

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 20, 2002

(approved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on February 20, 2002 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of January 30 and February 6, 2002](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report of Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Grant: 1.Issues concerning graduate student stipends; 2.Conformity of undergraduate and graduate academic integrity policies and procedures and grievance policies and procedures](#)
5. [Report of the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program - Dr. Henry Durand](#)
6. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

- the future of Children's Hospital remains in dispute
- will this dispute affect the Medical School's upcoming accreditation? (Professor Malone)
- not necessarily; problem is not unique to Western New York, and we will be viewed in a national context (Professor Cohen)
- does the issue of independent governance for Children's Hospital extend to the make-up of its medical staff? (President Greiner)

- issue is primarily one of governance; physicians who dealt with both adult and pediatric patients have historically been part of Children's staff (Professor Cohen)
- why has the University not taken a position on the matter of Children's? (Professor El Solh)
- before doing so need to talk with faculty (President Greiner)
- the minutes of the December Senate meeting were not approved at the February Senate meeting because of the concern of several Senators that the Chair's remarks were not fully reported
- minutes are required to record when and where the meeting was held, who was present and what actions were taken; the minutes submitted by the Secretary and her predecessors are more akin to a journal of the meeting (Professor Malone)
- minutes have been interpretative essays; should not be a verbatim transcript (President Greiner)
- if the current level of detail in the minutes is deemed inappropriate, I would ask for direction about the level desired (Professor Kramer)
- minutes have reflected what went on and what people said which is very helpful when reconstruction is necessary (Professor Nickerson)
- some Senators are asking that very specific attributions be included in the minutes of December 11 (Professor Cohen)
- because such matter is not part of the official minutes, need not comply (Professor Malone)
- could keep a separate record of the proceedings which is not subject to approval (Professor Fournier)
- tape the meetings and archive the audio tapes (President Greiner)

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of January 30 and February 6, 2002

The minutes of January 30 and February 6, 2002 were approved.

Item 3: Report of the President

The President spoke about why the Amherst Campus is located where it is. A sentiment persists that the campus should have been built on the waterfront in downtown Buffalo. In 1966 a 403-acre waterfront site that encompassed La Salle Park and would have entailed filling in part of the Black Rock Canal was proposed. Because of various development difficulties the waterfront site was not chosen.

A second proposed site was on Grand Island; another was in the Cheektowaga-Lancaster area near the airport. Staying at Main and Bailey was the fourth alternative, but that would have required acquiring the golf course to which there was serious opposition. The Amherst site was easy to assemble and was closest to the historical location of the University of Buffalo.

Item 4: Report of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

- Vice Provost Grant had been asked to compare UB's graduate stipend with the base stipend of other institutions. Because of the wide variation in stipends among disciplines, comparative data at the institutional level was not useful. The Vice Provost has instead lent the Senate Office copies of several reports, viz., the National Survey of Graduate Assistant Stipends, Graduate Fellowships and Post-doctoral Fellowships published by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, a report from the September 28, 2001 Chronicle of Higher Education concerning stipends and an essay on the widening gap between public and private institution stipends, a report on teaching and graduate assistants supported by state funding at UB, and a report from the Chronicle on benefits available to TA's.
- At UB some 1,500 graduate students hold state funded graduate stipends. Stipends are treated like any other portion of the budget and are under the control of the deans. Various strategies are used to establish the level of stipends within schools: some departments tax grants to enhance graduate stipends, other departments have decreased the number of graduate assistants used, but increased the stipend for those remaining, and some deans have

collapsed faculty lines to free up additional money for graduate assistants. Tuition waivers are separately funded.

- Provost Salins has promised a major push to increase state funding for stipends. The schools and the University administration understand the need for more competitive stipends and are committed to improving the situation. The requirement that grant applications request funding for any graduate students who will be used in the grant reflects the Provost's concern with increasing the funding pool for graduate stipends. The financial aspects of the Schomburg Fellowships have been moved to the Graduate School to tie them more closely to recruitment.
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 - situation most difficult in the humanities and social sciences (Mr. Patel)
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 - fees at UB now are \$1K; does the data provided to the Senate Office contain data on how fees are treated at other institutions? (Professor Bono)
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 - may be covered by the Chronicle report on benefits (Vice Provost Grant)
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- Vice Provost Grant also reported that efforts are underway to bring undergraduate and graduate policies and procedures on academic integrity and on grievances into conformity. Integration is necessary to reduce faculty and administrative procedural missteps and to respond to situations involving students in 5-year programs. The undertaking has proved more complex than anticipated, so the Vice Provost asked the Faculty Senate to participate in the project. The Chair assigned the task to the Grading Committee.

Item 5: Report of the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program

- Dr. Durand, Director of the Educational Opportunity Program, explained that the EOP staff is comprised of himself, Associate Director Coles, 9 academic counselors, 4 graduate assistants,

and 75/90 students who tutor and mentor. The program serves about 1,000 students annually.

- EOP's mission is to recruit New York residents who are talented but disadvantaged educationally or financially. EOP talks with teachers, counselors, pastors, etc., to identify students who can succeed academically but whose standardized test scores and high school grades would not qualify them for admission to UB. EOP then provides transitional support for these students.
- EOP's is funded jointly by UB for administrative staff salaries and by the SUNY Office of Opportunity Programs for all other costs. It is extensively monitored by UB and by SUNY.
- EOP provides its students with academic, personal and financial counseling. It also advocates for its students. It offers mentoring, individual and group tutoring, classes, and workshops. It runs a book loan program. In the Summer EOP mounts a four week program that introduces incoming students to the pressures and expectations of real classes and real living situations.
- EOP students are about 40% African-American, 25% Asian-American, 20% Hispanic-American, with the remainder being Caucasian, Native Americans and students who do not self-identify. 75% come from households with a total income of \$20 K or less. Their average high school average is 81 compared to 90 for UB's regular admission students; their average SAT score is 939 compared to 1156 for regular admits. They major in diverse fields at the same numbers as other UB students. 25% of EOP students have GPA's of 3.0 or higher. EOP students have served in highly visible student leadership positions at UB and at the state level. Nationally, students with equivalent profiles to our EOP students have a graduation rate of 8%. EOP's 6-year cohort graduation rate is 42% compared to 56% for regular admits, but EOP students often take longer than 6 years to graduate. EOP takes in about 200 students annually and graduates about 140, giving an admission to graduation ratio of 65/75%.
- EOP is facing a number of challenges. Student assistance is decreasing while student expenses are increasing. EOP is struggling to help its students find ways to finance their studies. Because of decreased state funding EOP has been told it can enroll no more than 735 students next year, and it has more returning students than that.

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- EOP should be included in the Campaign for UB; does EOP consult with faculty if an EOP student is having difficulty in a class? (Professor Sridhar)
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- yes, and some faculty work very closely with EOP; students won't mind being asked if they are EOP; EOP contacts its students' first semester instructors (Dr. Durand)
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- to whom does EOP report? (Professor Nickerson)
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- the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (Dr. Durand)
- There was warm applause at the conclusion of Dr. Durand's presentation. The Chair congratulated Dr. Durand on the important and exciting job he and his staff are doing.

There being no old/new business the meeting adjourned at 4:05 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, M. Churchill, C. Fourtner
Dental Medicine: J. Zambon
Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar
Health Related Professions: G. Farkas
Informatics: J. Ellison
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Noble, A. El Solh
SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, H. Durand, P. Nickerson
University Libraries: J. Hopkins
University Officers:

W. Greiner, President

Guests: L. Stewart, Office of Equity, Diversity and Affirmative Action

K. Purdy, The Spectrum

D. Longenecker, Reporter

R. Patel, Graduate Student Association

K. Grant, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

W. Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

M. Boyce, Office of the Ombudsman

Excused: Architecture & Planning: R. Shibley

Education: L. Malave

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger

Absent: Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon

Nursing: E. Perese

SUNY Senator: J. Boot