

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 19, 2003

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of October 29, 2003
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Update on the UB Honors Program - J. Capuana & C. Herreid
5. Report on the HERI faculty survey - J. Dutton
6. Old/New business
7. Executive session (if needed)
8. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of October 29, 2003

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson invited Dr. Rick Lesniak, Director of Academic Services, CIT, to update FSEC on recent problems with e-mail. Dr. Lesniak explained that 35 computers on campus had gotten infected by a Trojan horse virus on November 12th. This created a spam storm that clogged university servers. CIT created a program that could identify infected e-mail messages and set them aside so they wouldn't keep adding to the log. Most legitimate e-mail has since been forwarded, although some are still being worked on as of today.

The recent spam attack wasn't preventable, because blocking new viruses is usually a reactive process. CIT is developing standards that should decrease the possibility of similar problems in the future. The best way to protect your computer is to have a firewall and keep anti-virus definitions up-to-date.

Recent activities of Faculty Senate (FS) committees:

- The Academic Planning Committee met last week and discussed their agenda for the coming year.

They've been charged to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in preparation for the MOU2 formation that will start soon. We want the committee to take the lead in discussions of future directions for UB.

- The Computer Services Committee met yesterday and heard about Blackboard and MyUB.

Blackboard version 6.0 is being used for 1,765 UB courses; there are 20,000 active users. Printing issues will be addressed by a subgroup. An updated MyUB will become available in January. There is now a 37% penetration, with an 80% target at five years.

- The Committee on Public Service plans to investigate the schedule of overhead and fringes for units engaged in public service types of activities. They will be involved in discussions on the future of public service at UB.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

None.

Item 4: Update on the UB Honors Program - Administrative Director Josephine Capuana & Academic Director Clyde Herreid

Professor Herreid and Dr. Capuana described UB's Honors Program, which was started in 1981 to attract gifted students. The program has grown from the first 20 students to the current 225 freshman in a total 1000 enrollment. There's a general honors program for freshman, a performing & creative arts program, and advanced honors for juniors and seniors.

Admission to the general honors program is based solely on SAT scores and high school GPA. The SAT score must be at least 1300 and the GPA must be at least 93. UB now receives more qualified applications than there are spots available.

Admitted students receive at least a \$2,500 annual scholarship, but some may receive higher amounts based on academic performance. Some \$4,000 scholarships are available, as well as Distinguished Honors Scholarships, which cover full tuition, fees, room, and board.

A Distinguished Honors Scholarship requires an SAT score of at least 1470 and a 95 GPA; there are 15-20 awarded each year. Performing & Creative Arts Scholarships for students majoring in art, theater, dance, music, and media study provide \$2,500 per year for four years.

Students in the Honors Program must have at GPA of 3.2 or better in their freshman year and at least 3.5 every year after. Students with a minimum 3.5 GPA can apply for the advanced honors program after completing 45 credit hours. Application to the advanced program requires a personal essay; a senior thesis is needed to graduate.

All honors students must design, research, and implement a community service project approved by the UB Honors Program. They also must meet annually with an advisor. The Program staff tries to be helpful in answering students' questions and making sure they understand all the options that are available. Eligible students are encouraged to apply for prestigious scholarships and fellowships.

An award-winning newsletter is one way that the Honors office stays in touch with alumni. An alumni reunion is being planned for a few years from now.

Item 5: Report on the HERI faculty survey - Assistant Provost for Institutional Analysis Jeffrey Dutton

Assistant Provost Dutton described "The 2002 SUNY Faculty Survey: Research, Teaching, and Institutional Satisfaction at UB." The survey was conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), which has become a major data resource. UB mailed out paper-and-pencil surveys to 1,191 full-time instructional faculty members in spring 2002 and received 450 (37.8) responses. The response rate was comparable to other SUNY institutions, which also administered the survey.

Questions dealt with demographics and attitudes about teaching, research, students, and institutional environment. In general, UB respondents were satisfied with their faculty roles of teaching and research. The data, which are helpful when information needs to be compiled for accreditations, cover many topics ranging from institutional priorities to information technology.

UB faculty perceived the following professional goals to be important: developing students' moral character, enhancing students' self-understanding, instilling in students a commitment to community service, and preparing them for responsible citizenship and employment. Being regarded an authority

in one's field, having a sense of financial well-being, and achieving peer recognition were considered to be important personal goals.

Perceived institutional priorities included enhancing the university's national image, increasing our institutional reputation, and hiring prestigious faculty.

UB faculty were as productive in their teaching and research as faculty at other SUNY doctoral institutions. However, UB respondents regarded research as being more important than teaching and valued research facilities and rank offered at hiring higher than other SUNY schools.

Item 6: Old/New business

None

Item 7: Executive session (if needed)

FSEC met in executive session

Item 8: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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 (A), 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 (P)

Management: C. Pegels (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett (A), G. Logue (A), B. Murray (A), J. Sellick (P)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (P)

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

Social Work: B. Rittner (P)

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

University Libraries: CA Fabian (P)

Guests: D. Budniewski (Reporter), B. Burke (EDAAA), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Sen.), B. Simpson (Grad. Student Assn.)