

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

April 23, 2014

CHAIR:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

SECRETARY:

Edward Herman (Excused)

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Ernest Sternberg

ARTS & SCIENCES:

Kenneth Dauber

Stephen Dyson

Peter Morgan

Paul Zarembka

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Elaine Davis

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

Adly Fam

Joseph Mollendorf (Excused)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Lynne Yang

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Robert Burkard

LAW:

Martha McCluskey

MANAGEMENT:

Larry Sanders

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

Yogesh Bakhai

Michael Chaskes

James Hassett

Gabriela Popescu (Excused)

NURSING:

Grace Dean

PHARMACY:

Alice Ceacareanu

SOCIAL WORK:

Robert Keefe

SUNY SENATORS:

Adly Fam

Donald Grinde (Absent)

Kathleen Kielar (Excused)

Peter Nickerson (Excused)

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Beth Adelman

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

William H. Baumer

GUESTS:

Professional Staff Senate:

Ann Marie Landel (Excused)

The Secretary missed this meeting due to a funeral. These minutes were transcribed from tape recording that was not always clear.

1. FSEC Accomplishments during 2013/14 (E. Zubrow)

- Committee restructuring.
- Reviewed quorum rules and achieved quorums at several Senate meetings.
- Passed a wide range of resolutions.
- Nominated representatives to dean evaluation committees, administrative search committees, Startup NY, the General Education Committee, and the Joint Budget Committee.
- Approved new departments.
- The Senate developed working relationships with campus unions.
- Zubrow lobbied the State Legislature to restore money to cover collective bargaining increases.

2. Suggested priorities for 2014/2015

- A basic question is should FSEC and the Senate represent their respective areas or the entire University? Most believed we should represent our units with the greater interests of the entire University in mind.
- FSEC ought to be proactive on 2 or 3 central issues, rather than reactive. Nothing will change if we try to change everything.
- FSEC ought to look into issues affecting FMLA leaves.

- Some FSEC members thought meetings are sometimes dominated by the President and/or the Provost. Invite them to offer presentations at the end of meetings, rather than the beginning. Also, ask them to address specific topics at Senate meetings rather than speaking generally about a variety of activities. Another possibility is to communicate to FSEC through a blog.
- Look into issues affecting student life generally and conditions of students in special circumstances. Possibilities include:
 - Former foster children who have financial difficulties and during semester breaks cannot stay in dorm rooms as international students do. There are approximately 90 such students.
 - Investigate problems foreign students face once on campus.
 - Attract more American graduate students to programs that are dominated by international students. Engineering is an example.
- Mandate that committees report to FSEC after completing their charges.
- FSEC discussed how to improve communications with faculty. K. Dauber thought it is difficult to reach faculty we represent. He also believes that most have no sense of Faculty Senate operations or concerns. Zubrow noted that the Senate established an unmodulated listserv last year, but it was deactivated because too many people did not want to receive the messages. Those who promoted the listserv objected to alternatives. These included a moderated listserv, a blog, and a "drop-box" through UB Learns. Zubrow suggested that FSEC enact a resolution requesting departments to have listservs and encourage the Provost to mandate this. P. Morgan suggested we forward a monthly newsletter to faculty. [E. Herman—Reprinting Senate and FSEC minutes on the Senate's Notification Listserv or regularly informing faculty of their availability on the Web with links might be helpful.]
- FSEC ought to create sub-committees that nominate faculty to administrative committees, set agendas, and coordinate oversight. Operating from the bottom up through sub-committees would be more effective than the current system.
- Offer incentives, such as special parking tags, for participating in the Faculty Senate.
- FSEC needs to be more outcomes oriented. It spends too much time on processes that are sometimes irrelevant.

- Work with the Provost to evaluate use of the metrics because they do not capture productive activities in all fields, particularly the social sciences and humanities.
- Address Libraries resources that are too limited. The Libraries fail to receive monies from increased tuition and face additional cuts.
- Regarding UBF, continue to press for greater transparency and policies that avoid conflicts of interest.

3. How can FSEC and the Senate promote their priorities? Some thought we ought to pass resolutions and use the “bully pulpit” with the media.

4. Summary: Zubrow summarized suggestions that fell into two categories, processes and outcomes.

Processes	Outcomes
Agenda sub-committee.	General education
Nominating sub-committee.	Conflict of interest and transparency
Divide tasks into additional sub-committees.	Metrics
Incentives to participate.	FMLA

A straw vote of outcomes decided the three most significant issues for 2014/2015:

General Education
 Improved communication with faculty
 Library Resources

Prepared by
Edward Herman,
Secretary, Faculty Senate