

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 20, 2002

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 PM on March 20, 2002 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of February 27 and March 6, 2002](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Status of SUNY General Education Assessment Review \(GEAR\) - Professor Jack Meacham, member of GEAR; Status of UB's General Education Assessment Plan - Dr. Jeannette Molina, Center for Teaching and Learning Resources](#)
5. [Committee Reports: Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee, Professor John Ho, Chair; Faculty Senate Student Life Committee, Professor Peter Nickerson, Chair](#)
6. [Update on the online directory - Associate Vice President Carole Smith Petro, Rebecca Bernstein, Web Team Leader](#)
7. [Executive Session](#)

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of February 27 and March 6, 2002

The minutes of February 27 and March 6, 2002 were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

- he responded to a national online survey entitled Survey on Governance and Institutional Decision-Making; the survey is a product of a committee chaired by Professor Bruce Johnstone
- on April 30 at 3 PM the PRB will meet with interested faculty to discuss criteria for promotion and tenure and PRB procedures
- 15/20 faculty have responded to his invitation to volunteer for Senate committees; the SUNY Senate is also looking for volunteers for its committees
- Faculty Senate Committee chairs will be reporting during the remaining four Executive Committee meetings
- the Provost has requested nominations for honorary degrees; nominations are due April 1
- nominees must not have received a honorary degree from any other SUNY institution, must agree to be present to receive the degree, and traditionally should have some connection to UB (Professor Malone)
- he received a request from the Chair of the Faculty Senate at SUNY Albany for copies of UB policies relating to faculty academic honesty; he will be sending a copy of UB's Responsible Conduct in Intellectual and Creative Activity
- SUNY Albany is currently dealing with a high profile case of plagiarism (Professor Baumer)
- that policy was drafted by the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity in collaboration with then Vice President Landi (Professor Nickerson)
- Vice Provost Dutton provided him with figures on the number of minority faculty and students at UB; the figures show 69 minorities at the Professor rank, 115 at the Associate Professor rank, 151 at the Assistant Professor rank, 12 at the Instructor rank, and 6 at the Lecturer rank; out of 3,059 full-time students entering UB 1,170 were other than Caucasian
- would be interested in seeing faculty figures broken down by EOC faculty as opposed to those in core disciplines and GFT and a distinction made between minority faculty and under-represented minority faculty typically defined as Black, Hispanic and Native American (Dr. Durand)
- he received a copy of a Middle States model accreditation study
- he was interested in a letter to the editor appearing in the Buffalo News from a law student who was concerned about the physical appearance of UB and the dress and behavior of its faculty; it raised a question in his mind as to whether/how the Senate should respond to criticisms of the University
- UB administration should respond to negative reporting about UB (Professor Malone)

- negative reporting is balanced by positive stories about UB; dangerous for UB to take a defensive posture (Professor Malave)
- the Computer Services Committee heard a report on Linux in which the advisability of being tied to Microsoft XP was questioned because of privacy concerns; have invited the presenter to speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting
- a Senate presentation singling Linux out from other operating systems is inappropriate (Professor Sridhar)
- presentation will focus on privacy and access issues involving Microsoft, not on Linux as an operating system (Professor Cohen)
- such a presentation should focus on resolutions concerning privacy and access issues coming from the Committee (Professor Sridhar)
- access provisions that recognize copyright are intended to protect the rights of authors rather than to infringe on public right of access (Professor Baumer)

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

There was no report of the President/Provost.

Item 4: Status of SUNY General Education Assessment Review (GEAR); Status of UB's General Education Assessment Plan

The report of the status of UB's General Education Assessment Plan was postponed due to the illness of Dr. Molina.

Professor Meacham reported on the work of the SUNY General Education Assessment Review (GEAR) group **of which he is a member.**

- because the SUNY Trustees' General Education plan mandated assessment of student learning outcomes, in 1999 the SUNY Provost formed the Advisory Task Force on the Assessment of Student Learning to which Professor Meacham was appointed as representative of the SUNY University Senate
- the Task Force's report of December 2000 established that assessment is a faculty responsibility, provided that an institution's assessment plan must be reviewed and approved

by its faculty governance body before being submitted to SUNY and adopted the principle that assessment will be campus based, rather than based on a SUNY-wide test

- the Task Force envisions a four step process for campus based assessment
 1. adopt the objectives for student learning outlined in the Implementation Guidelines of the Provost's Advisory Committee on General Education
 2. establish direct measures of student learning keyed to the objectives
 3. conduct the assessment
 4. use the assessment results to improve teaching and learning
- local assessment plans were due by December 2001, which deadline was extended to March 1, 2002
- in 2002 the GEAR group was formed to review proposed assessment plans with regard to the processes by which the plans identify objectives for student learning, establish measures which provide evidence of student learning outcomes, disseminate results of the assessment in order to improve teaching and learning, and schedule assessment of all 12 domains of SUNY's General Education requirement over a 3 year cycle beginning in Fall 2002; additionally GEAR verifies that plans have been reviewed and approved by local faculty governance bodies
- math learning outcome could be met by any high school graduate who successfully completed 2.5 years of high school math; would GEAR accept a Regent's math test as sufficient assessment? (Professor Fournier)
- as a single member of a 25 member committee, I would find that proposal acceptable if a clear correlation between specific SUNY math objectives and the exam could be established (Professor Meacham)
- would be easy for math; not sure that a correlation could establish easily established for the science learning outcomes (Professor Fournier)
- UB did not meet the March 1 deadline for submitting its plan (Professor Cohen)

Item 5: Committee Reports

Professor Ho, Chair of the Committee on Research and Creative

Activity, summarized the work of the Committee.

- the Committee reviewed the results of the survey conducted by the Committee on what concerned researchers at UB; concerns outside the scope of the Committee will be passed on to more appropriate committees
- the Committee is pursuing researchers' concerns about UB's requirement that grant applications contain requests for tuition for graduate assistants used in the project; the Committee discussed the matter with Vice President Turkkan pointing out that to avoid the requirement some researchers have substituted post-docs for graduate assistants; the Committee noted that the lack of prior consultation with faculty about the policy resulted in much of the unhappiness and offered to serve as her consultative body in lieu of exclusively consulting with the Deans
- the Committee also asked Vice President Turkkan for clarification of policies governing decanal grants for graduate assistant tuition when funding agencies refuse to include such costs in awards
- the Committee is seeking clarification of policies on matching funds from the Provost
- frequent changes in policy about the return of indirect costs to departments has resulted in faculty confusion; the Committee has asked Vice President Turkkan to clarify the policy and to make transparent how indirect costs are distributed
- the Committee drafted a resolution addressed to President Greiner and Provost Capaldi urging that they "convey to the SUNY Research Foundation the extreme 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"
- Chronicle of Higher Education has documented problems of other national and international institutions with OASIS (Professor Noble)
- Crofts Hall has tried very hard to fix the problems but has not been successful; have been asked by staff to take my frustration to the administration (Professor Malave)

Professor Baumer moved (seconded) to endorse the Committee's resolution and to place this matter on the agenda of the April

Faculty Senate meeting for action, dispensing with a first reading.

- inappropriate for the Committee to send the resolution to the President and Provost without either Executive Committee or Senate approval (Professor Malone)
- will readdress the resolution to show it coming to the Executive Committee (Professor Cohen)
- Research Foundation is well aware of the problems with OASIS; there is, however, no possibility of moving off OASIS since there is no other software available; suggest that the Chief Information Officer be invited to outline his plans and timetable for making OASIS better (President Greiner)

The question, being called, passed with one negative vote.

Item 6: Update on the Online Directory

Due to a schedule conflict, Associate Vice President Smith Petro was unable to remain long enough to address the Executive Committee. Her presentation will be rescheduled.

After an executive session, there being no old/new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer
Secretary of Faculty Senate

Present: Chair: M. Cohen
Secretary: M. Kramer
Parliamentarian: D. Malone
Architecture: R. Sibley
Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, M. Churchill, C. Fournier
Dental Medicine: J. Zambon
Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar
Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: A. El Solh, B. Noble
SUNY Senators: H. Durand, P. Nickerson
University Libraries: J. Hopkins
University Officers:
W. Greiner, President

Guests: J. Meacham, GEAR group
J. Ho, Chair, Committee on Research and Creative Activity
K. Purdy, The Spectrum
D. Longenecker, Reporter
B. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Excused: Arts & Sciences: J. Bono
Health Related Professions: G. Farkas
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger
SUNY Senator: J. Adams-Volpe

Absent: Informatics: J. Ellison
Management: J. Boot
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon
Nursing: E. Perese
SUNY Senator: J. Boot