

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of April 3, 2002
(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 PM on April 3, 2002 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Approval of the minutes of March 20, 2002](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Faculty Senate Committee Reports](#)
 - [Student Life Committee, Professor Peter Nickerson, Chair](#)
 - [Computer Services Committee, Professor Maureen Jameson, Chair](#)
 - [Budget Priorities Committee, Professor Susan Hamlen, Chair](#)
 - [Grading Committee - Professor William Baumer, Chair](#)
5. [Resolution of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity](#)
6. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

- he continues to be contacted by various media asking the Faculty Senate opinion on a variety of issues, e.g., the newest AAUP figure for the national, aggregate salary for professors (\$62,900); these queries are often so general as to be meaningless

- the April 10 lecture by President Clinton will pre-empt the Provost's meeting with the FSEC; the Chair will attend the lecture as faculty representative
- the Senate has been asked to nominate a representative to an ad hoc committee that will look at release time, i.e., time authorized for absence from work that is not charged to annual or personal leave, as it relates to annual leave accruals
- UB appears to be the only SUNY institution that does not provide any release time for University sponsored/recognized events (Coles)
- issue may concern faculty librarians since they work a set number of hours (Professor Hopkins)
- will nominate Professor Hopkins (Professor Cohen)
- he has been asked for nominations for three vacancies on the President's Panel for the Review of Search Procedures
- on April 24 Vice President Turkkan will speak to the FSEC about how Centers and Institutes are funded and how credit for grants is attributed to decanal units
- Associate Vice President Petro will be rescheduled for April 24

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of March 20, 2002

The minutes of March 20, 2002 were approved.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

There was no report of the President/Provost.

Item 4: Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Professor Jameson, Chair of the Computer Services Committee, reported on the Committee's work to

date. The Committee has met twice since January under Professor Jameson's leadership as Chair for the Spring 2002 semester. The Committee has discussed a variety of issues:

- Professor Ringland from Mathematics and Corky Brunskill, Director of the Engineering and Applied Sciences/ Natural Sciences and Math Node, spoke to the Committee about the increasing availability of and support for open source computing on campus; the Committee's web site contains links relevant to Professor Ringland's and Mr. Brunskill's presentations
- Vice Provost Pitman raised issues about implementing on-line course evaluation, viz., how to encourage students to submit evaluations, how to ensure student identity and how results should be made available; in the CAS trial stage, evaluation results have been posted to the Student Association web page where they are available to the world; the Committee will respond to his concerns and raise some of their own, but other committees might also want to respond to these issues
- portals for faculty through MyUB are being developed and will be publicized soon; the Committee has been asked to suggest links and features appropriate for faculty; the Committee is interested in the transparency and permeability of the portal
- since the IT Steering Committee was disbanded faculty have not had access to centralized discussions of IT policy; Vice Provost Pitman is interested in the Computer Services Committee having a formal role in providing centralized faculty input
- a large portion of IT funding is disbursed through decanal units; the Committee is also interested in how faculty participate in IT decision making at that level; at Professor Cohen's request some of the schools have provided details on that process

Professor Jameson then detailed topics the Committee will try to address in future meetings:

- the scheduling algorithm for e-tech classrooms
- the faculty survey on IT that the Committee proposed last academic year; there is no political support for such a survey
- privacy issues

- the Teaching and Learning Committee wants to continue being involved in the implementation of on-line course evaluation; am concerned about the accuracy of personal information provided through faculty portals because I have been unable to get my telephone number corrected in the University supplied information portion of my LDAP entry (Professor Sridhar)
- Computer Services Committee should look at the effectiveness of the LDAP directory; official data are not well maintained and users do not keep user supplied information current both of which hampers LDAP's usefulness; a related problem is student use of other than UB IT names for submitting course work, making it difficult for faculty to identify legitimate mail and attachments (Professor Jameson)
- CIT changed my e-mail address without informing me so I was giving students incorrect information; required the intervention of my node director to get the problem resolved (Professor Noble)
- another issue the Committee should discuss is centralized support for distributed web sites (Professor Jameson)
- will the Committee produce resolutions dealing with these issues? (Professor Cohen)
- a resolution is good for statement of principles, but more effective to work with IT professionals on operational issues; suggest linking the Committee's web site with the Faculty Senate web site, allowing faculty to e-mail IT concerns directly to the Committee (Professor Jameson)

Professor Hamlen, Chair of the Budget Priorities Committee, acknowledged Professor Nickerson's role as interim chair of the Committee during the Fall semester while she was on sabbatical. Since her return the Committee has worked on the FSEC's charge to look at how departments fund instruction in general, whether the use of part time faculty is increasing, and if so, whether that has had a negative impact on the quality of teaching. She reported that:

- units are provided with money for instruction and individually decide how to spend it
- with the Provost's help the Committee will get figures for classes scheduled to be taught by part time/full time/tenure track/non-tenure track faculty for Fall 2001 and 1996; will take about a month to analyze these data

- where the use of part time faculty has increased, the dean will be asked how the quality of instruction is monitored
- the FTE number is a good surrogate for numbers of full time/part time faculty; look at credit hours taught, not sections taught; getting these numbers is very difficult at UB; I asked how many people were officially associated with UB and after several months was given an answer of 4/12 K depending on the definitions used; keep in mind the different way part time faculty are used in the professional schools as compared with the College of Arts & Sciences (President Greiner)
- rate of pay for part time faculty varies greatly among decanal areas; consider whether that impacts the quality of instruction (Professor Sridhar)
- additional Committee projects include: 1. writing the second installment of a two part description of how the budget works at UB; the first installment explained resource allocation, the second installment will plug in numbers; 2. looking at TA/GA stipends with the intent of making a statement about stipends

Professor Nickerson, Chair of the Student Life Committee, reported that the Committee has met four times this year and has one more meeting scheduled. The Committee has discussed:

- building relationships between the faculty and the professional staff of the Student Association who perform duties previously performed by faculty, e.g., counseling and managing residence halls
- surveys of UB student's satisfaction with their UB experience, specifically with student life
- Career Planning and Placement; in earlier surveys this was a weak area; Career Planning responded to criticisms by providing outreach services to students beginning in the freshmen year; the Committee is happy with the changes reported by the Director of Career Planning and Placement
- food services; UB ranks highest within SUNY and mid-level nationally in student satisfaction with food services; the Faculty/Student Association is engaged in renovating eating space in the Ellicott Complex and modernizing menus
- programs that promote personal safety; John Grela outlined the many programs offered

- a survey on residence halls; the Committee also discussed the results with residence hall staff; programs to prevent alcohol abuse are a major activity within the residence halls
- issues remaining for the Committee to discuss are: the role and effectiveness of Greeks on campus, access of faculty to students, possible participation in a national survey on student involvement in campus life
- the Chair attended a SUNY conference on best practices for collaboration between faculty and student life professionals in student retention; UB's School of Engineering made an excellent presentation on re-orienting students who are not successful in engineering studies
- how serious is the problem of alcohol in the residence halls? (Professor Cohen)
- self assessment surveys suggest that the problem, while not increasing, remains at a constant serious level except that drinking by female students is increasing; the lower drinking age in Canada is a problem (Professor Nickerson)
- is the lack of a health care facility on the North campus a problem? (Professor Cohen)
- student health services is paid for through student fees; funding a North Campus facility is difficult (Professor Nickerson)
- live in a residence hall and it is not a problem (Mr. Patel)
- pamphlet describing at risk behavior in students which UB sends to faculty is outstanding; just recently dealt with a student who was having trouble getting an appointment with counseling services (Professor Noble)
- students may also use the community crisis services 24 hour help line (Professor Fournier)

Professor Baumer, Chair of the Grading Committee, summarized completed Committee work and outlined pending matters:

- a Class Absence Policy was approved at the December Faculty Senate meeting
- a Policy on Informal Penalties for Academic Dishonesty was approved at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate
- the Committee is drafting major revisions to the Policy on Reasonable Progress to the Degree in consultation with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; elimination of the "R" grade in order to reduce the number of seats lost to students repeating classes was suggested but is unlikely

to be adopted wholesale, although the Committee is considering limiting the total number of "R" grades a student may have in her academic career; may need to create a finer relationship between the number of courses taken and GPA in assessing Reasonable Progress

- the Committee will be looking at administrative grade changes
- the Committee will be looking at the coordination of graduate and undergraduate grievance procedures for academic dishonesty; a major concern is to push first level procedures to the unit level, limiting appeals to serious procedural error
- the Committee will follow up on the Second Chance Policy adopted last year by the Faculty Senate but not yet promulgated by the President

Item 5: Resolution of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity

The resolution of the Committee reads as follows:

- Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests that the President and the Provost convey to the SUNY Research Foundation the frustration of principal investigators at UB over the implementation and use of OASIS and our strong suggestion that all avenues be explored to fix the problems as soon as possible, including abandoning OASIS altogether."

The Chair asked for discussion of the resolution:

- resolution would be more powerful if it were based on something other than anecdotal information (Professor Fournier)
- everyone agrees that OASIS is not working so don't need more data (Professor Nickerson)

There was a motion (seconded) to put the resolution on the agenda for the April Faculty Senate meeting with a recommendation for adoption.

The motion passed unanimously.

Following an executive session, there being no old/new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer

Present: Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: M. Kramer

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, J. Bono, M. Churchill, C. Fourtner

Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar

Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Noble, A. El Solh

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, H. Durand, P. Nickerson

University Libraries: J. Hopkins

University Officers:

W. Greiner, President

Guests: R. Patel, Graduate Student Association

W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

M. Jameson, Chair, Faculty Senate Computer Services Committee

S. Hamlen, Chair, Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee

D. Longenecker, Reporter

K. Purdey, The Spectrum

S. Watson, Buffalo News

W. Hepfer, Secretary Elect

Excused: Informatics: J. Ellison

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger

Absent: Architecture: R. Shibley

Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon

Nursing: E. Perese

SUNY Senator: J. Boot