

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 5, 2003 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Report of the Teaching & Learning Committee - Patricia McCartney](#)
4. [Report on the African American Studies Program - Lillian Williams](#)
5. [Old/New business](#)
6. [Adjournment](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

Chair Cohen reported that he will send a letter to President Greiner requesting administrative support for the "Resolution for Supporting Amendment of the DMCA and Opposing Enactment of Laws Like CBDTPA" that passed at yesterday's Faculty Senate meeting. He requested an executive summary of the Resolution from Professor Ringland, chair of the Computer Services Committee.

The Chair attended a recent Cutting Edge symposium by the College of Arts & Sciences. It was presented for high school students but open to the public. An enthusiastic sociology faculty member gave a very interesting talk of urban sociology. There are four more weekly sessions, and it's a good way to get to know what's going on around campus.

The Chair solicited suggestions for determining a SUNY Senator alternate, i.e., someone who can attend and participate in SUNY

Senate meetings in another's stead. Professor Hepfer clarified that Professor Brodsky is Professor Nickerson's alternate because she received the second highest number of votes in the recent election. The vacancy issue only arose because Professor Baumer was unopposed for the Core Campus seat; therefore there was no second-highest vote-getter.

Professor Malone suggested contacting Carol Colby, who is in charge of the SUNY Senate bylaws. She can find out whether this situation is covered in the bylaws.

Professor Schack said perhaps the FSEC can elect an alternate when the full Senate is unable to. There's enough flexibility in the UB Senate Charter to allow that, so maybe the SUNY Senate rules will allow it, too.

The Chair will contact Carol Colby for clarification.

Item 2: Report of the President/Provost

None

Item 3: Report of the Faculty Senate Teaching & Learning Committee -- Patricia McCartney

Professor McCartney, Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee, summarized the 24-member group's work during the 2002/03 academic year. They:

- Participated in the appointment of Professor James Jensen as the faculty director of the Center for Teaching & Learning Resources (CTLR)

- Serve as advisors to CTLR
- Achieved student participation in the Committee by involving a graduate student and eight undergraduates in discussions
- Created a Case Statement on behalf of CTLR. They'll be meeting with Vice President for Development Jennifer McDonough soon to further discuss endowment funds for the Center
- Continues to advocate for university-wide online course evaluations by students

Professor Adams-Volpe asked about the status of the software program that the Dental School was using for online course evaluations. Professor McCartney said that the CourseEval program was also being used in her department (Nursing), and that's what the Teaching & Learning Committee was advocating. Campus-wide implementation was recommended to the Provost who hasn't made a decision on it yet.

Professor Schack said his main concern with course evaluation software is whether it reflects the number of responses. That number conveys how many students are actually attending class near the end of a semester, which he finds more meaningful than the actual responses. Unfortunately, that number isn't reflected in the final results.

Professor McCartney responded that the Committee hadn't discussed that aspect. However, the opportunity to respond is available to all registered students, not just those still attending late in the semester. There's room for comments, so the form is quite flexible.

There were numerous questions and comments about the history and services of the Center for Teaching & Learning Resources. Professor Jensen, who just became director of the CTLR in January, offered to report on the Center's activities at a future meeting.

Item 4: Report on the African American Studies Program -- Lillian Williams

Professor Williams, Chair of the African American Studies Program (AAS), said that the central mission of the African American Studies Program is the creation and dissemination of knowledge on Africa and the African Diaspora. It seeks to promote interdisciplinarity through teaching and research in Africa, African American and Caribbean culture, history, politics, etc. There are four sub-fields:

- African American Studies
- African Studies
- Caribbean Studies
- African Diaspora Studies

Students have opportunities to study abroad at universities in Cuba, the Caribbean, and Africa.

AAS is expanding its curriculum and offering several tracks:

- Health & the environment
- International affairs & development
- Gender & globalization
- Bioinformatics & technology
- Public policy & legal studies
- Museum studies

The department doesn't currently have an independent Masters of Arts program, but it hopes to develop one soon. Students who want to pursue Africana graduate study now usually enter UB's Master of Arts in the Humanities degree program or the Center for the Americas program.

Around 3,100 students enroll in AAS courses annually; these include

majors and others taking courses for Gen Ed credit. There are currently 20 majors, up significantly from a year ago. There are six full-time faculty in the department.

Item 5: Old/New Business

Under New Business, Professor Baumer said he expects to have a resolution from the Grading Committee ready by the March 26th meeting. It will deal with R grades, i.e. resignations, and, if approved, be ready to present at the April 1 Faculty Senate meeting.

Professor Swartz raised a subject that had been debated by the Faculty Senate in the past, regarding the appropriateness of senators from professional schools and other units outside the Academic Core being able to vote on undergraduate education issues. Perhaps the Senate should reconsider the merit of whether senators should be allowed to vote on matters that have no relevance to their own units.

Chair Cohen said the Senate is supposed to deal with matters sufficiently broad that they can't or shouldn't be dealt with at the decanal level. It's up to the Faculty Senate to look at those issues as they pertain to the whole university.

Professor Swartz said there's a difference between topics that cut across several units and topics that are pertinent to the entire university.

Professor Baumer said that "dicing and slicing" regarding who should vote on what is an open invitation to do so with every issue that comes before the Senate.

Professor Schack said that former senator Bill George had been right when he challenged the notion that senators should be entitled to vote on all matters that affect the university.

Chair Cohen pointed out that the Faculty Senate is on the only official governance structure recognized by UB Administration.

Professor Adams-Volpe recalled that the Faculty Senate's role in the Graduate School was expanded during the last Bylaws revision. Professor Nickerson confirmed that recollection, but added that it hadn't been approved by the President.

Professor Schack suggested that this issue be resurrected so it can be re-debated by FSEC and the Senate. Then it can be sent forward to the new president next year.

Chair Cohen said he expects we'll be well into the next academic year before a new president takes office. If it's the sense of this group that the topic is worth reactivating, however, we should decide how to proceed.

Professor Schack recommended charging the Bylaws Committee to go and look at the proposed Bylaw changes that were rejected five years ago. Explain that FSEC thinks that those sentiments are worth pursuing again, so we'd like them to review and resubmit a new resolution.

Professor Nickerson recalled that the faculty solidly supported the original resolution, but the deans were against it then.

Professor Baumer said we should anticipate any arguments we're likely to get and address them beforehand. We should also consider whether we want jurisdiction over all Graduate School matters.

Professor Swartz cautioned against trying to make all university matters part of the Faculty Senate's domain. We should be realistic about what we can and should have a say about. The Bill George resolution was about much more than the Graduate School, and there's likely to be a strong opposition to a similar proposal.

Professor Schack said that memories differ over what was debated five years ago. It's a fact, however, that a resolution was approved

then, so that's what we need to go to and start with now.

Chair Cohen said it might be more expedient to appoint an ad hoc committee to look into this.

Professor Swartz said that the Faculty Senate made no response when the original resolution was rejected, and this might have been perceived as a lack of commitment on our part.

Professor Schack objected to any inference of a lack of commitment. Much time elapsed before the President rejected the resolution, and there's no provision for overriding a president's decision anyway.

Professor Baumer recommended that the Chair gather information by consulting with Professors Nickerson and Hoeing, who were chair and secretary of the Faculty Senate during the original deliberations. Chair Cohen can then bring this matter to the table for further action this semester, or, perhaps, assign it to a committee for action in the fall.

The Chair accepted that recommendation.

Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: W. Hepfer

Architecture: S. Danford
Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, S. Bruckenstein, S. Schack, K. Takeuchi
Dental Medicine: J. Zambon
Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen
Public Health & Health Professions: G. Farkas
Law: L. Swartz
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger, F. Morin
SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, M. Kramer, P. Nickerson
Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Guests:

W. Coles, Professional Staff Senate
P. McCartney, Teaching & Learning Committee
L. Stewart, EDAAA
L. Williams, African-American Studies

Excused:

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett
University Libraries: CA Fabian

Absent:

Arts & Sciences: C. Smith
Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Mayne
Graduate School of Education: R. Stein
Informatics: F. Tutzauer
Institutional/General: O. Mixon
Management: J. Boot
Nursing: E. Perese
Pharmacy: G. Brazeau
SUNY Senators: H. Durand