



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 10, 2014

CHAIR:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

SECRETARY:

Cynthia Tysick

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Ernest Sternberg (excused)

ARTS & SCIENCES:

Kenneth Dauber
Stephen Dyson
Peter Morgan
Paul Zarembka

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Michael Hatton

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

Adly Fam
Joseph Mollendorf

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Lynne Yang

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH
PROFESSIONS:**

Robert Burkard (excused)

LAW:

Martha McCluskey

MANAGEMENT:

Larry Sanders

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

Michael Chaskes
Peter Elkin
Jung Hoon (absent)
Gabriela Popescu

NURSING:

Grace Dean

PHARMACY:

Fred Doloresco (Excused)

SOCIAL WORK:

Robert Keefe

SUNY SENATORS:

Henry Durand
Adly Fam
Kathleen Kielar

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Glendora Johnson-Cooper (excused)

PARLIAMENTARIAN (interim):

Gabriela Popescu

GUESTS:

Charles (Chip) Zukoski, Provost
Andrew Stott, Director and Dean of
Undergraduate Education
Sharon Nolan-Weiss, EDAAA
Ann Marie Landel, Professional Staff Senate
Diane Christian, English Department
Sue Wuetcher, THE REPORTER (absent)

1. FSEC observed a moment of silence for those faculty members who had passed away over the summer.
2. With the passing of Senate Parliamentarian, William Baumer, the position has remained unfilled. FSEC voted unanimously to appoint Gabriela Popescu as the interim Senate Parliamentarian for the current meeting. Until a permanent Parliamentarian is appointed an interim one will be chosen from amongst those in attendance.
3. Ed Herman, Faculty Senate Secretary, has retired over the summer. We received one nomination, Cynthia Tysick. She cannot officially take over the position until the October meeting of the full Faculty Senate. FSEC voted unanimously to appoint her as interim Secretary until the October 7, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.
4. FSEC has not yet received the names of some electoral unit's new senators. Zubrow has advised the units that until the names are provided 2013-2014 senators will stay on FSEC.
5. Report from the Chair
 - Undergraduate General Education will be updated within the next two years. Andrew Stott, Director and Dean of Undergraduate Education has been working with faculty across all units to redesign the curriculum. The Faculty Senate will have to approve the new curriculum; therefore, a timeline has been created to complete the voting process by the end of the calendar year.
 - i. Open Forums on North and South Campus in September
 - ii. Reports from various Faculty Senate Committees will gather feedback on elements of the proposed curriculum under their purview.
 - iii. FSEC will hold discussions during the bi-monthly meetings
 - iv. Faculty Senate will hold a discussion at the October 7th meeting
 - v. The First Reading of the Proposal: November 4th Faculty Senate meeting, with debates and amendments to immediately follow.
 - vi. The Second Reading of the Proposal: December 2nd Faculty Senate meeting, if we have a quorum.
 - If we get the final Undergraduate General Education curriculum approved by the end of December it gives faculty and Deans a year to get courses and programs in place for Fall 2016.
6. FSEC formally received the Undergraduate General Education Committee Report.
7. The Teaching and Learning Committee was asked by Ezra to forward the name of a member who would be willing to serve on the Associate Deans Committee as a full voting member. This person would handle routine curricular requests brought to the committee and forward more detailed requests to the FSEC. Ramalingam Sridhar (Computer Science & Engineering) was nominated by the committee. FSEC unanimously approved the appointment.
 - A discussion on the process of making unit/departamental curricular changes. Zubrow pointed out that in the past a Faculty Senate committee existed that would receive curricular changes from departments and vote on them. Eventually the committee disbanded and the Associate Deans Committee was formed. This committee then forwarded their curricular recommendations to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for final approval. The FSEC decided it did not want to be involved in the process so final approval of curricular changes fell to the Chair of the FSEC.
 - i. A comment was made that a department's role in voting on curricular changes should be acknowledged and that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee needs to assure that proper voting procedures are being observed in every department. Zubrow agreed with the comment but tabled the discussion for another FSEC meeting.

8. Martha McCulskey (Law) asked for clarification on the process of electing senators at the departmental level.
 - Zubrow: He is not clear on the role of Faculty Senate in decanal elections. The FS Secretary is also the head of the Elections Committee. He/she calls for unit elections in April
 - Dauber: Faculty Senate is its own body and has a role in the election of senators, not Deans.
 - Tysick: read the Faculty Senate Bylaws Article V and part of Article IV, which talks about the election, not the appointment, of senators.
 - Zarembka: Requested that the interim Chair of the Elections Committee, Cynthia Tysick, provide the names of all the senators for the upcoming year along with a report on the process by which they were selected. This recommendation was approved and requested for the next FSEC meeting.
9. Despite the Faculty Senate voting last year to hold its meetings at 4:00 – 5:30, Zubrow said that for now they will still begin at 3:00 PM because of comments he received from concerned faculty members that child care issues will affect the participation of potential faculty senators.
10. FSEC approved the appointment of Matthew Xu-Friedman (Biological Sciences) and Susan Udin (Physiology and Biophysics) to the Tenure, Promotions & Privileges Committee.
11. Proposal to Establish a Department of Jewish Thought presented by Diane Christian, Chair of Academic Planning and Assessment Committee.
 - Committee believes it is prohibitive at this time to move forward with creating a department due to a number of factors.
 - i. A full graduate program has yet to be established
 - ii. Departments of Jewish Thought are not as common as departments of Jewish Studies therefore benchmarking our program would be difficult to do.
 - iii. The definition of “thought” is problematic for scholars working in the area of Jewish culture, literature, history, etc.
 - Bruce Pittman, Dean of CAS responded to the report
 - i. SUNY has no other established department of Jewish Thought so UB is free to develop a unique program.
 - ii. The proposed department would like to increase intended majors and create more minors.
 - iii. In the Fall 2017 they would like to have a Master’s program developed and in Fall 2018 a PhD program.
 - A member of FSEC recommended changing the name to the Department of Jewish Studies and Thought.
 - Zubrow: We will bring the proposal forward to the Faculty Senate for discussion.
12. Proposal for a new Undergraduate General Education Program.
 - Diane Christian commended all those involved in the process on the work done and in particular the comprehensive analysis provided with each subcommittee report.
 - Zubrow: He has received feedback from a few of the Faculty Senate committees and will present those to the Faculty Senate on October 7th. He is still waiting to hear back from the Teaching and Learning Committee. He acknowledged that there has already been considerable input from faculty on the process from the very beginning.
 - Morgan: To implement this will be a huge undertaking on the part of personnel and financial resources. A transparent accounting of resource allocations for the new program needs to be in place. The sense was that the current program had resources reallocated to other programs not related to General Education. He would like to see where past funds earmarked for General Education had eventually gone.
 - Zubrow: Assured the FSEC that there is a General Education Program Resources subcommittee that has yet to give their final report; but, it will be given before the Faculty Senate October 7th meeting.

- Provost: Looking at past funds allocation will be very difficult to unravel.
- Zubrow: Undergraduate General Education, especially as it pertains to Liberal Arts needs revision or we will become secondary and a STEM institution. The new program has the potential to revive non-science and engineering programs.
- Dyson: The role of the humanities at UB is important to the academic discussion.
- Provost: UB's self-image will be tied to the new Undergraduate General Education program. Opening the minds of our undergraduates is vital to the future of UB. UB must be committed to moving forward on this curricular change. The university will invest funds where we feel there is curricular value.
- Ram: There will questions/concerns on how we enable this new curriculum to fit within accreditation mandates.
- Stott: The Undergraduate General Education Program did take these departmental accreditation mandates along with any SUNY mandates into consideration.

Submitted by
Cynthia Tysick,
Interim Secretary to the Faculty Senate