

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 15, 2004

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. 1. Approval of the minutes of April 21 and April 28, 2004
2. 2. Report of the Chair
3. 3. Academic planning update – J. Simpson, S. Tripathi, P. Nickerson
4. 4. Old/New business
5. 5. Executive session (if needed)
6. 6. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of April 21 and April 28, 2004

Both sets of minutes were approved as distributed.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Peter Nickerson welcomed everyone to a new academic year and reported:

- Last week several of us attended the Planning Committee of the University Faculty Senate held at Saratoga Springs. Topics included functional funded categories for the new budget formula that is being developed for funding SUNY units.
- The UB Council met this summer. Provost Tripathi gave an overview of the activities in his office. David Brooks, a second-year medical student, is the new student representative.
- The Annual Meeting of the Voting Faculty is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21st, at the Center for Tomorrow.
- The investiture of President Simpson is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 15th, at the Center for the Arts.

- The Teaching & Learning Committee met several weeks ago. They heard about the survey of students regarding faculty access to student photographs as part of their class lists. There was also a preliminary report on distance education.

Item 3: Academic planning update – J. Simpson, S. Tripathi, P. Nickerson

President Simpson said that he's delighted that Satish Tripathi is now here as UB's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. We are now proceeding to recruit for three more key administrative posts. National searches are underway for vice presidents for research, health affairs, and external affairs. The VP for research position will henceforth report to the provost. The VP for health affairs will be separate from the dean of the School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences because health sciences have a much broader scope. That VP is expected to have a leadership role in Buffalo's clinical and medical enterprise. The VP for external affairs will help to make UB better understood beyond our state government. State support for higher education is shrinking, so we need someone to represent UB proactively rather than reactively.

President Simpson's approach to building a strong administration is to hire good people, give them a clear understanding of their duties, and then let them do their jobs. Academics need to be our first priority because a university's academic agenda should drive the institutional agenda.

He's been visiting many departments and learning about what's going on at UB. Much of what he's seen has been very impressive, but there doesn't seem to be a clear sense of institutional direction. That's why there was a leadership retreat in July – to develop a planning process for UB to become a great university.

NRC rankings show that UB has many good programs, but few are truly distinguished. Our resources have been spread too thin by having so many programs for an institution of our size. We need to decide what academic areas to emphasize so we can make selected programs great.

UB has been highly decentralized financially and organizationally. We need to become more efficient so we're not doing the same things over and over.

We also need to have guidelines for a faculty code of conduct. There were no unified guidelines available for dealing with faculty behaviors that were reported by media earlier this year.

In the planning process that's underway, academic units were asked to evaluate their strengths, weaknesses, and potential for growth. There has been faculty participation through the Faculty Senate (FS) Planning Committee and other faculty committees.

Questions & comments:

- How does SUNY's Mission Review II (MR2) relate to UB's planning process? (Brazeau)
- The two activities are complimentary. We'll converge our planning process with MR2 and negotiate with SUNY to have good things happen when we do what we say we'll do. There were no rewards for being successful in the past, but there would have been financial consequences for not meeting goals. (Simpson)
- Will there be student involvement in the planning process? (Nickerson)
- There will be a student advisory committee, and student input will be solicited via the Web site that will be activated soon. (Simpson)
- Many of UB's programs are underfunded, so it's difficult for them to accomplish all that they would like to do. There's also a lack of classroom space, which hampers our ability to invite distinguished scholars to speak or to host special events. (Schack)
- How is UB doing compared to other SUNY Centers? Are we competing with them for state funds, or should we be cooperating for a common purpose? (Kramer)
- We're trying to work with the SUNY research institutions to convince the chancellor of the need for more support. (Simpson)
- Electronic communication will be an important part of the planning process. It's the preferred method of sharing and contributing information nowadays. (Christian)

- Electronic communication at UB is still flawed, because Macintosh computers running Netscape browsers cannot access some important UB Web pages and often crash in the process.
(Schack)
- Strategic planning started in the military. Strategic plans seldom survived past the first battle because circumstances would change. It's more important to have a set of rules by which we decide what we're going to do next. (Baumer)
- UB's written document will have to be flexible so it can be responsive to changes in our internal and external environments. It's important to have a plan, however, because UB needs to state principles to guide what it should and shouldn't do. (Simpson)

Provost Tripathi discussed recent organization changes in his Office. Internal searches are underway for a vice provost & dean of undergraduate affairs, a vice provost & dean of graduate studies, and a vice provost for faculty affairs. Candidates must be full professors.

Associate Vice President Sean Sullivan will continue to head the Office of Academic Planning & Budget, and Vice Provost for International Education Stephen Dunnett will stay in charge of that Office.

Item 4: Old/New business

None

Item 5: Executive session (if needed)

There was a brief executive session

Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Attendance (P = present; E = excused; A = absent)

Chair: P. Nickerson (P)
Secretary: W. Hepfer (P)
Architecture & Planning: GS. Danford (P)
Arts & Sciences: S. Bruckenstein (A), S. Schack (P), K. Takeuchi (E)
Dental Medicine: M. Donley (P)
Education: L. Malave (P)
Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen (A), R. Mayne (A)
Informatics: J. Hong (P)
Institutional/General: O. Mixon (A)
Law: L. Swartz (A)
Management: C. Pegels (P)
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett (A), J. Sellick (P)
Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)
Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (P)
Public Health & Health Professions: C. Crespo (E)
Social Work: Barbara Rittner (A)
SUNY Senators: W. Baumer (P), W. Coles (P), M. Kramer (P), P. Nickerson (P)
University Libraries: C. Tysick (E)

Guests: B. Burke (EDAAA), D. Christian (Academic Planning Cmte.),
L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Senate), L. Stewart (EDAAA), S. Wuetcher
(Reporter)