

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 29, 2003 - (approved)

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

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Report of Assessment in General Education -- Kerry Grant](#)
4. [Report of the Budget Priorities Committee -- Susan Hamlen](#)
5. [Report of the Grading Committee -- William Baumer](#)
6. [Report of the African American Studies Program -- Lillian S. Williams](#)
7. [Report of the SUNY Senate meeting, Geneseo NY -- Peter A. Nickerson](#)
8. [Old/New business](#)
9. [Executive session \(if needed\)](#)
10. [Adjournment](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

Based on recommendations made in the opening executive session, Chair Cohen will solicit nominations for faculty to serve on the presidency search committee via the Voting Faculty ListServ. He will explain the time commitment and other obligations of serving and indicate that nominations may be submitted via an FSEC member or sent directly to the Faculty Senate office. His message will have a link to the Faculty Senate Web page **in case nominators need to check who their FSEC representative is.**

Item 2: Report of the President

President Greiner said that it's going to be a tough budget year. An undergraduate tuition increase of \$1,200 is necessary and very likely. Graduate tuition will also need to be raised. Aside from tuition increases, SUNY is looking strong relative to other state agencies thanks to efforts by the Chancellor.

Item 3. Report of Assessment in General Education -- Vice Provost Kerry Grant

The Chair prefaced Vice Provost Grant's remarks by saying that assessment was a recurring theme at the recent SUNY Senate meeting at Geneseo. There is a firm belief that responsibility for assessment belongs to the faculty and should take place at the local campus level.

Vice Provost Grant said that assessment programs work relatively well at community colleges, but they're more difficult to implement at large research institutions. He then introduced Peter Gold, Associate Dean for General Education, who has been working on assessment issues with SUNY's General Education Assessment Review (GEAR) committee.

Dr. Gold reported that previous assessment proposals by UB and the other SUNY Centers had been unacceptable to GEAR. It's difficult for larger schools, because curricula are arranged differently, and only a relatively small component are general education courses. UB has no gen-ed faculty; most gen-ed courses are taught by CAS faculty who are unaware of obligations imposed by SUNY trustees that those courses must be structured to learning outcomes. We'll need to revise our proposal to the GEAR committee to acknowledge this requirement.

Professor Jensen asked if SUNY's imposition of learning outcomes on gen-ed courses foreshadows similar impositions in other courses. Dr. Grant said he expects that SUNY will ask schools to identify what they're teaching and to assess whether it is being taught.

Professor Nickerson said that Chancellor King favors achievement tests, but that most SUNY senators disagree.

Dr. Grant said we should be able to revise our gen-ed proposal to satisfy GEAR, but it's going to be difficult to implement the procedures here. Every gen-ed instructor will need to be notified about minimal outcomes. We'll need to explain to SUNY how we've implemented this and prove it with data.

Professor Adams-Volpe, who serves on a GEAR sub-committee, reported that GEAR has said they won't approve new programs unless gen-ed requirements are met.

4. Report of the Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee -- Susan Hamlen, Chair

Professor Hamlen reported that the Budget Priority Committee had been asked to consider whether academic units' increasing use of part-time and non-tenure track instructors and teaching assistants has had any negative impact on UB's teaching and research mission. To accomplish this, they compiled data obtained from the Office of Institutional Analysis and sent a survey to all deans. All units except the School of Medicine responded.

The first question on the survey asked whether the mix of instructional staffing at UB has shifted significantly. Data from 1996-2001 shows that campus-wide reliance on non-tenure track faculty and teaching assistants increased from 41% to 51% of sections taught, and from 37% to 46% of credit hours taught. Deans attributed enrollment increases, program changes, faculty recruitment issues, and budget cuts as the reasons for instructional staffing changes.

Another survey question asked how instructional staffing changes have impacted teaching quality. Most responses claimed that the

use of part-time faculty had generally improved teaching quality rather than diminished it. Teaching evaluations support this claim. Also, using experienced practitioners in applications-based courses was regarded as beneficial. A few units expressed reservations about adjunct instructors, however, because they lack intellectual and scholarly depth.

Although most responses justified the instructional staffing shifts that have taken place, many academic units expressed hope for reversing the trend in the future. The Committee perceived underlying discontentment with the current situation because non-tenure-track faculty don't support the research mission of the University. Part-timers don't contribute significantly to collegiality among faculty, nor do they share the administrative burden, which reduced the amount of time the full-time faculty can devote to teaching, research, and service missions of their units. The Committee supports efforts to reverse the trend by hiring more tenure-track faculty.

A motion was made (and seconded) to receive the Report and place it on the February Faculty Senate agenda.

Item 5. Report of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee -- William H. Baumer, Chair

Professor Baumer requested that the revised "Academic Standards Policy" be sent to the Faculty Senate for action (one reading only) so it might get approved in time for inclusion in the 2003/04 Undergraduate Catalog. He said the revisions make the Policy's standards for good standing, probation, and dismissal in UB's undergraduate programs much clearer and simpler.

Good academic standing, as before, still requires that a student maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA). Probation, however, is redefined as being consequent upon failure to maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA or failure to achieve a 2.00

semester GPA for two consecutive semesters. Not having a major after completion of 60 credit hours no longer imposes probation.

Criteria for dismissal has been redefined in the new Policy; the proposed criteria are having a GPA of less than 0.05 for the first two semesters of study, or failure to maintain a grade point deficit of no more than 20 grade points. A grade point deficit is the difference between the student's total grade points and the points required for a 2.00 cumulative GPA if the student's cumulative GPA is less than 2.00.

The Grading Committee's report said that the revised Policy "is projected to have much the same consequences as present policies in its implementation. Indeed, a major ground for the reformulation is not that present policies are somehow problematic in their consequences, but that they are overly complex in their formulation."

The revised Policy proposes that first semester students who do not attain a 2.00 GPA get an academic warning and an advising checkstop. Students who persist with a second semester GPA of less than 2.00 will be on probation.

Professor Jensen asked how the proposed policy would affect students who are already enrolled at UB. Dr. Grant explained that students are entitled to the rights set forth in the Catalog under which they are admitted unless a newer policy favors them.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Academic Standards Policy proposed by the Faculty Senate Grading Committee be placed on the February Faculty Senate agenda for action (one reading only).

Item 6. Report of the African American Studies Program -- Lillian S. Williams

Professor Williams was absent; her report will be rescheduled.

Item 7. Report of the SUNY Senate meeting, Geneseo NY -- Peter A. Nickerson

Professor Nickerson and the other SUNY senators (Adams-Volpe, Durand, and Kramer) attended the SUNY Senate meeting at Geneseo on January 23-25; Chair Cohen and Dr. Coles also attended.

The Chancellor asked for advice on a policy and procedures for dealing with misconduct in faculty research after a charge has been proven. How should the information be communicated to the campus and the SUNY community? The process is confidential until a final determination is made.

The Board of Trustees wants to increase efficiency in SUNY Central Administration. UB's Bob Wagner will play a major role.

The all funds budget for SUNY is \$7.2 billion. The core instructional budget is \$1.8 billion of which \$700 million is from tuition. The 2002/03 budget is in reasonably good shape, although not funded were collective bargaining costs, inflation, enrollment growth and sponsored research.

Next year's state budget is grim. For the current fiscal year there is a shortfall of around \$2 billion. For the next fiscal year, it is estimated that the budget gap could be between \$8 billion and \$12 billion.

The Chancellor reported that every element of state government will take a cut in state funding. The objective of the SUNY plan is to keep the University whole. The Board of Trustees passed a

resolution stating that tuition up to \$1400 can be part of the solution. The Senate passed a rational fiscal policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: W. Hepfer

Architecture: S. Danford

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, S. Schack, K. Takeuchi

Dental Medicine: D. Garlapo

Graduate School of Education: R. Stein

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen, R. Mayne

Informatics: F. Tutzauer

Law: L. Swartz

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger, J. Hassett

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau

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

University Libraries: CA Fabian

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Guests:

W. Coles, Professional Staff Senate

B. DelGenio, Academic Affairs

P. Gold, CAS GenEd

K. Grant, VPAA

S. Hamlen, Budget Priorities Cmte

D. Longenecker, Reporter

Absent:

Arts & Sciences: C. Smith

Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

Institutional/General: O. Mixon

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: F. Morin

Nursing: E. Perese