

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 6, 2000 - (approved)
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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on September 6, 2000, in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of April 26, May 3, and May 10, 2000](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report of the Academic Planning Committee on the Memorandum of Understanding](#)
5. [Chief Information Officer Innus and Vice Provost for Educational Technology Pitman](#)
6. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of April 26, May 3, and May 10, 2000 The minutes of April 26, May 3, and May 10, 2000, were approved.
Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed members of the Executive Committee to a new year which he promised would be a busy one. A moment of silence was observed to remember recently deceased faculty. The Chair then reported that:

1. issues that arose during the summer, e.g., student plagiarism of papers from the internet, an update on classrooms, etc., will provide early FSEC agenda items; he asked FSEC members to suggest additional discussion topics
2. to save photocopying expenses, he will be distribute documents to the FSEC electronically rather than in paper format
3. the UB Alumni Association hopes to establish an alumni house; he has been appointed to its planning and fund-raising committee
4. the Annual Meeting of the Voting Faculty will be held September 19, the Provost will give the Academic State of the University address and the Memorandum of Understanding between SUNY and UB will also be discussed at the first Full Senate meeting on October 3rd; the University Convocation is on October 4

5. he has provided the Athletics and Recreation Committee with a copy of Intercollegiate Athletics' budget
6. he will schedule an FSEC discussion on the appropriate action to take on a Student Assembly resolution on "Student Choice" received from Vice President Black and Student Association President Monyo
7. Vice President Black has requested the FSEC's input on UB's joining a consortium to eliminate buying from sweatshops; he will schedule a discussion of the topic early in the semester
8. Vice Provost Sullivan has asked for the FSEC's recommendation on a chair for the Committee on Classroom Quality and Attributes; the Chair circulated a nomination sheet
9. there have been the following responses to resolutions from the Faculty Senate: the President has promulgated the resolution on Obstruction or Disruption in the Classroom, effective for the Fall 2000 semester; the President has forwarded the resolution on changing the status of Women's Studies from a program to a Department in the College of Arts and Sciences to the Provost; Vice Provost Goodman has implemented our resolution on Federal Financial Aid and Reasonable Academic Progress
10. two Faculty Senate Committees have met:: the Academic Planning Committee in collaboration with the Provost has suggested a number of alterations to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SUNY and UB (Professor Nickerson has acted as convenor of the APC in the absence of its Chair, Professor Welch); the Provost also met with the Budget Priorities Committee to discuss the elimination of UB's structural deficit and the College of Arts and Sciences' deficit; the Budget Priorities Committee then considered a Faculty Senate resolution which called on the President to explain how the deficit in the College of Arts and Sciences would be handled in relation to loans made to the Division of Athletics; the Committee decided the resolution was moot
11. Vice President Black has asked for an FSEC discussion of UB's smoking regulations which now apply to the dormitories
 - will the regulations be enforced in the dorms? (Professor Adams Volpe)
 - yes; violators are given community service hours (Mr. Rupan)
12. the School of Pharmacy has requested that its name be changed to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and that the Department of Pharmaceutics be changed to the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; the changes are supported by the Dean, the Chairs and the faculty

There was a motion to approve the change, which motion was amended to not object to the change.

- is there any overlap responsibilities between the Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Pharmacy? (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- overlap was transferred to the Department of Chemistry (President Greiner)

The motion passed.

Item 3: Report of the Provost

Provost Capaldi announced the appointment of Dr. Jaylan Turkkan as Vice President for Research effective October 1. Dr. Turkkan, a distinguished researcher who had been serving as a Division Chief at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is very knowledgeable about the Washington scene and has a history of putting together multi-disciplinary teams of researchers that get big grants. Dr. Turkkan will be responsible for all aspects of research at UB, including technology transfer.

The Provost noted SUNY's mid-September deadline for UB's response to the MOU. She had already discussed the MOU with the Academic Planning Committee and asked for the FSEC's comments within that timeframe.

The Provost has also been dealing with budgetary matters. Her first budgetary action was the elimination of the University's structural deficit. Judging the College of Arts and Sciences to be underfunded, she increased its allocation and eliminated its deficit. She has also made changes to the budget process. First she is setting explicit enrollment targets for academic units; when those targets are exceeded, units will receive extra funding. Also units will receive their indirect costs but will be charged for costs incurred centrally. These budgetary changes provide a mechanism for evaluating absolute levels of performance, rather than just improvement. To get a sense of where we are now the Provost has asked the Deans to compare their areas against the very best of their type in the nation. This comparison will give a base against which to measure improvement and will identify those areas which have already achieved high quality and high productivity.

On a personal note the Provost said that she and her household are successfully adjusting to Buffalo. In particular her dogs have mastered the concept of a two-story house and the techniques of going up and coming down stairs.

There were questions for the Provost:

- when comparing UB's academic units against their best counterparts, get figures on productivity per full time faculty member (Professor Malone)
- getting valid per FTE faculty productivity figures as between universities (and even within UB) is problematic because of differences in defining FTE; productivity figures don't measure quality; summing teaching and research activities, UB's faculty are productive (Provost Capaldi)

Item 4: Report of the Academic Planning Committee on the Memorandum of Understanding

Mission Review is an initiative of the SUNY Board of Trustees to define individual campus missions for which institutions could then be held accountable. The SUNY Provost's Office set questions for the campuses; interlocutors, including Provost Salins, then visited each campus last year to discuss the responses. The Academic Planning Committee worked with Provosts Headrick and Triggle in developing UB's responses and participated in discussions with the interlocutors. The MOU, drafted by the SUNY Provost's Office, embodies its expectations of UB arising from that process.

Provost Capaldi and the APC have discussed the MOU, identifying changes they would like to be made. Since UB's response to the MOU is due in Albany in mid-September, the Chair will electronically distribute to Faculty Senators the MOU with the suggested changes, encouraging them to respond prior to the mid-September deadline. The MOU will be a discussion item at the October 3 Faculty Senate meeting; UB's response can be amended if additional concerns are expressed.

President Greiner gave additional ground on the Mission Review process. UB's response offered alternate plans. Under Plan A UB would decrease its incoming full time, first time class to about 2,400 while increasing its graduate enrollment, especially at the Master's level, for a smaller total enrollment of about 24,000. Plan A would result in a higher numerical profile for UB's incoming class, an outcome congruent with SUNY's aspirations for the University Centers. However, Plan A requires increased SUNY funding to compensate UB for the loss of state tax support and tuition and fees. Under Plan B UB would increase its incoming full time, first time class to 3,200 and expand its total student body to 28,000/30,000.

The MOU reflects Plan A but makes no provision for increasing UB's funding. President Greiner intends to make clear to SUNY that in the absence of compensatory funding, UB will

pursue Plan B. Indeed, UB increased its enrollment this year, and the resulting extra tuition and fees allowed UB to eliminate its structural deficit and to increase funding to the College of Arts and Sciences.

Like SUNY Central administrators, Chancellor King hopes to increase the numerical profile of our incoming students. However, rather than decreasing the size of the student body to do so, Chancellor King is interested in increasing the applicant pool by aggressive marketing by SUNY to supplement the marketing done by individual campuses. He is concerned that currently only some 40% of New York's graduating seniors apply to SUNY institutions.

The Chancellor is also committed to increasing sponsored program activity within SUNY from \$300 M to \$1B within the decade. President Greiner believes that achieving this goal will require some initial investment by New York in the University Centers and the Medical Centers. The MOU should reflect this focus.

There were comments from the floor:

- was the capping of UB's enrollment this summer a response to Plan A? (Professor Smith)
- no; because of the large number of applicants, we filled available space early and cut off further applications (Provost Capaldi)
- did the larger number of applicants affect the quality of incoming students? (Professor Baumer)
- the quality is higher this year (Provost Capaldi)
- the GPA increased from 85 to 90 and there was an increase in ACT scores (President Greiner)

Among topics discussed by the Provost and the APC were the following:

- the MOU lists peer institutions against which to compare UB, the Provost would prefer using all AAU institutions. She stressed the need for good comparative data, so as not to end up fooling ourselves about where we rank.
- the importance of understanding what the MOU commits us to since we will have to live up to it
- UB's increased emphasis on Master's level and certificate programs allows us to fulfill our mission of graduate education in two ways; Master's level and certificate programs are graduate programs in their own right and are increasingly valuable; Master's programs can operate very efficiently at high numbers, generating income which can help support more costly Ph.D. programs and grow faculty numbers

- the MOU speaks very little about UB's educational mission; the APC will provide language focusing on the educational mission

There were questions from the floor:

- will UB's Mission Statement also need to be reworked to conform to the language in the MOU? (Professor Malone)
- our Mission Statement surely already refers to research, teaching and service (Provost Capaldi)
- the MOU mandates external assessment of student learning and of the impact of athletics on the quality of student life; is UB comfortable with this? (Professor Boot)
- UB is developing an assessment initiative as a separate matter; Provost Salins characterized the requirement of external review as boiler plate language aimed at those institutions which do not seek external review, even for promotion and tenure cases; the accreditation process provides regularly occurring external review which hopefully will satisfy this provision (Provost Capaldi)
- the MOU makes two seemingly contradictory mentions of computer science programs; the first reference is to such programs being shared by the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; the second reference seems to place computer science in a newly named School of Computer and Engineering Sciences (Professor Sridhar)
- need clarification on this matter (Provost Capaldi)
- has the Faculty Senate resolution on assessment been accepted by the President? (Professor Meacham)
- will definitely implement an assessment initiative but need to plan how/what/who (Provost Capaldi)
- the MOU recognizes UB's social and economic impact on the community, but UB also has a great impact on the community's cultural life which should also be mentioned (Professor Smith)
- non-academic areas took a \$700 K budget cut this year to help eliminate the structural deficit, and UB will undertake a study of how to become more efficient on the support side
- the Honors Program funding will remain in place; President Greiner suggested the implementation of a more targeted approach to awarding merit scholarships may be the basis for rumors about the Honors Program
- the MOU sets a 20 to 1 student/faculty ratio; the APC and the Provost agree that figure should be omitted since there are too many variables to allow a single ratio to be established for the entire University
- the MOU should contain a commitment to increased graduate stipends; without such an increase UB will not be competitive in graduate education
 - will SUNY spend marketing money to go after out of state students? (Professor Fournier)
 - SUNY is trying to find money for SUNY-wide advertising, but individual campuses will continue to be responsible for their own marketing (President Greiner)

There was a motion (seconded) to put a discussion of the MOU on the agenda for the October 3 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

In response to an inquiry from the Chair, the Provost speculated that SUNY will next turn its interest to finding a method that takes quality into account in awarding tuition scholarships. The President added that questions of assessment were also much on SUNY's mind.

Item 5: Chief Information Officer Innus and Vice Provost for Educational Technology Pitman

The Chair reported that over the summer the Chief Information Officer conducted an internal search for a Vice Provost for Educational Technology. The Computer Services Committee was involved in the interviews, and several faculty were on the search committee. The Chair believes that the process was a good one. Professor Bruce Pitman of the Department of Mathematics has been appointed to the position.

The Vice Provost for Educational Technology reports to the CIO who now reports to the Provost as well as to Senior Vice President Wagner. This joint reporting structure links the academic and support sides of the University in a new way.

Vice Provost Pitman is responsible for the operation of the Educational Technology Center and of the nodes. The Faculty Senate, the CIO and President Greiner have endorsed undertaking an assessment of the effectiveness of the nodes in meeting the needs of faculty.

Vice Provost Pitman briefly outlined his computing experience, notably in the Center for Computational Research. He then laid out his most pressing concerns about distributed computing: the relationship of the nodes and CIT, finding funding for educational technology, and using educational technology intelligently. He does not want to use technology for its own sake, but rather to add a dimension to instruction that could not be achieved in any other way. He then invited questions:

- how will you assess the effectiveness of My IT and the courses offered by the Educational Technology Center (ETC)? (Professor Booth)
- very difficult to measure the effect of technology on teaching; most pressing need is to assess the nodes and am working with the Computer Services Committee to set parameters to do so; will probably look at best practices at other institutions (Vice Provost Pitman)

- am happy to learn that the Vice Provost for Educational Technology reports solely to the Chief Information Officer who in turn reports jointly to Senior Vice President Wagner and Provost Capaldi (Professor Boot)
- do you have plans to combat the gender gap in the use of information technology among middle-aged and older women? (Professor Noble)
- only have a mandate as to faculty, not as to professional staff; need to reach out to all faculty technophobes, not just to any one segment; am talking with the ETC about how it can bring more faculty to a comfort level with technology (Vice Provost Pitman)
- how are the efforts of the nodes, the ETC and CIT being coordinated? (Dr. Coles)
- important that the head of educational technology holds a Vice Provostial title to emphasize his focus on teaching; have encouraged the Provost to talk directly to Vice Provost Pitman when appropriate; the nodes report to deans who provide support and direction to the nodes; CIT has only facilitated the operation of the nodes; the Vice Provost will interact with the nodes in ed tech planning (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- does the ETC collaborate with the nodes? (Professor Booth)
- yes; for example, the ETC will help faculty develop course material which will then migrate to the nodes to implement (Vice Provost Pitman)
- what programs will be given priority this year in developing software? (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- will focus on upper division courses so that teaching of students who entered in 1999 and after will have ed tech component for all four years (Vice Provost Pitman)
- another focus will be make more service transactions available to students on the web; can now self-register on the web and check DARS; would like students to be able to make payments on the web (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- what is the status of an on-line applications process? (Professor Malave)
- Regina Toomey could answer that (Chief Information Officer Innus)
- frustrating that when one dials into the University can't get beyond it on the web (Professor Baumer)
- when students register on the web, can they just click on courses or do they have to separately bring up the course catalog? (Professor Schack)
- can't point and click; have to type in the course number on the registration page (Mr. Rupan)

Item 6: Old/New Business Professor Schack suggested that the Faculty Senate should look at what record is being kept of computer transactions. The issue of privacy in the use of computer resources is a very serious one.

There being no other old/new business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: P. Nickerson

Secretary: M. Kramer

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

Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar

Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

School of Information Studies: J. Ellison

Law: L. Swartz

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Noble, C. Pruet, A. El Sohl, S. Spurgeon

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

University Libraries: H. Booth

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

University Officers: W. Greiner, President

E. Capaldi, Provost

Guests:

V. Innus, Chief Information Officer

B. Pitman, Vice Provost for Educational Technology

W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

R. Rupan, Academic Clubs coordinator

S. Wuetcher, *Reporter*

K. Levy, Senior Vice Provost

Excused:

Dental Medicine: M. Easley

Absent:

Architecture: R. Shibley

Nursing: E. Perese

Pharmacy: R. Madejski