

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 7, 1996 (approved)

revised 10/3/95)

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The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM in the Jeannette Martin Room of Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of January 17, 1996
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Report of the University Governance Committee
5. Activities and Accomplishments of the Environmental Task Force
6. Old Business
7. New Business

ITEM 1: Approval of the Minutes of January 17, 1996

Professor Welch asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of January 17, 1996. Professor Nickerson moved for approval of the minutes. Professor Albini seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

ITEM 2: Report of the Chair

Professor Welch reported that:

Professor Churchill was in England due to family illness.

Statements had been offered in support of SUNY at the hearing chaired by Senator LaValle on January 31, 1996 held at the Center for Tomorrow. He announced that another legislative hearing had been scheduled at Buffalo State and that he would try to be placed on the agenda. He noted that he hoped

that the students would be scheduled at the beginning of the meeting since the meeting with Senator LaValle had been quite lengthy and the students had been scheduled towards the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Grela, Director of Public Safety had supplied data per precincts in the City of Buffalo and that additional information was available upon request.

A request had been received from the Committee on Degree Requirements (CDR) on general education requirements. Professor Welch stated that options included having CDR make decisions, asking the EPPC to review the requirements or having the issue determined by the FSEC.

Professor Nickerson stated that the Senate had the ground to consider SUNY Central performance indicators from a 1994 report. A question was raised regarding the SUNY peer group of national public research groups.

The University of Maryland policy on faculty workload and responsibility was mentioned and its requirement for departments to meet "outputs". The topic of faculty workload was discussed as a potential future agenda item.

Presidents of the two UUP campus chapters will participate in discussion at the next FSEC meeting.

Professor Malone suggested obtaining information from peer institutions regarding faculty workload. Professor Welch stated that he would check into the matter.

Registration issues involving cancellation of courses due to small enrollment and independent studies were noted. Professor Adams stated that transcripts did not reflect the subject matter of independent studies. Professor Horvath commented that a phrase on the transcript describing the independent study would be beneficial to students. Professor Welch mentioned a written evaluation in addition to a letter grade. Professor Wooldridge asked if the form would be accessible to external agencies. Professor Welch stated that the form would be a part of a formal transcript. Professor Doyno noted that written evaluations had formerly been sent with the transcripts and noted the options of pass-fail, written evaluation and regular letter grading. Professor Wooldridge remarked that descriptions of independent studies were available for graduate courses.

Professor Sellers reported that the ballots for the SUNY Senate would be distributed in the near future. She noted that there were five candidates running for two positions which included Professor Holmes, Ms Johnson, Professor Malone, Professor Schack and Professor Welch.

Future meetings would include meeting with union leaders on 2/14/96 addressing the issues of lobbying and analysis of faculty productivity and a crucial report from the Libraries, an Executive Session on 2/21/96, discussion with the Task Force on Women and the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity and University Computing on 2/28/96 and classrooms and facilities and Millard Fillmore College on 3/27/96.

It was noted that the final draft of the Athletics Committee was still in process.

ITEM 3: Report of the University Governance Committee

Professor Doyno, Chair of the Faculty Senate Governance Committee, stated that the University context had changed since the charges had been formulated for the committee. He noted that the University was facing different and serious issues, particularly in the area of reduced state support. He remarked that there was a diversity of opinion within the committee. He recalled that decentralization had been initiated three years ago. He emphasized the importance of faculty taking an active role in the University.

It was stressed that cooptation was a serious matter. Professor Doyno mentioned an overlap of membership between the Bylaws Committee and the Governance Committee and the sharing of information and concepts. He mentioned that it was important to be aware that administrative styles varied and that contexts changed over time.

The absence of a faculty club on the north campus was cited as a possible reason for increased feelings of isolation by faculty members.

In the current economic climate, Professor Doyno stated that consultation would become a crucial issue.

Professor Doyno addressed section B.1.a. of his Committee's report, dealing with the amendment of the Bylaws of the Voting Faculty to explicitly authorize articles of governance for academic units. Professor Doyno stated that Bylaws of decanal units were available in the Faculty Senate office for faculty members' use without risk. He noted that there was a difference between ritualized and explorative meetings and that the University might more appropriately be labeled a pluriversity or multiversity.

Professor Welch commented on the discussion over responses to the charges and the importance of faculty and administration sharing in governance.

Professor Adams questioned whether "authorize" was a strong enough term and suggested the use of "require" or "mandate". Professor Doyno agreed that Professor Adams had raised a valuable point and noted that the committee had discussed encouraging each unit to have bylaws but was fearful to use "require". Professor Adams suggested "encourage" and Professor Doyno suggested "recommend" and Professor Adams strongly agreed.

Vice Provost Levy stated that various units might not desire bylaws. Professor Danford questioned if individual unit bylaws developed by the faculty required approval of Deans. Professor Doyno replied that bylaws required approval. Professor Welch stated that adversarial confrontations would be ineffective. Professor Danford stated that bylaws could be suspended.

Vice Provost Levy noted that the academic units, although not specified, appeared to be the departments and he questioned if approval would be needed from department chairs and deans of the departments. He noted implications such as units not wanting to meet the requirements. He mentioned a scenario in which the Faculty Senate adopted the proposals of the Governance Committee and units in disagreement with the Faculty Senate requirements.

Professor Doyno stated that "recommend" would be a better word and he recommended an annual polling of the faculty regarding consultation.

Professor Welch commented that the issues must be raised in context regarding the unit bylaws. Professor Doyno reported that all decanal units had bylaws on file. Professor Kramer noted that the bylaws of the Voting Faculty required bylaws for decanal units.

Professor Wooldridge commented on the oversight role of the Faculty Senate. He noted that the system of the Chair and the Chair-elect permitted continuity. He mentioned the steep learning curve and recommended allowing the Chair to succeed him/herself. He suggested the possibility of the Chair-elect attending the SUNY Faculty Senate Winter meeting.

Professor Malone stated that Chairs and local governance leaders were invited to the Winter SUNY Faculty Senate meeting. Professor Jameson suggested sending the Secretary to the meeting rather than the Chair-elect. Professor Doyno agreed. Professor Miller commented that Chairs should be fully functional as rapidly as possible.

Professor Welch suggested retaining the services of the prior Chair to lend expertise. Professor Miller reiterated the importance of an invitation to the Winter meeting of the SUNY Faculty Senate to enhance the system-wide perspective of the Chair-elect. Professor Doyno stressed that it was important to be knowledgeable since opinions were formed in the first few months in office.

Professor Doyno addressed the issue of temporary salary overrides for the offices of the Chair and Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Questions were raised regarding the amount of reimbursement for the positions. Professor Welch and Professor Sellers reported reimbursement in the amounts of \$3000 and \$1000 respectively.

Professor Boot remarked that it was better not to relate the stipend to one's base pay or department. He advised a flat rate in a reasonable fixed amount. He stated that there was also a course release for the Chair. Professors Welch, Miller and Nickerson stated that they had not received course release during their tenures as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Professor Doyno hypothesized that a relatively small salary for the Chair could result in the administration regarding the office more lightly.

Professor Wooldridge disagreed with the flat rate. He suggested using the 2/9th formula used as the reimbursement rate for department chairs with an automatic inflationary correction built into the formula.

Vice Provost Levy stated that 2/9th was not uniform across the campus for department chairs. He commented that the additional salary for department chairs varies from 7% to 17%.

Professor Adams stated that she agreed that the flat rate was better. She remarked that interest in the position of officers of the Faculty Senate should not be for financial reasons.

Professor Doyno stated that Provost Headrick agreed with the principle.

Professor Fischer commented on rewards for chairs based on the size of the department and the demands. He noted that the Senate had a fixed set of responsibilities and that reimbursement in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range would be an inversion of propriety.

Professor Doyno addressed the idea of meetings as part of the norm and the fact that regular meetings were an effort toward stability.

Professor Nickerson stated that other SUNY units had greater and lesser degrees of administrative structure. He noted that faculty at various units attended closed sessions of college councils.

Professor Welch commented that the polling of faculty by the Senate on a yearly basis would establish the continuing principle of faculty input. Vice Provost Levy asked if the polling would be done centrally. Professor Doyno replied that since faculty consultation was a component of the Policies of the Board of Trustees, the polling should encompass all faculty and might be accomplished through completion of a form distributed by the Faculty Senate.

Professor Jameson recommended that if faculty were to be asked whether or not they had been consulted, they should also be asked whether they responded to requests for advice and whether they exercised their franchise by voting in governance elections.

Professor Horvath questioned the point raised by Vice Provost Levy regarding the definition of academic unit. Professor Welch replied that the Governance Committee would clarify the point prior to the first reading at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Professor Doyno commented on the size and formality of departments and stated that it was difficult to develop a policy that was acceptable to all units. He noted that the policy would evolve over time.

Professor Malone stated that academic unit was defined as a unit that specifically awards a degree.

Professor Nickerson commented that the issues had been addressed by the committee. He stated that discussion would be necessary at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Professor Doyno introduced the issue of the Faculty Senate as a source of intervention for a unit with governance problems.

Professor Adams requested clarification regarding the proposed Committee of Inquiry and its composition. Professor Doyno explained that in the earlier version of the policy, the membership had not been specified. Professor Miller suggested that the particulars should be included in the Standing Orders of the Faculty Senate. Professor Wooldridge agreed and cited the parallel to the revision of the Bylaws regarding grievance procedures.

Professor Jameson and Vice Provost Levy inquired into the meaning of the University Faculty Senate as a referral source. Professor Doyno stated that the University Faculty Senate would become involved if the issue remained unresolved.

Professor Boot advised the committee to rethink the issue and noted that having one's day in court did not mean that one's way would necessarily be granted.

Professor Kramer stated that the intent was to bring the issue to the University Faculty Senate if necessary and that the decision would be made by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. Professor Malone questioned the influence of the University Faculty Senate on local issues. Professor Albini stated that the intent was for the University Faculty Senate to serve as another avenue to address an issue of

concern that had not been successfully resolved by the Faculty Senate. Professor Jameson stated that it was not a good idea to publicize issues of concern at the level of the University Faculty Senate.

It was moved, seconded and approved to present the Faculty Senate Governance Committee Report to the Faculty Senate for its approval.

ITEM 4: Environmental Task Force

Professor Gardella, Chair of the Environmental Task Force reviewed the history of the committee starting in 1989 with President Sample as a campus-wide coordinating committee involving curriculum and research. He noted that Senior Vice President Wagner and Associate Vice President Nayler had served as Chairs of the committee. In 1994, Professor Gardella had been appointed to Chair the committee following a seminar on campus regarding green campus research.

According to Professor Gardella, the current structure of the Environmental Task Force included reporting to the President via Senior Vice President Wagner and Provost Headrick.

The Executive Committee of the Environmental Task Force was reported to have broadened its leadership to include an advocacy group as a pathway to Student Association activities.

Various subcommittees were mentioned by Professor Gardella and the anticipated campus-wide statement of the UB Environmental Principles and Goals. He commented on the Talloires Declaration and UB Environmental Audit. He noted that the student recycling project was extremely successful. Public Service and Outreach, Campus Development, Administrative Policies, Energy Conservation, Hazardous Materials, Curriculum and Land Use were enumerated as subcommittees of the Environmental Task Force. Professor Gardella noted that Land Use was important for UB 2025.

Professor Gardella mentioned an open meeting in March, 1996 to establish a set of principles for the University. He noted that a colloquium was planned for Fall, 1996 to review policies and procedures related to the environment.

Future planning included recapturing the focus on academic missions related to the environment in terms of research and education. Development of a strong Public Service and Community leadership function was stressed by Professor Gardella. A combination of efforts in operations, service, research and teaching was suggested to attract campus-wide funding.

Professor Malone remarked that hazardous materials concerns were in need of expansion into hazardous procedures. He noted the importance of training in safety procedures and practices in the academic units. Professor Gardella acknowledged that he was aware of serious problems on a campus-wide level and that the Environmental Task Force provided information regarding regularizing practices.

Professor Eberlein asked if the University had any particular strengths in environmental areas. Professor Gardella replied that recycling of cans and paper was a strength. He noted that income generated by recycling had grown from \$13,000 in 1995 to \$36,000 in 1996. He noted that recycling was nearly self-sufficient. Student internships were highlighted as quite positive. Food Service was noted to have implemented environmentally safe policies and practices.

Professor Nickerson inquired into the share a ride program. Professor Gardella replied that the program was in the matching stage and that the NFTA had funded brochures and computer software. He noted that Ingram-Micro, after hearing about the interaction between UB and the NFTA, desired a similar share a ride program and was being assisted by UB.

An example of Public Outreach, environmental literacy, was discussed in relationship to working with the Buffalo Public Schools, community and business groups.

Professor Welch mentioned the Talloires Declaration and future discussion by the Faculty Senate of this important document. Professor Gardella agreed and noted the demands placed on this institution by the contents of the document.

President Greiner stated that early engagement of faculty and staff would enhance an institutional commitment to the environmental principles.

Professor Gardella reported that the Talloires Declaration was available via e-mail and could be downloaded from Tufts University. He noted that the Environmental Task Force was open to additional membership and that he could be reached at cheegard@ubvms.

ITEM 6: Old Business

There was no old business was presented for discussion.

ITEM 7: New Business

Professor Welch discussed the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on February 20, 1996. He mentioned the second readings of the EPPC resolutions on Undergraduate Teaching Assistants and the Fresh Start Policy and the first reading of the report from the Governance Committee. Professor Jameson asked whether the Governance Committee would be developing a resolution. Professor Welch replied that he would discuss formation of a resolution with the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Sellers

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Those present:

University Officers: W. Greiner, K. Levy
Senate Officers: C. Welch, C. Sellers

Architecture & Planning: G. Scott Danford
Arts & Letters: J. Fradin
Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Wetherhold
Graduate School of Education: R. Stevenson
Health Related Professions: P. Horvath
Law: E. Meidinger
Management: R. Ramesh
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: M. Acara, B. Albin
Natural Sciences & Mathematics: P. Eberlein
Nursing: P. Wooldridge
Social Sciences: M. Farrell
SUNY Senators: J. Boot, M. Jameson, D. Malone, P. Nickerson
University Libraries: J. Adams

GUESTS:

Academic Affairs Director: L. Cornwall
Professional Staff Senate: M. Stokes
Other Guests: V. Doyno, J. Gardella, W. Miller

Those excused:

Dental Medicine: G. Ferry
Educational Opportunity Program: S. Bennett
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: H. Schuel
Natural Sciences & Mathematics: M. Churchill
Pharmacy: N.

Those absent:

Arts & Letters: M. Hyde
Social Sciences: D. Henderson