

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 25, 1999 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on August 25, 1999 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the Minutes of April 28 and May 5, 1999](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report from the Budget Priorities Committee](#)
5. [Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
6. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of April 28 and May 5, 1999

The Chair welcomed new, interim and returning members to the first meeting of the 1999/2000 Faculty Senate Executive Committee; members then introduced themselves. The Minutes of April 28, 1999 were approved subject to the correction of a statement attributed to Professor Schack that 2 students out of 20 equaled 20%. The Minutes of May 5, 1999 were approved without correction.

Item 2: Report from the Budget Priorities Committee

Associate Vice President Penksa reported on the New York State budget, adopted on August 5. The budget as it relates to SUNY is mixed.

The Legislature and the Governor agreed to add \$1.1 B to the Governor's budget, with \$150 M going to higher education. Of that sum, \$104 M went for TAP, \$12 M for community college aid, and the J2K Plan that will support research leading to job creation also was funded. No additional money was earmarked for the SUNY base budget, although SUNY had

identified a need for an additional \$60 M (\$32 M to cover negotiated salary increases, \$20 M in inflationary costs, and \$8 M for enrollment and sponsored program growth).

UB was successful in getting the Legislature to add \$1 M to the \$5 M in the Governor's budget for the UB/Roswell Park Center for Advanced Medical Technologies. The Legislature provided \$100 K for the Medical School to begin addressing issues of administration and the practice plan; this Fall the Legislature will discuss broad health care issues, and UB will try to get its medical funding needs re-addressed. The Legislature also added \$800 K for UB's Division I A scholarship athletics and gender equity and \$350K for the Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth.

There were three pieces of legislation aimed specifically at UB. Legislation to transfer the Research Institute on Addictions to UB was finalized. The Legislature approved changes to UB's Capital Projects Plan that will allow UB to implement the South Campus Master Plan. The J2K Plan originally funded research only at Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs); that was changed to open funding to the University Centers so UB could participate. The J2K Plan creates an Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research which will focus on research, academic policy and job growth. The Office will have several new funding programs (e.g., \$7.5 M for a faculty development program and a \$95 M program for capital and laboratory expenses).

Senior Vice President Wagner asked if there were questions on Associate Vice President Penksa's report:

- did SUNY Central and UUP work constructively or adversarial on funding for SUNY (Professor Boot)
- there was advocacy at many levels and from a variety of sources; for example, there were joint efforts to get money for contractual salary increases (Senior Vice President Wagner)

Senior Vice President Wagner believes that SUNY's financial plan to deal with the budget will probably be ready by late September. It seems likely that SUNY will provide campuses

with money for increased salary obligations, but with base budgets the same as last year's. However, since SUNY has substantial obligations for which it has no state funding, there are no certainties about what SUNY will do. UB has developed a draft financial plan that assumes getting last year's base budget, but, since UB also has substantial obligations carried over other years which need to be met, this will be a very difficult year.

Professor Hamlen, Chair of the Budget Priorities Committee, said the Committee will try to provide the administration with input identifying actions that, while providing short-term gain, could result in long term liabilities. She added that because of shrinking state funding, we will succeed only if we can manage enrollment and generate outside revenue.

The Chair introduced Michael Pietkiewicz, the newly appointed Director of Federal Relations. Mr. Pietkiewicz will work at raising UB's profile with local federal officials to increase federal money coming to UB.

The Chair asked for questions:

- have four related questions (Professor Baier)
1. the Health Care Industries Association, which is housed in the Medical School, suffered a budget shortfall this year; could UB participate in a reclaim process on its behalf?
 2. might the Buffalo Technology Transfer Center function as UB's CAT for funding purposes?
 3. how did the Lake Effect Plan, which aimed at a collaboration between the University and area manufacturing and medical technology companies to create medical jobs, fare in the Legislature?
 4. Health Care Industries would be interested in co-investing in a proposed telecommunications facility to be built off the Dental School; is this facility in the South Campus Master Plan?
- the Lake Effect Plan presented a different model of funding for university research from the established model of CATs, and the Legislature was comfortable with keeping the CAT model; the Health Care Industries Association will be involved in

building the UB/Roswell Park CAT which will address issues that the Lake Effect Plan addressed (Associate Vice President Penksa)

- the telecommunications facility is not in the South Campus Master Plan (Senior Vice President Wagner)
- what is the status of the transfer of the Research Institute on Addictions from the Department of Health to UB? (Professor Nickerson)
- the legislation has been passed; there has been extensive planning to transfer staff to UB lines while preserving their credits and benefits; the Institute's facility will be added to UB's inventory; the Institute's research funding will go through the UB Research Foundation; the Institute is bringing all its grants and resources to UB and has not requested additional support; Vice President Landi has worked extremely hard on this very complex transfer for at least three years, doing an excellent job (Senior Vice President Wagner)
- in 1970 Professor Cedric Smith was the founding director of the Institute (Professor Nickerson)
- various members reminisced about the founding of the Institute and the history of the building in which it is housed
- understand there is a shortfall of class room space this Fall; how is UB addressing this (Professor Malone)
- the long range plan was to sequence building a Student Services Building with the Math Building to be done a few months later; administrative offices would then have been relocated to the Student Services Building, freeing up class room space; the Student Services Building is now on track to be built within the next two academic years, and interim solutions will have to be found in the short range (Senior Vice President Wagner)
- several years ago the Classroom Capacity Utilization Committee suggested an algorithm for scheduling class room space; perhaps Professor Foster and Vice Provost Sullivan could report on how effective the work of the Committee was (Professor Schack)

- are there plans to develop a Washington lobbying office? such an office could facilitate negotiations between UB faculty and sponsors (Professor Baier)
- plan to try to develop a relationship with the New York State lobbying office in Washington (Mr. Pietkiewicz)

The Chair asked Professor Hamlen to describe what the Budget Priorities Committee will be doing this year. She responded that the Committee would try to look at four general issues: the impact of the 1999-2000 budget, the budget process at UB, performance evaluation and communication of budget issues. Also, the Committee has four specific issues to discuss: Discretionary Salary Increases, student fees, the Medical School budget and the athletics program. She encouraged FSEC members to share their thoughts and concerns with the Committee so that it wasn't working in a vacuum.

There were comments from members:

- the distribution of new faculty hires doesn't seem to reflect UB's past priorities; would be helpful to understand what current priorities are Professor Adams)
- areas of high interest are not always successful in recruiting and that may account for some of the skew (Professor Sridhar)
- the Budget Priorities Committee will be talking with the Deans to see how they are reacting to the budget; expect that hiring decisions are being affected by the budget (Professor Hamlen)
- could we have a presentation on the practice plans (Professor Fisher)
- yes (Professor Nickerson)
- would be interesting to know the breakdown of tenure track/non-tenure track hires? (Professor Sussman)

Item 3: Sexual Harassment Policy

The Chair reported that the President's Office has not yet released the policy developed by the Committee on Sexual Harassment. As soon as the policy is released, FSEC will discuss it. A report on the policy will be scheduled for the November meeting of Faculty Senate. The Chair hopes to have the state lawyer who approved the policy present at the Senate meeting.

Item 4: Report of the President/Provost

There was no report of the President or the Provost.

Item 5: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

- elections are still being held in some academic units so we do not yet have a complete complement of FSEC members
- the agenda for the September 7, 1999 Faculty Senate meeting includes a report from the Promotions and Tenure Committee on Centers and Institutes, a discussion with Dean Karwan of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and a presentation on the budget by the Senior Vice President and the Budget Priorities Committee; the October meeting of the Senate will include an address by the Provost on the academic state of the University; the November meeting of the Senate will include the policy on sexual harassment; the orientation for new Senators has been postponed from September 14 to allow for the completion of all elections; the annual meeting of the Voting Faculty is scheduled for September 21; the University Convocation is on October 6
- the Deans and the Provost have met several times since the end of the Spring semester, most recently discussing the Faculty Senate Resolution revising the *Charter* to make the role of the Faculty Senate parallel as to graduate and undergraduate matters; the Deans are opposed and unless we interact with them there is a good chance that the University will reject the Resolution; am forming an Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education for which have to identify a Chair

- the Resolution should be rejected; it was not supported by study or documentation (Professor Swartz)
- Ad Hoc Committee will look at this and also the *Standing Orders* to suggest implementation procedure (Professor Nickerson)
- the SUNY Provost's Advisory Task Force on General Education has released a long report which will send electronically to FSEC members; will ask Vice Provost Goodman to comment on how UB will be affected
- the SUNY Senate will meet January 27-January 29 in Buffalo
- important to have a good meeting to showcase UB (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- last time the SUNY Senate met here a bus driver got lost and couldn't find President Sample's house (Professor Malone)
- The Campaign for UB has received pledges for 1/3 of its \$250 M goal; when 1/2 of the goal has been pledged, the Campaign will enter its public phase; will ask Vice President Stein to update FSEC
- Provost Triggie distributed a document entitled *Our Budget Process and Graduate Programs and Policies* to the Deans and Vice Presidents; he proposes to decentralize a number of aspects of Graduate Education; will refer the document to the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education
- he attended the opening of the Hadley Village which is very nice
- the *Blue Book*, which has been distributed to FSEC members, is part of Provost Triggie's response to the Mission Review process; the interlocutors will be on campus October 13-October 14 as part of that review; governance leaders have not yet been invited to meet with the interlocutors
- since the University has the money to print and distribute many copies of the *Blue Book*, the budget must not be as bad as we have been told (Professor Schack)
- the report is very badly written and gives the University a black eye; the policies it contains are not agreed upon University policy; the report does not reflect comments from the faculty (Professor Boot)

- Provost Triggie did solicit faculty comments (Professor Nickerson)
 - comments I gave to Provost Triggie are reflected in the report (Professor Cedric Smith)
 - I heard much dissension from Provost Triggie's vision of the University; the report does not reflect a consensus of the faculty (Professor Schack)
 - no one will read it because it is too tedious (Professor Woodson)
 - discuss this when Provost Triggie is present (Professor Malone)
- on September 8, 1999 we will charge the Computer Services Committee and Senior Vice Provost Tufariello will report on Access '99; copies of *UB Wired* have been provided for FSEC members
- does Access '99 support Macintosh and Linux users? Professor Schack)
 - supports Macintosh users (Professor Adams-Volpe)
 - reflects a decision to use Windows, which decision was discussed by FSEC (Professor Boot)
 - have read that students are choosing schools by the amount of their "wiredness", and UB has been ranked highest in national ratings which should help our recruitment (Professor Malone)
- he has been appointed to the oversight committee for the Division of Biostatistics in the Department of Social and Preventative Medicine (SPM), representing the Faculty Senate; learned at the meeting that there is an endowed chair to head the division, and the Medical School has advertised the position; Senior Associate Dean Holm of the Medical School will find out if the consulting lab is still operating; graduate programs remain suspended, although students currently in the program will be allowed to complete their studies; it is possible that biostatistics will be re-established as a Department when it is stronger
- understand that Dr. Trevisan, Chair of SPM, having secured biostatistics' resources, is now interested in transferring the responsibility for the undergraduate teaching of statistics to the College of Arts and Sciences (Professor Boot)

- SPM is currently teaching undergraduate statistics and such a transfer was not discussed at the oversight committee meeting (Professor Nickerson)
- will supply you with notes taken during the meeting which do reflect such discussion (Professor Boot)
- he has not yet set up a mechanism to respond to the *Princeton Review* ranking of UB as worst for student access to faculty; before doing so, need to determine whether the methodology used was sound and really reflects the situation at UB, which he doubts
- teaching evaluations from our students often don't reflect reality, so no reason to think that the *Princeton Review* elicited more accurate responses (Professor Malone)
- not fair to accept good reviews (most wired) and reject bad ones (Professor Boot)
- can't replicate the comparative nature of the survey, but can question its methodology; own experience is that difficulty in interacting with faculty is a frequent student complaint (Professor Schack)
- the survey on why students leave UB included with the agenda is very flawed, being based heavily on conversations with students' parents rather than the students themselves (Professor Charles Smith)
- the Dental School proposes changing the names of the Department of Periodontology to the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics and the Department of Pediatric Dentistry to the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry; since there is no controversy over these changes, suggest FSEC tell the Provost that we have taken notice of these changes (there was general agreement); the Dental School proposes to eliminate the Department of Oral Health Services and Informatics; there is controversy about this, so suggest referring the matter to the Academic Planning Committee for study
- Faculty Senate passed a Resolution setting out procedures for this situation; need to rewrite the *Standing Orders* to incorporate them (Professor Malone)

- understood that a minority of faculty were concerned with teaching across boundaries and that their concerns were being addressed; are faculty willing to talk about their concerns? (Professor Fournier)
- there is someone willing to talk; think there is enough controversy to warrant study (Professor Nickerson)
- the Academic Planning Committee should look at the effect of the elimination of the Department on the careers of the 3 faculty members involved and how the teaching be handled (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- propose sending the matter to the Academic Planning Committee (there was general agreement) (Professor Nickerson)
- Michael Pietkiewicz has been appointed Director of Federal Relations with responsibility for UB's federal relations programs and initiatives; Dr. Ian Hay has been appointed Associate Provost for Research with responsibility for Centers and Institutes; Associate Provost Hay has been charged with assembling a research advisory committee and he has encouraged the Associate Provost not to bypass the Research and Creative Activity Committee in formulating policies
- the President has responded to several Faculty Senate Resolutions: he has referred the Resolution explicitly giving Faculty Senate responsibility for the oversight of graduate education to the Provost and the Senior Vice President; taking note of our Resolution and the recommendation of the UB Council on the Talloires Declaration, he signed the Declaration on behalf of UB; he accepted our Resolution on independent study which will be implemented by Vice Provost Goodman; he indicated that he believes Professor Guttman will be pleased by the Faculty Senate statement recognizing Professor Guttman's stewardship of the Department of Statistics; regarding the Faculty Senate statement on reorganizations, he indicated he will take a different approach than that recommended; he will instruct the Provost to inform the Senate Chair about proposed reorganizations as soon as they are "before the Provost", preserving the right of Chairs and Deans to discuss such matters within their own schools or the College without having to inform the Faculty Senate; he will entertain any Faculty Senate questions on process in reorganizations

- is a formal letter proposing a reorganization necessary for a proposal to be "before the Provost; understand, for example, that within the College of Arts and Sciences Dean Grant is discussing changes to the American Studies Department but seems not to have made a formal proposal to the Provost, although he has likely kept the Provost informed; is the matter sufficiently before the Provost to trigger Faculty Senate notification? (Professor Boot)
- if a formal proposal to which the Provost will say yes or no is meant, then the President's alternative lacks content (Professor Schack)
- requiring notification of Faculty Senate does not mean that Faculty Senate will intervene, but behind the scenes the Chair can use his good offices to ensure adequate faculty participation in the discussion within the unit; informing the Chair can be done by simply copying him on appropriate memos (Professor Nickerson)
- even if we aren't officially informed of changes being discussed but learn of them informally, we should charge the Academic Planning Committee to look at the changes being discussed (Professor Schack)
- should ask the President to define "before the Provost" (Professor Malone)
- the President suggests that the Provost only reacts to a proposal which has been developed without his active participation in the development process; don't believe that is an accurate representation; the complexities and ambiguities of the real life process requires that the Faculty Senate not try to put the administration in the wrong (Professor Swartz)
- the spirit of the Faculty Senate statement was that we need to know of changes in advance; the President's approach will make it difficult for the Chair to anticipate problems in reorganizations (Professor Nickerson)
- faculty response to proposed changes cannot be just to oppose changes; if we do so we create stasis (Professor Swartz)

Item 6: Old/New Business

Professor Malone reported that there is a growing problem with the late submission of grades, especially in the Spring semester. The Chair will ask Vice Provost Goodman to summarize the problem for the FSEC.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Kramer
Secretary of Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: Peter Nickerson

Secretary: Marilyn Kramer

Parliamentarian: Dennis Malone

Arts & Sciences: Charles Smith, Henry Sussman

Dental Medicine: Robert Baier

Engineering & Applied Sciences: Ramalingam Sridhar

Law: Louis Swartz

Management: John Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Cedric Smith

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: Charles Fournier, Samuel Schack

Pharmacy: Nathan

SUNY Senators: Judith Adams-Volpe, John Boot, John Fisher

University Libraries: Dorothy Woodson

University Officers: Robert Wagner, Senior Vice President

Guests:

Silvia Muller, UB Council

Mara McGinnis, *Reporter*

Susan Hamlen, Chair, Budget Priorities Committee

William Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Kenneth Levy, Senior Vice Provost

Janet Penksa, Associate Vice President

Michael Pietkiewicz, Director of Federal Relations

Absent:

Graduate School of Education: Lilliam Malave

Health Related Professions: Luc Gosselin

Information and Library Studies: George D'Elia

Nursing: Jacqueline Thompson

Social Sciences: William Baumer, Mitchell Harwitz