

## **FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of October 23, 2002 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2002, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of September 25, 2002](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Student Excellence Initiatives - Michael Ryan and William Wild](#)
5. [Report of the Personal Safety Committee - Marilyn McMann Kramer](#)
6. [Facilities Planning - Vice President for University Services, Kevin Seitz](#)
7. [Tracking foreign students and the impact of 9/11/01 - Vice Provost for International Education, Stephen Dunnett](#)
8. [Old/New business](#)

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of September 25, 2002**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

### **Item 2: Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported that there are now 90 senators instead of 99, because we're missing six from Arts & Sciences and three from Institutional/General. FSEC is down to 26 from 29; we're missing one each from Medicine, EOC, and Social Work. This affects our quorums, which have been adjusted to 14 for FSEC and 46 for

Faculty Senate voting.

Letters have been sent to arbitrarily selected senators to convene other senators in their colleges or decanal units for the purpose of soliciting agenda items for the Senate to consider. The purpose of these requests is to encourage dialogue and ensure that the Senate is addressing the concerns of our constituents.

### **Item 3: Report of the President/Provost**

None

### **Item 4: Student Excellence Initiatives - Michael Ryan and William Wild**

Michael Ryan, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), introduced William Wild, Director of Student Excellence Initiatives, who described that SEAS program. The initiatives aim to improve student retention by preparing students for the difficult transition from high school to the rigors of the engineering curriculum. There's an "opening day" of fun activities designed to build a sense of community among freshmen and faculty mentors. Students with little chance of success are denied admission, but under-prepared students with academic potential are accepted and provided with individualized attention through advising and career counseling.

Small study groups that are open to all SEAS students meet weekly to work on calculus, physics, and chemistry assignments and study skills. "Case Studies in Engineering" is a mandatory course that addresses many freshman concerns about the multiple aspects of the discipline and possible career paths. Over 50 faculty members have volunteered to mentor students throughout their first two

years in the program.

### **Item 5: Report of the Personal Safety Committee - Marilyn McMann Kramer**

Professor Kramer, Faculty Senate's representative on UB's Personal Safety Committee for the past three years, distributed brochures about the Committee's duties. They are responsible for:

- recommending safety awareness programs for the university community
- identifying ways for academic programs to enhance personal safety
- reviewing safety education programs and suggesting improvements
- Identifying funding sources for personal safety programs
- consider preventative and judicial policies relating to sexual assault
- monitor availability of counseling services for victims
- assess quality of personal safety policies and procedures
- conduct surveys of student and staff opinion regarding safety matters
- analyze Department of Public Safety's crime statistics

She solicited suggestions and comments from the group.

Professor Brazeau mentioned that some other universities require faculty/staff to display a form of identification as evidence of campus affiliation. President Greiner asked whether it would be effective here.

Professor Fabian indicated that the general public is welcome to visit the University Libraries and to use the resources there.

Professor Schack said that having to show badges in the College of Arts & Sciences would seem "peculiar." Professor Baumer doubted that having to wear ID tags could be enforced.

Identification tags are common in clinical settings, but they're only needed in secure areas. Professor Jensen suggested that the Public Safety Committee should survey how many secure areas there are on UB's campuses.

Professor Kramer remarked that the number of public telephones on campus is decreasing due to low usage. They're an "endangered species," and there is concern about the effect that this might have on campus safety.

**Item 6: Facilities Planning - Vice President for University Services, Kevin Seitz**

Vice President Seitz said that he has been in his current position for four months, so he will give an overview of University Facilities today and return to provide details at another meeting. Not surprisingly his department's needs exceed available resources, so he is trying to increase revenues, identify new sources of funding, and improve communication. He is working to develop a list of priorities for remodeling and repairing, plus overseeing construction projects on both campuses. The rehab queue is very long, and classroom condition problems are multi-faceted - responsibility is split between Facilities, Computing, and Scheduling.

President Greiner requested that FSEC designate a liaison to University Facilities to avert further misunderstanding and reduce faculty frustration.

**Item 7: Vice Provost for International Education Stephen Dunnett - Tracking foreign students and the impact of 9/11/01**

Vice Provost Dunnett reported that the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks had

a significant impact on UB's international student enrollment because the U.S. Patriot Act passed in October 2001 mandated the implementation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) by January 1, 2003. SEVIS will require new computers, software, and staff time costing around \$100,000 just to set up the system. Its main purpose will be to collect, maintain, and track information relative to international students.

There has been a drop in the number of international students admitted to UB since 9/11/01 due largely to difficulties that foreign students from Muslim-designated countries now encounter in getting visas. UB was previously able to issue visas directly, but that process is now handled by U.S. embassies and consulates abroad. Security checks mandated by the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) have hampered UB's admissions process, because many students could not get their visas in time.

UB personnel involved in the admissions process should process all international applications as early admissions to reduce delays as much as possible.

UB has been fortunate in that few students from Muslim countries have left here to return home, and there has been no anti-Muslim or anti-Arab lash on campus since the 9/11 attacks.

The Office of International Education has tried to forestall potential problems by maintaining close contacts with Muslim student groups, the local Muslim community, INS, local law enforcement agencies, and the Joint Anti-Terrorist Taskforce.

The news media has frequently misrepresented the type of visa issued to the 9/11 terrorists. The hijackers had tourist visas or "M" visas that permit foreigners to attend training facilities such as flight schools or beauty schools. None had a bona fide student visa, which takes much longer to obtain because the application process requires transcripts, financial records, and passing several

standardized tests.

Tourist visas are much easier to get because tourism helps the economy and is ed by a powerful travel lobby.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present: Chair: M. Cohen  
Secretary: W. Hepfer  
Architecture: S. Danford  
Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, M. Churchill, S. Schack  
Dental Medicine: D. Garlapo  
Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen, R. Mayne  
Informatics: F. Tutzauer  
Law: L. Swartz  
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett  
Nursing: E. Perese  
Pharmacy: G. Brazeau  
SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, H. Durand, M. Kramer, P. Nickerson  
University Libraries: CA Fabian  
Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Guests: S. Alaimo, Spectrum  
W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate  
S. Dunnett, International Education  
D. Longenecker, Reporter

M. Ryan & W. Wild, School of Engineering  
L. Stewart, EDAAA  
K. Seitz, University Services  
J. Zambon, Facilities Planning Committee

Absent: Arts & Sciences: C. Smith  
Graduate School of Education: R. Stein  
Health Related Professions: G. Farkas  
Management: J. Boot  
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger, R. Morin