

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 14, 2001 (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on October 31, 2001 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of October 24 and October 31, 2001](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report of the Student Life Committee – Professor Peter Nickerson, Chair](#)
5. [Old/New Business](#)

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of October 24 and October 31, 2001

The minutes of October 24 and October 31, 2001 were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair expressed his pleasure at the success of Douglas Lederman's presentation. Publicity resulted in a good audience, and Mr. Lederman was an effective and entertaining speaker.

· most interesting point was the rise in influence of the South and the West in higher education
(Professor Nickerson)

The Chair reported that the Secretary had asked for his direction on enforcing the Faculty Senate attendance requirement that two consecutive, unexcused absences result in a Senator's dismissal from the Senate. 36 Senators have neither attended the first two meetings of the Faculty Senate nor sought to be excused from attending. The Chair had suggested that the Deans of the absent Senators

should be asked to encourage their faculty's attendance, rather than the Senate dismissing them out of hand. He felt that such a substantial reduction in size would diminish the credibility and relevance of the Faculty Senate.

- see no reason not to enforce the rule as established by the Standing Orders (Professor Malone)
- Senators were informed of the attendance requirement and were warned it would be enforced; a Senate that can't do business because it lacks a quorum has no credibility (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- first responsibility for encouraging Senate attendance lies with the Executive Committee members, not with the Deans; College of Arts & Sciences will not be able to fill its vacant seats till the Spring semester; some of the absent Senators may, in fact, have been elected without having given their consent to their candidacy; believe the requirement should be enforced (Professor Baumer)
- can the Senate act if its membership is 60 rather than the 100 stipulated in its Charter? (Professor Cohen)
- Senate can act if a quorum is present; quorum is defined as a majority of its Senators, not 51 Senators (Professor Baumer)
- Senators should appoint alternates to attend in the Senator's absence (Professor Nickerson)
- Senators should inform the Senate Office who their alternates are before the alternates attend (Professor Adams-Volpe)

Senator Baumer suggested that the absent Senators be invited by a date certain to contact the Chair to have prior absences excused, failing which they will be dismissed from the Senate.

- personally would prefer to contact the Schools and encourage them to take Senate representation seriously, rather than cutting 36 Senators off (Professor Cohen)
- cutting off that many Senators without advance warning is a bad idea even though it may be procedurally sound (Professor Shibley)
- if we don't take this action we are saying that the Senate is not important (Professor Baumer)
- what do we do about Senators who leave before the meeting is over, causing the loss of a quorum? (Professor Sridhar)
- real question is why do Senators choose not to attend meetings (Professor El Solh)
- can't pick and choose among the provisions of the Charter and the Standing Orders; observe them or change them, but don't ignore them (Professor Hopkins)

By a show of hands, the Executive Committee overwhelmingly supported Professor Baumer's

suggestion.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

The Provost has been busy. She visits the Schools once a semester to keep in touch and is about half done with this cycle. Her web site now features a newsletter; she welcomes comments about its content. She has been meeting with a variety of groups, e.g., graduate students, Distinguished Teaching Professors, and faculty new to UB.

She reported on the status of the three active Dean searches: Arts & Sciences, Management, and Architecture & Planning. During the Fall the search committees have been gathering nominations and inviting applications; interviews will be held in the Spring. The search committee has an active role in orchestrating the search, but comments on the candidates from all faculty are welcomed.

- how many other Schools have interim Deans? (Professor Cohen)
- Health Related Professions because the School is considering adding Public Health to its focus (Provost Capaldi)
- who makes the hiring decision? (Professor Cohen)
- search committee presents three (if possible) acceptable candidates; I then consult widely and with the consent of the President choose from the selected candidates or ask that other acceptable candidates be identified; important that both the faculty and myself be able to work with the Dean (Provost Capaldi)
- will all faculty have the opportunity to meet candidates? (Professor Bono)
- yes (Provost Capaldi)
- could a candidate request complete privacy? (Professor Malone)
- until the short list is compiled but not thereafter (Provost Capaldi)
- would you accept a candidate pool of one? (Professor Malone)
- if the candidate were good, but I would prefer having a choice (Provost Capaldi)
- is the decanal review process being carried out? (Professor Cohen)
- yes; three year review underway for Pharmacy, Nursing, Law and Social Work; five year review being done for Engineering & Applied Sciences (Provost Capaldi)

Item 4: Report of the Student Life Committee

Professor Nickerson reported that the Student Life Committee has met once this semester. The Committee was given a number of charges: assess the quality of student life on campus in general and specifically assess the accuracy of Princeton Review evaluation of UB student life, the relationship of student life and student retention, the accessibility of faculty, the value of the Greek system, and how to increase student pride in the University.

As to the issue of student pride, at the Committee meeting Dean Ricotta observed that a single student often expresses appreciation for UB, but the same student in a group of peers will not do so. Professor Nickerson compared this phenomenon to "Buffalo bashing", and he suggested that a "Talking Proud" campaign might be as beneficial to the campus as it was to the region.

The Committee discussed responses to the Princeton Review. The Committee understands that book sales, not accurate evaluations, are the publisher's goal. The Committee recommends that UB be proactive as to student life issues, rather than reactive to the Review.

The Committee also discussed communication on campus. Word of mouth is the most common communication channel. Unfortunately, students do not read the Reporter.

The Leadership House, a special interest housing group, is composed of 24 freshmen who were leaders in their schools and communities. This group could be used as a resource for responding to issues.

At its next meeting, the Committee will look at several documents. The SUNY Student Survey for 2000 and a survey of UB alumni commenting on their UB experience will give the Committee good perspective. The Committee will also consider whether UB should participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement, which is a tool for strengthening institutional accountability for student learning.

- how can UB respond to the Princeton Review? (Dr. Coles)
- don't want to dignify its review by doing a point by point rebuttal; better to stress the positive aspects of UB (Professor Nickerson)
- UB should try to provide a more structured environment in which the Princeton Review would interview UB students; students say good things about UB and should be heard (Dr. Coles)
- Princeton Review probably wouldn't be interested (Professor Nickerson)

Item 5. Old/New Business

After an executive session, there being no old/new business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer

Present: Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: M. Kramer

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Architecture: R. Shibley

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

Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar

Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

Informatics: Ellison

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

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, P. Nickerson

University Libraries: J. Hopkins

University Officers:

E. Capaldi, Provost

Guests: D. Longenecher, Reporter

S. Paulson, The Spectrum

W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

L. Stewart, Equity, Diversity and Affirmative Action

R. Patel, Graduate Student Association

Excused: Pharmacy: A. Luzier

SUNY Senators: H. Durand

Absent: Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon

SUNY Senators: J. Boot