

**Special Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting**  
**With Peter Knuepfer, Chair, SUNY Faculty Senate**  
**November 6, 2013**

Attendance was not taken.

Knuepfer discussed with FSEC several issues that affect SUNY system-wide.

## **1. Seamless Transfer**

- SUNY schools must accept classes taken by transfer students from other SUNY institutions. Problems will arise when course expectations differ. For example, a calculus course at school A might not be equivalent to higher standards for the comparable class at school B. In selected cases, the system might be setting students up for failure.
- Knuepfer noted that this problem is not unique to University Centers.
- Knuepfer also said that seamless transfers existed in SUNY since 1972, but in the past, requirements mandated that students retake non-equivalent courses. This sometimes extended graduation dates. SUNY hopes the new policy will help students graduate in 4 years.
- D. Grinde asked if seamless transfer requires UB to accept courses SUNY students take through other institutions, such as Phoenix University. Knuepfer did not know.
- Discussion of possible fixes included tutoring and consulting with community college professors.
- K. Keiler believes that Chancellor Zimpher would be willing to change what does not work.

## 2. SUNY Startup

- Knuepfer said that college presidents are under pressure to cooperate. Regional economic development funds will finance many projects. He stated that local faculty senate bodies must approve plans. However, the University Senate has no role.
- FSEC asked a number of questions that no one could answer.
  - Who pays costs for facility rehabilitation, utilities, and salaries for university/college professors and staff who serve as consultants?
  - Are students paid salaries, do they earn course credits, or both?
  - What happens to facilities after a company leaves?
  - Will companies have access to university/college parking facilities and support staff? If yes, how will this be paid for?
  - What types of controls will schools have over curriculum and educational experiences students encounter in Startup companies?

## 3. MOOCS

- Knuepfer considers MOOCS similar to the Great Courses CD-ROM set.
- No one has seen the contract SUNY signed with Coursera.
- Revenue earned through Coursera courses go to SUNY, not local campuses.
- Knuepfer thinks faculty will receive training to teach online courses.

## 4. Medical Schools

- Knuepfer thought schools that own their own hospitals have financial problems. Stony Brook is an exception. Medical schools, such as UB's, which work with outside hospitals, are in far better financial shape.

5. **Executive Session:** FSEC discussed “Standing Orders of the UB Faculty Senate” (Revised 2/18/97), Article 2--Duties and Responsibilities of UB Faculty Senators in executive session.