

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 29, 2003

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following **agenda**:

1. Report of the Chair
2. Report of the President/Provost
3. Report on the Oracle software system – V. Innus & K. Seitz
 4. Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Oswego
 5. Update on UB Budget – Provost Capaldi & S. Hamlen
 6. Old/New business
 7. Executive session (if needed)
 8. Adjournment

Item 1: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson said that he's still trying to arrange a time when incoming President Simpson can meet with the FSEC. He'll invite Dr. Simpson to attend the February 3rd Faculty Senate (FS) meeting, which will be the first full session in 2004.

The Faculty Senate will meet next Tuesday. Agenda items include reports from the Associate Vice President for University Libraries and the chair of the Budget Priorities Committee.

John Grela, UB's director of Public Safety, sent a statement on Campus Security Act compliance. He'll be scheduled to discuss it at an upcoming FSEC meeting.

The Committee on Research & Creative Activity met with Vice President Turkkan and talked about possible items for future discussion. The Committee is interested in interdisciplinary research issues.

The Library Committee has met and discussed issues that were raised last week during Associate Vice President von Wahlde's report to the FSEC.

The Budget Priorities Committee met and approved the statement on UB's budget that will be presented to FSEC today and to the full Senate on Tuesday.

Item 2: Report of the President/Provost

None.

Item 3: Report on the Oracle software system – CIO Voldemar Innus & Vice President for University Services Kevin Seitz

CIO Innus reported on efforts by his Office and the Research Foundation to improve the troublesome Oasis, an Oracle-based software system. The financial-and-grant-management program has had a frustration-filled history at UB. Vice President for University Services Kevin Seitz said that UB has spent the last three years trying to stabilize the system because Oracle wasn't providing the enhancements that were needed.

Progress has been made, however, and improvements to the payroll-encumbering and principal investigator award interfaces are expected to be operable by February. This should improve the accuracy of balances, plus encumbering will be done every night to provide current figures.

Additional staff has been added in the UB Business offices to deal with processing transactions and resolving IFR and other issues. Two new payroll calculators have been developed to figure "what if" situations.

Several faculty described their difficulties with the system and expressed skepticism that problems with Oracle can ever be fixed. Dr. Seitz said that legal action was not being considered

because such law suits are seldom effective, and it would be counterproductive in our efforts to work with them to improve our system.

Mr. Innus said that many lessons were learned from our bad experiences, and the system would be implemented differently if we had it to do all over again. He is optimistic that the forthcoming improvements will make Oasis a much better product.

Item 4: Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Oswego, October 24-25, 2003

Professor Baumer said that the central issue at the University Faculty Senate (UFS) meeting was system-wide assessment. One of the speakers described Truman State University's successful value-added assessment program, which is quite different from what SUNY is proposing. Truman State's is only campus-wide and only assesses basic skills such as analysis and writing, not the details of its general education program.

SUNY Provost Salins praised campus-based assessment of general education, but neither he nor any other senior administrators were present for the Senate's discussion of system-wide assessment. The general view of the UFS is that a one-size-fits-all assessment program will produce dubious benefits, will be overly expensive to implement, and will not be supported by faculty who weren't consulted before it was proposed. Several senators spent Friday night drafting resolutions opposing system-wide assessment.

The resolutions, which were adopted at the Saturday session, include:

Be it resolved that the University Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the Board of Trustees suspend implementation of its June 17 Resolution on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes in order to engage in a substantial dialog among representatives of the Provost's Office, the Board of Trustees, and faculty governance regarding University-wide campus-based assessment;

Be it further resolved that the University Faculty Senate cannot support the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on Value-Added Assessment Assessment dated September 26, 2003 but does support an ongoing discussion which will produce a mutually acceptable process of University-wide campus-based assessment;

Be it further resolved that the University Faculty Senate reaffirms its long-standing commitment to University-wide campus-based assessment, and will urge campuses to continue to implement their GEAR-approved General Education assessment plans; and

Be it further resolved that in the best interests of the education of our students, and the State University of New York, the University Faculty Senate invites the Board of Trustees and SUNY System Administration to continue to discuss the assessment of foundational skills of General Education. This may include externally referenced measures of the campus's choice that provides for campus responsibility and System Administration oversight.

The UFS believes that adequate mechanisms for value-added assessment currently exist through GEAR, MOU, and professional accreditation.

Chair Nickerson said the resolutions will be presented to the Faculty Senate for two readings at the November and December meetings.

The Chair, who also attended the Oswego meeting, mentioned that Mission Review II (MR2) was discussed there. Mission Review is a statement of the differences that do and should exist among the SUNY campuses. Each campus is encouraged to find its own academic niche and to spell out what its specific educational mission is. He said that UB's FS should seek greater involvement when MR2 gets underway.

Professor Schack suggested that we should begin to formulate our position on MR2 ahead of time. Perhaps the Academic Planning Committee could be charged to consider the questions from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a starting point for participating in

MR2. The MOU is on the Web at

http://www.provost.buffalo.edu/StrategicPlanningDocuments/2000_Memo_of_Understanding_UB_SUNY.pdf.

Professor Wooldridge said that much of the information that was gathered for the Middle States accreditation review will be applicable to MR2.

Item 5: Update on the UB Budget – Provost Capaldi & Susan Hamlen, chair, Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee

Provost Capaldi said that the FS Budget Priorities Committee (BPC) worked with her and Vice President Seitz to create a clear and concise summary of the UB budget. It explains why there's no additional money available in spite of the tuition increase, UB's first in seven years.

New York (NYS) and all other states have been affected by the poor economy, so they've had to reduce expenditures. NYS cut the base budgets of all state agencies, including SUNY. The impact on UB was especially hard because our budget has a higher percentage of state support than other campuses without a health sciences center. A health sciences center is quite expensive to operate.

State tax support for UB was reduced by \$32 million, so the university needed to generate revenue through tuition and fee increases. SUNY approved a tuition increase, which generated an additional \$29 million. SUNY also reallocated some funds, which added \$3 million more. The end result was that the 2003/04 UB state operating budget is the same as the final allocation from last fiscal year.

Expenses have increased, however. UB needs to cover collective bargaining salary increases, higher utility costs, and general inflation. There are also gaps in scholarship funding caused by the tuition increases: \$2.2 M and \$2.3 M at the undergraduate and graduate levels respectively.

Nonetheless, no academic units had their base budget cut, and faculty hiring was not affected. Happily, higher yields and increased retention has produced larger than anticipated enrollments. This has resulted in additional tuition and fee monies, which will help UB to narrow the financial gap. There's also more grant money thanks to increased research activity. Last year's expanded summer session programs produced additional revenue as well, so, in the final tally, the Provost's office was able to absorb almost all of the increased costs. The only exception was approximately 25 percent of the increased scholarship amounts.

Professor Hamlen will present the Budget report at next Tuesday's Faculty Senate meeting. She said that the BPC is developing an all-funds budget that will show UB's many and various sources of revenue.

Chair Nickerson asked how UB compares financially to similar institutions nationwide. Provost Capaldi explained that it's hard to do comparisons because universities report their financial data to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS – part of the National Center for Education Statistics) in so many different ways.

Item 7: Old/New business

Chair Nickerson indicated that he had received a request from the Provost to approve changing the name of the Department of Chemical Engineering to the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. Supporting documentation indicated that the name change is timely and appropriate considering current trends in the profession and at UB. It will help to foster interdisciplinary interactions between engineering, medicine, the health sciences, chemical sciences, and biological sciences. It should also help in the recruitment of both faculty and graduate students.

Professor Jensen indicated that there is wide support for the name change within the department. It should help to make UB more competitive for federal funding.

FSEC voted unanimously to approve the change.

Item 8: Executive session (if needed)

FSEC met in executive session

Item 9: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Attendance (P = present; E = excused; A = absent)

Chair: P. Nickerson (P)

Secretary: W. Hepfer (P)

Architecture & Planning: S. Danford (P)

Arts & Sciences: S. Bruckenstein (P), M. Churchill (P), R. Hoeing (A), S. Schack (P), K. Takeuchi (P)

Dental Medicine: M. Donley (P)

Education: L. Malave (P)

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen (P), R. Mayne (P)

Informatics: F. Tutzauer (P)

Institutional/General: O. Mixon (A)

Law: L. Swartz (P)

Management: C. Pegels (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger (A), J. Hassett (P), G. Logue (A), B. Murray (A),
J. Sellick (P)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (A)

Public Health & Health Professions: C. Crespo (E)

Social Work: B. Rittner (P)

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe (P), W. Baumer (P), M. Kramer (P), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries: CA Fabian (P)

University officers: Provost Capaldi

Guests: D. Budniewski (Reporter), M. Cohen (past-chair), S. Hamlen (Budget Priorities Cmte.), J.
Ho (Research & Creative Activity Cmte.), V. Innus (CIO), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Sen.), K. Seitz
(Univ. Serv.), L. Stewart (EDAAA), J. Xiang (SA Student Affairs)