

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Minutes of February 9, 2000 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on February 9, 2000 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Report of the Computer Services Committee](#)
4. [University at Buffalo Foundation -- "What is it: What does it do?"](#)
5. Report of the Budget Priorities Committee
6. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

1. the Budget Priorities Committee's report on the financial situation in the College of Arts & Sciences is not yet ready for public dissemination so Item 5 of the agenda will be postponed; the report will probably be presented at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate
2. the Faculty Senate sponsored session on the virtual university was fairly well attended
3. the UB Council met on February 8; Vice President Black talked about plans for construction of more housing on the North Campus and rehabilitation of the dorms on the South Campus; Professors Sheffer and Foster from the Institute of Local Governance and Regional Growth spoke about the Institute's studies and activities to improve conditions in the Western New York area
4. the decanal review of Dean Goldberg of the School of Dental Medicine has been completed; Dean Goldberg read pertinent parts of his review to the School's Executive Committee, and he intends to give a similar presentation to the School's entire faculty; this is the first time a Dean has shared the results of an evaluation, and it is a very positive example
5. Dr. Coles has been very busy with the Professional Staff Senate's Wellness Day; Dr. Coles said he expects a large turnout, and he encouraged faculty to attend and give him feed

6. the following Committees have been active: the Grading Committee met on February 7 and revised its report on reasonable academic progress which is scheduled for a second reading on February 15; the major revision is that the last step in the scale is 115+ credit hours and a minimum GPA of 1.95; the Teaching and Learning Committee worked on revising its resolution which will also be presented on February 15; the Teaching and Learning Committee is also discussing alternate approaches to assessment

Item 2: Report of the President/Provost

There was no report of the President/Provost.

Item 3: Report of the Computer Services Committee

Professor Peterson, Chair of the Computer Services Committee, stated that the Committee's overarching theme has been to increase faculty voice, power and influence in IT matters. The Committee met with Chief Information Officer Innus in December resulting in faculty representation on the IT Steering Committee being increased from one to three. The Committee's listserv has seen active discussion of a variety of issues, e.g., using the difficulties with Host on Demand as a case study in IT management, listserv management, accountability of the administration for IT matters, etc. Following up on work done under the prior chair, Professor Straubinger, the Committee is drafting a resolution concerning the need for evaluation of nodes in particular and IT planning in general. Another area of discussion has been what the baseline of IT support for faculty should be; there is real inequality in the provision of IT resources across the campus. At minimum faculty should have the same equipment as freshmen. The Committee is also interested in looking at IT planning for the future, what the needs are and how funds are being spent.

The Chair noted that expenses for IT don't decrease, and there are major questions about how to find the funding just to stay even with technology. The Committee is very much interested in having input into those decisions. Professor Peterson added that there has been concern over technology fees and financing the replacement of obsolete technology for faculty.

The Chief Information Officer, (the CIO), responded to some of these issues. Getting adequate faculty input into IT planning will take more than just adding faculty members to the IT Steering Committee. Faculty needing specific IT support for research, for example, should communicate those

needs to IT staff. The FSEC should play a role. The CIO is discussing with the Computer Services Committee the idea of brown bag lunches which would provide an open forum for faculty concerns.

Host on Demand (HOD) is an infrastructure that allows business and departmental offices to access applications residing on the main frame, e.g., scheduling programs, budget programs, etc. When the IT Coordination Committee realized that Omnipath, HOD's predecessor, was not Y2K compliant, it began evaluating replacement programs. HOD, one of two satisfactory programs identified, was significantly less expensive and was chosen. Unknown to UB HOD was undergoing a revision which increased its desk top requirements beyond the capacity of an unknown number of UB's 1400/1500 desk tops. IBM recommended an implementation configuration for UB's less robust environment; however, under a normal workload HOD began to develop problems with log on and printing. IBM is working very aggressively to resolve the problems and should be finished within the next two weeks. IBM and UB will do a recap of the implementation process, but the thinking at this point is that the difficulties UB encountered may have been caused by the alternate configuration.

The CIO turned to what UB's future IT needs are. His initial wish list added up to some \$14.5 M and his pared down version of the list to \$9.5 M. At best he has \$4/5 M to spend.

There were questions from the floor:

- will the newly appointed faculty on the IT Steering Committee have input into the prioritization of needs?
(Professor Jorgenson)
- yes; the conversation about prioritization will be a long one (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- is it true that UB's technology fee is the second highest in the nation? (Professor Schroeder)
- very difficult to compare fees; some institutions have a single, undifferentiated fee, and different services are included under the rubric of a technology fee; however, it is fair to say that UB's identified technology fee is on the high end, but when all fees are combined, UB is in the middle (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- being perceived as having a very high technology fee makes it more difficult to attract new students and to satisfy current students that they are getting their money's worth (Professor Schroeder)
- students don't object to the fee so long as it is put to its intended purpose; as a consequence of the technology fee, UB is the first public university to broadly implement student access, and to offer students unlimited free printing and off-campus computer access (Chief Information Officer Innus)

- to make comparisons among universities, must look at the total cost of attending an institution; we raise money on fees, other institutions charge high tuition (Professor Baumer)

The Chair invited Senior Vice President Wagner's comments. The Senior Vice President concurred with Professor Baumer's remarks, adding that technology is paid for through a variety of sources, not just student technology fees. He noted that the prioritization of needs which will allow us to attract and retain students and faculty and to be administratively accountable is our most pressing IT task. The IT Steering Committee will have to decide on what are the most strategic investments to make and figure out how to pay for them. The Provost added that we must not leave the substantial and changing needs of the Libraries out of the IT equation.

There were questions and comments:]

- what evaluation procedures are being used to determine what's working? (Professor Booth)
- outcomes of our student access initiatives have anecdotally been very positive (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- has there been evaluation of academic outcomes? (Professor Booth)
- Psychology 101 and Computer Sciences 101 have built in assessment components; there is very little expertise anywhere on assessing the impact of computer technology on teaching and learning; several interested UB faculty are working on developing assessment strategies for next year (Vice Provost Fischer)
- UB has received outside recognition of its access initiatives, e.g., Yahoo lists UB as the 47th most wired university, and UB received a Pew grant for the development of lower division courses using asynchronous capabilities (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- critical to have faculty input into academic and student use of computer technology, but not as to administrative functions, e.g. HOD (Professor Meacham)

The CIO moved to two other issues raised by Professor Peterson: baseline support for faculty and how much money is being spent on IT. The IT Steering Committee sees the question of baseline support for faculty as an educational technology planning issue to be primarily addressed by the Schools and Colleges. None-the-less, it would be useful to have an institutional discussion of the general issue. The question of how much money in total is being spent on IT is very difficult to answer. Money which is centrally controlled, e.g.

money spent by CIT or the Libraries, capital expenditures, and technology fees, can easily be identified. But since there is not a reporting category for IT expenditures, other money spent on campus cannot be easily identified.

- are we considering assessing the computer skills of incoming students? (Professor Malone)
- we have established hardware and software standards and provide classes for the products we expect them to use (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- are there guidelines for developing web pages which address space issues, e.g. would prefer to download a text rather than link to it but that has storage implications (Professor Fournier)
- the ETC and Millard Fillmore College have selected Blackboard as UB's course management system; that decision could make housing course material a centrally managed responsibility with faculty concentrating on developing course content; however, another model would be to centrally provide a basic structure but allow units to add layers for their own use; we need an institutional discussion of the issue (Chief Information Officer Innus)

Item 4: University of Buffalo Foundation -"What is it: What does it do?"

President Greiner explained that the UB Foundation is unique in SUNY, being the only educational corporation chartered by the New York State Education Department. The Foundation's mission is to support and promote the activities and programs of UB by providing support, advice, and counsel regarding philanthropy, fund raising and development, by managing gifts and grants on behalf of UB, by providing a wide range of financial services for various units of UB, by developing and managing real property on behalf of UB, and by providing a strong base of private-sector support through its Trustees and Directors.

The Foundation was chartered in anticipation of SUNY's merger with the University of Buffalo, and many of its incorporators were members of the University of Buffalo Council. The Foundation started out with a capital fund of \$1.5 M from the endowment assets of the University of Buffalo. The remainder of the University of Buffalo's endowment went to SUNY to be held by the Board of Trustees for the benefit of the University at Buffalo; currently it is worth about \$200 M. In fact all endowment monies held by the SUNY Trustees, including UB's, are managed from Buffalo.

The Foundation has played a variety of roles. Up to the 1990's it was UB's development division with the Foundation's President also serving as UB's Vice President for Development. Development is now the responsibility of the University under the control of the Vice President for Development, who is funded by the University. The Foundation is now headed by an Executive Officer, Edward Schneider and serves primarily as steward of UB's endowment. The Foundation has also accreted auxiliary service functions, e.g. running a billing service for the School of Medicine, serving as a repository for funds which were not charitable in origin, and providing auxiliary service accounts for deans and chairs. It has also been involved in sponsored research activities.

The Foundation has affiliate corporations; illustrative are: UBF for property development, e.g., Parcel B, the Bookstore and The Commons, FNUB for property operation, e.g., 465 Washington St., Pfeifer Theatre, 889 LeBrun, and UCI Properties, UB Foundation Incubator, Inc. for operation of the Incubator Facility and Baird Research Park, and the UBF Faculty-Student Housing Corp. for operating apartment style housing projects, Flickinger Court, Hadley Road and South Lake Village. These affiliate corporations protect the assets of the Foundation itself from liability claims arising from these entities.

- are the affiliate corporations also not for profit corporations? (Professor Fournier)
- all but one (248 North Long Street, Inc.) are not for profit (Mr. Schneider)
- why isn't the Faculty Student Association an affiliate corporation of the UBF? (Professor Fournier)
- UB collects money through its student billing operation for housing, etc. which is then deposited in the State Treasury from which it can be transferred only on the basis of a contract; for food and vending UB has chosen to contract with the FSA; would require new contracts to move to the UBF (Senior Vice President Wagner)

President Greiner pointed out that one of the consequences of UBF being an educational corporation is that the SUNY Board of Trustees appoints the UBF Trustees. All the other campuses have foundations which are self-supporting and appoint their own trustees. The arrangement has worked well for UB in that it provides a special tie to the SUNY Board of Trustees.

- has been suggested that fewer subcorporations would be desirable; why? (Professor Schack)
- the issue is not the subcorporations of the UBF, but rather that at UB there is the State way of doing business, the UBF way, the FSA way, and the Research Foundation way; would be better to do business only on a State

side and a private side run by the UBF, which could then contract with others corporations, e.g., the FSA
(President Greiner)

- am troubled that funds from an endowment earmarked for a department or a program are used in lieu of, rather than in addition to, University funding(Professor Charles Smith)
- don't want to discourage donors, but that is exactly the point of All Funds Budgeting; some units can be more self-supporting, through higher tuition, through philanthropy, or through sponsored research (President Greiner)
- what safeguards protect against the SUNY Trustees appointing UBF Trustees with a political agenda ?
(Professor Adams-Volpe)
- the SUNY Trustees have never yet appointed a UBF Trustee without our recommendation; also, the UBF Trustees are a very distinguished and well connected body; the SUNY Board of Trustees would not be wise to offend them (President Greiner)
- do the affiliate corporations have their own Trustees? (Professor Fournier)
- typically two or three members of the UBF Trustees serve as those trustees (Mr. Schneider)
- will the Butler Mansion be registered as an asset or a liability? (Professor Boot)
- the Butler Mansion will appear as an asset; like the Darwin Martin House, the Butler Mansion is part of Buffalo's patrimony and the role of a great university in serving its community extends beyond the bottom line
(President Greiner)
- is there any significant difference in the rate of return on the assets managed by the UBF and those managed by the SUNY Trustees over the last ten years (Professor Welch)
- UBF has done better over the ten year period, but in the last five years the SUNY Trustees have done better; in aggregate their performances have been roughly comparable (President Greiner)
- UB ranks about 100th in the nation in funds invested for us (Professor Nickerson)
- is there concern about socially conscious investing? (Professor Jorgenson)
- has been considered, but the UBF Investment Committee believes its responsibility is to maximize total return
(Mr. Schneider)
- the SUNY Trustees operate under the same guidelines (Senior Vice President Wagner)
- read the UBF Consolidated Statement as saying the UBF contributed \$31 M to UB in 1999 (Professor Malone)

- because of the new student housing the UBF's income from auxiliary services will increase sharply; UB is behind in alumni giving and in our endowment size because we have tended to rely on state money, but we will increasingly rely on other sources of support (President Greiner)

Item 5: Old/new business

The Chair has received an invitation from the Chancellor's Office to participate in its current, routine review of President Greiner. We are asked to comment on President Greiner's stewardship of the University. The deadline is February 25. On March 13 Dr. Steven Beering, President of Purdue University, will be on campus as the outside peer evaluator; he will be provided with documentation prior to his visit.

The Chair asked for advice on strategy for providing faculty input, given the extremely short time frame.

- contact the 100 department chairs, asking them to inform their faculty of the need for comments; put an ad in the *Reporter*; put something on the Senate web page (Professor Schack)
- SUNY will pay very little attention to anonymous comments, so should solicit signed comments (Professor Malone)
- is the Senate being asked to serve as a clearing house for individual faculty members' comments? (Professor Schack)
- the Senate's own comments are being requested; after consulting the Senate for its recommendations, FSEC should appoint a subcommittee to prepare a response (Professor Baumer)
- put the invitation on the Faculty Senate e-list (Professor Malone)
- to make the process legitimate, we need to get a wide variety of comments from faculty (Professor Nickerson)
- the minutes of the Faculty Senate discussion could serve as a part of our comments; solicit written comments from faculty other than the Senators with an ad in the *Reporter* (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- the Senate should not censor individual comments but could summarize the sentiment of the comments (Professor Schack)
- should ensure an equitable response through some sort of structured solicitation of comments (Professor Welch)

- members of the FSEC broadly represent the disciplines on campus and have contact with the President, so might be good for FSEC members to write individually (Professor Charles Smith)
- post the letter of invitation and a call for comments on the Faculty Senate e-list quickly (Professor Welch)
- am uncomfortable with evaluating the President without knowing what he wanted to achieve (Professor Fournier)
- if we can't give a reasoned response, shouldn't respond (Professor Shibley)
- the recipients of the collected comments should be reminded that such comments over represent those people with strong feeling (Professor Schroeder)
- think it would not be a good idea just to send raw comments; need to appoint a committee to write a summarizing document (Professor Nickerson)

There being no other old/new business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn McMann Kramer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: P. Nickerson

Secretary: M. Kramer

Architecture: R. Shibley

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, C. Fournier, J. Meacham, S. Schack, Charles Smith

Education: T. Schroeder

Engineering & Applied Sciences: D. Malone

Health Related Professions: J. Tamburlin

Information Studies: C. Jorgenson

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Cedric Smith

Nursing: E. Parese

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, H. Durand, J. Boot

University Libraries: A. Booth

University Officers: W. Greiner, President

D. Triggler, Provost

R. Wagner, Senior Vice President

V. Innus, Chief Information Officer

Guests:

M. McGinnis, *Reporter*

C. Welch, Chair, Academic Planning Committee

S. Hamlen, Chair, Budget Priorities Committee

L. Peterson, Chair, Computer Services Committee

E. Schneider, University at Buffalo Foundation

H. W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

B. Ahmad, *The Spectrum*

R. Jankowski, *The Spectrum*

Excused:

SUNY Senator: J. Fisher

Absent:

Dental Medicine: M. Easley

Law: L. Swartz

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Albini

Pharmacy: N.