



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 9, 2015

CHAIR:

Philip Glick

SECRETARY:

Cynthia Tysick

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Ernest Sternberg

ARTS & SCIENCES:

Alex Anas

Michael Cowen

Stephen Dyson

Peter Morgan

Paul Zarembka

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Michael Hatton

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

Joseph Mollendorf

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Lynne Yang (absent)

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Jim Lenker (excused)

LAW:

TBD

MANAGEMENT:

Larry Sanders

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

Michael Chaskes

Peter Elkin

Richard Gronostajski
Gabriela Popescu

NURSING:

Grace Dean

PHARMACY:

Fred Doloresco

SOCIAL WORK:

Robert Keefe

SUNY SENATORS:

Henry Durand (excused)

Ezra Zubrow (excused)

TBD

TBD

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Glendora Johnson-Cooper

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Richard Gronostajski

GUESTS:

Satish Tripathi, President

1. The Chair explained that minutes from the last spring FSEC were not taken due to the secretary being excused without replacement.
2. Chair's Report:
 - New Chair, Dr. Philip Glick, welcomed the members of FSEC and introduced himself.
 - A brief presentation was given by the Chair (see attached)
 - A call went will go out to the voting faculty to serve on two Decanal searches (Dentistry and Management).
 - We now have a Twitter account @UBFacultySenate and #SharedGovernance
 - The Chair would like to see meaningful governance to occur, to inform the voting faculty of their responsibilities and powers, and to adhere to the principle of shared governance.
3. President's Report:
 - Welcomed the new Chair
 - UB now has 85 new faculty members
 - UB has seen an increase in undergraduates and a decrease in Masters enrollment.
 - There is a shift in enrollment across the units
 - UB's profile among our peers has increased as a result of recent endowments, large gifts, and significant grants. This helps UB when it comes to securing CTSA, NIH, and NSF type funding because peer evaluation is large component.
 - UB is now ranked in the top 100 (US News and World Report)
 - General questions:
 - Michael Hatton pointed out that there are other SUNYs ahead of us in the rankings.
 - Ernest Sternberg wondered how much impact students from India and China had on Masters' numbers because he did hear that a higher number than usual pulled out of attending UB at the last minute.
 - President's response was not much impact. He did acknowledge that China's flagging economy may be forcing Chinese students to push back their pursuit of a Master's degree by a year or two.
4. Presentation by the Committee on Faculty Engagement by Michael Hatton
 - See attached
 - Paul Zarembka pointed out that it's important to let people know the role faculty senate has. For example, Faculty Senate must approve all reorganization of academic units. Has the Provost made a decision on the Libraries reorganization?

- Chair's response was that the libraries does not have Dean but does have faculty that report to the VPUL. The Provost hasn't made a decision yet. Although reorganization of an academic unit requires Faculty Senate voting the result is advisory.
- Gabriela Popescu asked about the status "Standards of Excellence" that the Provost requested last year. Are the standards from each unit public? Will they be made public? Can/will they be used for faculty promotion?
 - Chair's response was the standards were metrics that the campuses were to create and then use for the SUNY Excels program.
 - Peter Elkin commented that he was tasked, as a chair of a department, to create metrics across all areas and that those metrics would be used by the Provost to help determine if the department and unit were meeting their goals.
 - A comment was made that the company "Academic" was pulling all the metrics together by campus to create a customized SUNY Excel program for each campus.

5. Old Business

- Resolution to allow electronic voting presented by Richard Gronostajski
 - See attached
 - Paul Zarembka stressed the importance of faculty senate as an informed democracy. He wanted clarification that this resolution would allow some to vote without ever coming to any meetings? Richard Gronostajski responded that there was no way to mandate someone listen even if they came to a meeting.
 - Alex Anas suggested we allow for discussion to happen on the listserv rather than solely rely on face-to-face discourse.
 - Michael Chaskes said that discussing a resolution or issue via a listserv was different that actually commenting and voting on an item presented at faculty senate and he felt that being there was important.
 - Ernest Sternberg asked what elections would be covered here. Richard replied SUNY Senators, Faculty Senate Chair, and Secreatry (which we already do but a resolution would assure adherence to our standing orders)
 - A general discussion began about first trying teleconferencing on all three campuses before allowing someone to vote from their desktop.
 - Michael Cowen asked that the wills be 'shalls'
 - Joseph Mollendorf felt that voting electronically on a resolution would not assure a quorum but it would give people a reason to skip a meeting. If getting a quorum was the reason for this resolution then FSEC needs to stress the importance of an alternate.

- Michael Hatton pointed out that someone might make two meetings in a row where a resolution was read but then have to miss the third where the voting occurred thus disenfranchising them from the process.
- Peter Elkin felt that it was 'old school' to ask everyone to be physically present.
- James Hassett advised for consistent language with Professional Staff Senate in regards to electronic voting procedures.
- A motion was made to table this until next meeting and ask the Elections Committee to revise the resolution.

6. New Business tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

Submitted by
Cynthia Tysick,
Secretary to the Faculty Senate
09/18/2015