

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of September 10, 2003

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Report of the Chair
2. Report of the President/Provost
3. Issues related to the self-study and Middle States Review - Kerry Grant
4. Enrollment update - Sean Sullivan
5. Old/New business
6. Executive session (if needed)
7. Adjournment

#### Item 1: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson reported that he had met with Student Association (SA) officers George Pape, president, and Jill Xing, academic affairs director. They discussed student representation on selected Faculty Senate (FS) committees. SA will nominate student members for FS committees when requested. SA representatives have been invited to participate in the September 24th FSEC meeting.

The Chair met with the Professional Staff Senate's (PSS) executive committee recently. PSS is planning a social event with free tickets to a UB football game. Their discussion dealt with committee structure and function.

The University Senate has scheduled a planning meeting in Albany this week. Senate committees will have their first meetings, and governance leaders will be there to talk about common issues that affect all campuses.

John Wood from International Studies has contacted the Chair about whether any faculty senators might be interested in meeting with Dr. Patti McGill Peterson, executive director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (the agency that administers the

Fulbright program for U.S. faculty). Notify Chair Nickerson if you would like to meet with Dr. Peterson during her visit on October 7th-8th.

FSEC is now scheduled to meet with the Middle States Commission Evaluation Team on Tuesday, September 30th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in 567 Capen Hall. We will not meet on Wednesday, October 1st.

#### Item 2: Report of the President/Provost

President Greiner said his office didn't receive any complaints from parents, students, or faculty over the summer and to date, so it appears that our transition from one academic year to the next has been successful. This year's opening went very smoothly, despite the unanticipated jump in enrollment. He's glad that we've been able to address housing needs without resorting to building any temporary structures.

Enrolling over 3,500 new freshmen represents a much higher yield than we anticipated. A target enrollment of 3200 new undergraduates appears to be a reasonable goal for the foreseeable future.

#### Item 3: Issues related to the self-study and Middle States Review - Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Kerry Grant

Vice Provost Grant encouraged FSEC members to attend the meeting with the Middle States Commission representatives on the 30th to continue the dialog that started with the self-study. He said that Beth Del Genio, Asst. VPAA, deserves the credit for taking 18 sub-committee reports and editing them in response to the Middle States questionnaire. Over 90 faculty, staff, and administrators participated in providing data and comments. The final report is posted on the Web at

[http://wings.buffalo.edu/provost/middlestates/report\\_2003.shtml](http://wings.buffalo.edu/provost/middlestates/report_2003.shtml).

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education was formed by a group of universities that organized by district and agreed to evaluate each other with regard to high academic

standards. Accreditation is bestowed on institutions that meet the standards, and this allows students to transfer credit if they enroll at another school.

President Greiner said that a professional self-regulation organization such as Middle States is important here because there's no national ministry of education for the U. S., like some countries have. Our federal Department of Education doesn't function as an accrediting agency.

Vice President Black said that the Middle States team that will be visiting UB brings much intelligence and integrity to the evaluation process. They will provide a thorough review of how well UB is doing its job.

VPAA Grant said that we could have opted for a selective review focusing on a specific aspect such as technology, but UB chose to participate in a far more rigorous full campus accreditation. It has been a very good learning experience, and we will benefit greatly from doing it.

Reviewing the report from 10 years ago shows that we've made unimaginable progress in the past decade. Professor Brazeau said she has been at UB for three years, but her participation on the Middle States steering committee has helped to put the University in perspective. UB is vastly different now from what it was 10 years ago. It's been gratifying to realize how much we've grown as an institution.

Professor Schack suggested that follow-up meetings should be held after we receive the Middle States evaluation. Involving more people in addressing any perceived problems could be very helpful. VPAA Grant said that the people who were responsible for producing our report will also be involved in aftermath planning.

Item 4: Enrollment update - Vice Provost for Enrollment Planning Sean Sullivan

Vice Provost Sullivan distributed handouts showing preliminary tallies pertaining to Fall 2003 enrollments. He said that the new freshman class is the largest and among the best prepared that UB has ever admitted. Their high school average and SAT scores place them

very high on the SUNY Selectivity Matrix. Around 43 percent of the class is in the highest group.

Although we estimated a conservative enrollment yield based on SUNY budget cuts, the tuition increase, and the weak economy, we overshot our projections partly due to a paperwork bottleneck that got straightened out in Albany.

The last time there was a tuition increase, SUNY enrollments dropped by 10 percent. This year around 600 more full-time students than anticipated came to UB because we're perceived to be an attractive value. We've marketed the university well, so students know that UB offers a good university education for a relatively reasonable cost. Being featured on MTV may have been a factor in some students' decisions to come here, but it didn't affect the increase in applications because the deadline for applying preceded the MTV coverage.

We will probably take a conservative approach again next year, because there are so many variables that can affect enrollment yields. We don't want to risk such high over-enrollment again, however, because admitting too many students can strain our physical and human resources.

Enrollment yield rates have been fairly predictable in the past, but 2003 was far from a typical year.

A May survey of peer public institutions revealed that most of them are also dealing with record enrollments this year.

Item 5: Old/New business

None

Item 6: Executive session (if needed)

The Chair provided a brief update on some of the matters discussed at last week's executive session.

Item 7: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 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 (A), M. Churchill (P), R. Hoeing (P), 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 (E)

Management: C. Pegels (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger (P), J. Hassett (P), F. Morin (A)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (P)

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

Social Work: B. Rittner (A)

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

University Libraries: CA Fabian (P)

University Officers: President Greiner

Guests: D. Black (Student Affairs), N. Daviti (Spectrum), K. Grant (Academic Affairs), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Sen.), D. Longenecker (Reporter), L. Stewart (EDAAA), S. Sullivan (Enroll. & Planning), J. Xing (SA Acad. Affairs)