions & comments:

- Do international student statistics include Canadian students? (Brazeau)
- Yes. Canadian students represent a relatively small percentage of our international enrollments. They come to UB for the quality of our education, especially in our professional schools. Although Canadian colleges & universities would be much less expensive, many of those schools are enrolled to maximum capacity. (Shaw)
- U. S. immigration policies are posing a major problem for this country. We've imported a lot of brains in the past by admitting foreign students who study, graduate, and often stay here because it's a better place to live. That won't be happening as much if our policies prompt students to go to countries such as Australia or Spain instead. (Schack)
- Is the situation consistent across disciplines, or are some departments doing better at recruiting international students and others doing worse? (unidentified)
- Some departments are doing better than others. Some have been more proactive in recruiting, but others may simply be slower in processing applications. The final figures won't be known for a few more months. (Shaw)
- What's involved in international recruiting? (Nickerson)
- Sometimes we travel to countries and visit specific high schools or universities. We might meet with academic advising staff or one-on-one with prospective students. Usually though, we travel as part of a tour group made up of recruiters from many

universities who have paid an organization to arrangement fairs where prospective students can collect brochures and ask questions. For some countries, we rely on advertising in select publications rather than traveling there because of the costs involved and likelihood of attracting new students. Faculty members sometimes assist in recruiting efforts during their travels. (Shaw)

- Do we require international applicants to take the SAT? (Jensen)
- Most American universities don't require SAT scores from foreign applicants, nor does UB. (Shaw)

Item 5: Report of the Grading Committee – William H. Baumer

Professor Baumer, chair of the FS Grading Committee, reported on several matters that that are being discussed or will be discussed by the committee. Sample copies of the old and (proposed) new Universal Grade Change Form were distributed so FSEC can see what's different between them. The new form came under fire at a recent FSEC meeting because it had been changed without FS consultation.

The Grading Committee has been examining undergraduate and graduate policies concerning academic integrity, i.e. plagiarism, and grievances to see whether they can somehow be combined in a clear and straightforward manner that will be easier for faculty to understand. Current policies differ somewhat and are split between Academic Affairs and the Graduate School . There is a substantial degree of parallelism, however, so the

committee will try to align them. We want to merge them in a single policy statement that will be shorter and clearer.

Questions & comments:

- Any new procedures should incorporate a timeframe so cases can be dealt with in a fair and timely manner. (Brazeau)
- Cases need to be dealt with fairly and as promptly as possible. In cases where there is a threat of physical harm, of course, Campus Security should be called immediately to deal with the threat. (Baumer)
- There are procedures in place for dealing with cases involving a clear and present danger right away, so a student won't miss more than one class period while the situation is reviewed and adjudicated. If the situation warrants, the student may be removed from the class. These procedures are not the same as a grievance policy, but they are a tool to make the policy more effective. (Grant)
- Having a single policy available on a Web site with other policies that faculty need to be aware of will make it easier for faculty to find answers when they have questions. An e-mail reminder at the beginning of every semester might be useful for reinforcing where information can be found. (Schack)
- Perhaps there should be links from many different locations to make it easier to find the grievance policy. (Bruckenstein)
- The Student Response Center Web site has a helpful search box where you can type terms such as "academic integrity" or "academic grievance" and find a link to the Undergraduate Catalog Web page with that information. (Del Genio)

Item 6: Old/New business

None

Item 7: Executive session (if needed)

A brief executive session was held.

Item 10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Attendance (P = present; E = excused; A = absent)

Chair: P. Nickerson (P)

Secretary: W. Hepfer (P)

Architecture & Planning: S. Danford (A)

Arts & Sciences: S. Bruckenstein (P), M. Churchill (A), R. Hoeing (P), S. Schack (P), K. Takeuchi (A)

Dental Medicine: M. Donley (P)

Education: L. Malave (A)

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen (P), R. Mayne (P)

Informatics: F. Tutzauer (E)

Institutional/General: O. Mixon (E)

Law: L. Swartz (P)

Management: J. Boot (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett (E), G. Logue (A), B. Murray (A), J. Sellick (P)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (P)

Public Health & Health Professions: C. Crespo (P)

Social Work: Barbara Rittner (E)

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe (P), W. Baumer (P), M. Kramer (P), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries: CA Fabian (P)

Guests: D. Budniewski (Reporter), M. Cohen (FS past chair), B. Del Genio (Academic Affairs), C. Grant (Academic Affairs), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Sen.)