

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 17, 2001 (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on October 17, 2001 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of September 26 and October 3, 2001](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report of the Bylaws Committee – Professor Judith Hopkins](#)
5. [Graduate Student Concerns – Ritesh Patel; Undergraduate Student Concerns – Elizabeth Courtney](#)
6. [Campus Security Issues – Director of Public Safety John Grela](#)
7. Old/New Business
8. Executive Session

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of September 26 and October 3, 2001

The minutes of September 26 and October 3, 2001 were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair congratulated President Greiner on his presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Voting Faculty, noting that attendance had been much larger this year than that of the past several years. He then reported that:

Ø he has alerted appropriate Senate Committees to Vice Provost Grant's interest in having Senate representation on committees being formed for the Middle States accreditation review

Ø he continues to add faculty to the various Senate Committees and has told Committee Chairs that they may also add members; he distributed an augmented roster and asked for comments on the newly appointed members; he is encouraging the Committees to begin meeting

- Executive Committee should approve all members of the Committees; discussions about who to add to Committees will be more candid if done in executive session (Professor Malone)
 - add Vice Provost Sullivan as an ex-officio member of Admissions and Retention (Professor Adams-Volpe)
 - add women to Athletics and Recreation (Professor Kramer)
 - add Ann Newman, Director of Space Planning, as an ex officio member of the Facilities Planning Committee (Professor Malone)
 - add Beth Del Genio from the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs as an ex officio member of the Grading Committee (Professor Baumer)
 - the Committee on Research and Creative Activity needs more members with science grounds other than medical and health sciences (Professor Sridhar)
 - that Committee also need members from the humanities (Professor Adams-Volpe)
 - in general need more representation from the College of Arts & Sciences; need time to think about whom to nominate (Professor Bono)
 - add an ex-officio member from the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to the Educational Program and Policies Committee (Dr. Coles)
- Ø he continues to give specific charges to various Committees, e.g. he asked the Affirmative Action Committee to complete a report on affirmative action at UB and the Elections Committee to be assertive in ensuring that unit Senate elections are held in a more timely fashion
- units have their own procedures and timetables for elections that do not always conform to the Senate's Standing Orders (Professor Hopkins)

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

President Greiner suggested that members of the Executive Committee confer with Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Grant on an issue raised at the last Executive Committee meeting, viz., the length of the upcoming Spring Semester. Professors Fournier and Baumer and the Associate Vice Provost agreed to report at the October 24 meeting of the Executive Committee on the issue.

- New York Education Law requires 14 weeks of student contact, not the 13 weeks UB has been scheduling; we would be outraged if our budget were proportionally cut for failing to meet the

required number of contact hours (Professor Boot)

SUNY is preparing a proposal for the next capital budget cycle to be presented to the Governor. System wide, SUNY has received requests for about \$5 B; UB's request is for \$550 M. Our request focuses on research and instructional needs. President Greiner believes that the capital budgets reaching to the 1970's shorted UB a Social Sciences building, an Engineering building, and substantially under funded the Health Sciences based on the original plan to move them to the North Campus. Our request reflects these historic inequities. It also reflects the need to do maintenance and rehabilitation on our aging campuses. President Greiner doubts that the State will fund the entire request, so UB will look for additional funding from other sources.

The President noted that for 2001/2002 a budget that satisfies the legal definitions applied by the State Comptroller for a final budget is now in place. The possibility remains that member items, including many that would benefit UB and Western New York, may be funded in a second supplementary budget.

2002/2003 is an election year for both the Governor and the Legislature. Typically election year budgets are more generous than non-election year budgets. SUNY tuition increases, however, have been politically impossible in election years. Repercussions of September 11 may change those patterns, giving us a leaner budget and legislative interest in a tuition increase. The deciding factor will be the impact of September 11 on State revenues. The President recently spoke with an astute veteran legislator who believes that while September 11 has created a crisis of morale, it will not cause a fiscal crisis as severe as that the State faced in 1975 when New York City almost went into bankruptcy and the State was nearly insolvent because of social service commitments.

- will UB be affected by the hiring freeze imposed by the Governor? (Professor Malone)
- recent practice is that SUNY is exempt, however, the State could impose an expenditure ceiling on SUNY or SUNY could impose its own freeze (President Greiner)

Item 4: Report of the Bylaws Committee

Professor Hopkins first acknowledged the Committee's debt to Professor Baumer, who drafted the Committee's proposal revising the Charter's formula for allocating Senate seats among the academic units and put it in final form. She then outlined the major provisions of the proposal:

Ø the size of the Senate is set at 100 representatives

Ø a cap of 25 Senators for any unit which has more than 25% of the Voting Faculty but less than 20% of the full-time equivalent students is imposed

Ø Senate nominees are required to positively assent to their nomination before they may appear on a ballot

Ø the maximum number of Executive Committee seats per unit is increased to 5 for units having more than 28 Senate seats

· given the rate of absenteeism of Senators from the College of Arts & Sciences at monthly Senate meetings, will the College be able to provide 5 Senators who are additionally committed to the Executive Committee's weekly schedule? (Professor Sridhar)

· requiring Senate nominees to positively accept their nomination should diminish absenteeism (Professor Hopkins)

· when constituted as separate Faculties, the disciplines of the College had no difficulty in supplying Executive Committee members; the effect of these provisions on the makeup of the Executive Committee will be to increase the College's representation from four to five and the School of Engineering's from one to two (Professor Baumer)

· how are yearly fluctuations in a unit's faculty numbers accommodated? (Professor Malave)

· every five years, seats are reallocated (Professor Hopkins)

· allocation must be reviewed every five years, but may be reviewed at the request of the Executive Committee (Professor Baumer)

· is the proposal consistent with the Executive Committee's discussion in April? (Professor Sridhar)

· Executive Committee directed the Bylaws Committee to devise a formula which would result in a Senate of 100, impose a cap of 25 on the School of Medicine and prorate the remaining seats among the remaining units (Professor Baumer)

There was a motion (seconded) to submit the proposal to the Senate for adoption at the earliest possible time. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Graduate Student Concerns; Undergraduate Student Concerns

Mr. Ritesh Patel, President of the Graduate Student Association, stated that the GSA had intensively canvassed the graduate student body about its concerns. Issues involving TA/GA/RA stipends emerged as graduate students' greatest concern.

Ø wide variations in stipends given in different disciplines are inequitable, e.g., \$8,400 in the English Department versus \$17,000 in the Chemistry Department

Ø stipends should at least cover the basic cost of living in Buffalo, approximately \$12,500

Ø UB stipends are not nationally competitive, adversely impacting the quality of students that come here

Ø international students get incorrect information about stipend availability and amount

Ø international researchers are paid for 20 hours a week but are expected to work additional hours for free

Ø Ph.D students are given funding for only four years, potentially diminishing the quality and strength of their research projects

Mr. Patel suggested several strategies to alleviate these problems:

Ø give fewer, but larger, stipends

Ø gradually increase stipends over three to four years rather than all at once

Ø increase TA stipends in the English Department in exchange for increased teaching loads

Ø increase Presidential and Deans' enhancement packages for doctoral students

The GSA offers the following resolution and hopes to work with the Senate and the administration to ensure that:

Ø a minimum stipend of no less than \$12,500 is provided to all TA/GA/RA's regardless of their discipline by 2002

Ø the minimum stipend should be raised proportionally to increases in tuition, fees and cost of living figures

· matter should be referred to the appropriate Committee before the FSEC takes any action on the GSA resolution (Professor Nickerson)

· Budget Priorities Committee might be the appropriate Committee (President Greiner)

· Budget Priorities Committee looked at the matter of graduate stipends and decided not to continue unless directed to do so by the Executive Committee; matter requires a University wide perspective, not a narrow focus (Professor Nickerson)

- the presence of a collective bargaining unit for graduate students is a complicating factor (President Greiner)

- unless the State increases its funding for graduate stipends, raising the minimum will only force Departments to find the money to pay for the increase; first get the Graduate Student Employees Union to bargain with the State on stipends, and then the Departments will deal with the finding the money to remain nationally competitive (Professor Fournier)

- GSEU is a SUNY-wide bargaining unit representing graduate students in both master's programs at the colleges and doctoral programs at the universities; the GSEU will not accept separate pay rates, but the inclusion of students at the master's level tends to depress stipend levels; additionally the GSEU has bargained for across the board raises but has not addressed the historically low base on which the raises are calculated; equally important is getting State funding for a base increase (President Greiner)

- an ad-hoc committee to look at the issues comprehensively might be useful (Professor Cohen)

- before forming a committee, ask the Provost for a report on the differential in stipends across the campus (President Greiner)

- include Associate Provost Thompson, who is UB's bargaining representative to the GSEU, if an ad-hoc committee is formed; consistently the highest priority expressed to the SUNY Provost by the campuses is increasing graduate stipends (Vice Provost Grant)

- get data from the Provost to review in the Executive Committee and then decide how to proceed (Professor Nickerson)

- work jointly with the Graduate School on this issue (President Greiner)

- statements regarding international graduate students are bothersome; some international students get second hand, incorrect information about stipends from friends rather than from official sources; all researchers, not just international researchers work longer hours than they are paid for; GSA should gather more information to support these statements (Professor Sridhar)

The Chair asked Vice Provost Grant to report to the Executive Committee in about a month on differential stipends. The Vice Provost agreed to do so.

Ms. Elizabeth Courtney, the Student Association's Academic Affairs Director, discussed undergraduate concerns:

Ø the Student Association supports increasing graduate stipends, believing that non-competitive

stipends affects the quality of students attracted to UB

Ø UB's negative rankings in the current Princeton Review, e.g., having dorms like dungeons, faculty who suck the life out of material, faculty who make themselves scarce and the least happy students

Ø students feel there is no contact between them and the administration and that their concerns are not taken seriously by the administration

Ø students are unhappy that Professor Bono was removed as Chair of the English Department and want to know if she will be re-instated

Ø new housing has inadequate parking for residents

· Committee on Student Life is aware of issues raised by the Princeton Review; the College of Arts & Sciences is looking at Professor Bono's removal as Chair (Professor Cohen)

· Apartment parking was not designed to have a parking space for every bed (President Greiner)

· the Princeton Review says that a UB student without a car doesn't have a life (Ms. Courtney)

· quoting the Princeton Review isn't the way to get a warm hearing; it is a seriously flawed survey; for example, the survey instrument doesn't ask a question about dorms like dungeons, and the administration of the survey at UB was reportedly biased; am interested in hearing the concerns of our own students from them, not as reported in the Princeton Review (President Greiner)

· invite you to be in communication with myself or to the Student Life Committee (Professor Cohen)

· most concerns you have raised are not concerns that the Senate can help with; better to raise issues with appropriate administrative offices, and if they are unresponsive, come to me (President Greiner)

Item 6: Campus Security Issues

Director of Public Safety John Grela distributed and discussed two documents:

Protocol for Mail Handling, issued by the UB Police as a Community Alert Advisory, and UB's

Compliance Statement for the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act. He also discussed security on campus following September 11.

With regard to mail handling, Director Grela noted that:

Ø University Police have trained officers and equipment to deal with suspect mail and should be called as first responders

Ø University Police will coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and the Erie County

Department of Health

Ø preliminary anthrax testing devices are on order

Ø Campus Mail Services staff have received special training and now work with gloves and masks; access to the Campus Mail Center is now restricted

Ø package delivery operations at the Helm Warehouse are also following the Protocol

Ø more information is available at http://www.usps.com/news/2001/press/pr01_1010tips.htm

With regard to general security on campus after September 11:

Ø officers are alert to suspect vehicles and will stop and ask permission to inspect such vehicles

Ø there have been some small numbers of graffiti and harassing e-mail messages, but these have not been persistent or escalating

Ø e-mail messages sent to several Arab students alleged that members of the UB community had been injured in incidents following September 11, but these allegations proved untrue

Ø gasoline and compressed natural gas storage facilities have been secured and uniformed personnel will be present at all deliveries

Ø chemical and volatile substances that could be used as explosives are being tracked

Ø security for football games and special events has been increased

· were there any incidents this year of UB police having to draw their guns? (Professor Nickerson)

· report that figure each January to the President, who then shares that report as appropriate

(Associate Vice President Wilson)

· believe there were two incidents, one involving an injured deer (Director Grela)

· regarding the Compliance Statement, is there any significance to the reversal from 1999 to 2000 of the figures for forcible sex offenses and non-forcible sex offenses? (Professor Fournier)

· no change in reporting criteria, so is just a quirk (Director Grela)

· how are incidents of theft that occur in the Libraries and the gym reported? (Professor Noble)

· are counted as larcenies; larcenies are not reported in the Compliance Statement for the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act but we do keep separate statistics on larcenies (Director Grela)

· burglaries have decreased dramatically in the last year (Professor Sridhar)

· students have become accustomed to swipe card access to the dorms and are not propping doors open; also made several arrest in 1999 that decreased the criminal population preying on the campus

(Director Grela)

Following discussion in executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer
Secretary of Faculty Senate

Present: Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: M. Kramer

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, J. Bono, C. Fourtner

Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar

Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

School of Informatics: J. Ellison

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger, B. Noble, A. El Solh

Pharmacy: A. Luzier

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

University Libraries: J. Hopkins

University Officers:

W. Greiner, President

Guests: K. Grant, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

K. Levy, Senior Vice Provost

L. Stewart, Director, Office of Equity, Diversity and Affirmative Action

S. Wuetcher, Reporter

W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

R. Patel, Graduate Student Association

E. Courtney, Student Association

C. Wilson, Associate Vice President

J. Grella, Director of Public Safety

Excused: Architecture: R. Shibley

School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon

Absent: Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Law: I. Marcus