

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTVE COMMITTEE

March 20, 2013

Chair:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

Secretary:

Edward Herman (Excused)

Arts & Sciences:

William H. Baumer

Melvyn Churchill

Dental Medicine:

Elaine Davis (Excused)

Engineering & Applied Sciences:

Adly Fam

Joseph Mollendorf

Graduate School Of Education:

Suzanne Miller

Law:

Lynn Mather (Excused)

Management:

Larry Sanders

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:

Rajendra Badgaiyan

Michael Stachowiak

Nursing:

Grace Dean

Pharmacy:

Alice Ceacareanu

Social Work:

Barbara Rittner

SUNY Senators:

Michael Behun

Donald Grinde

Kathleen Kielar

Peter Nickerson

University Libraries:

Beth Adelman

Parliamentarian:

William H. Baumer

President

Satish K. Tripathi

Provost

Charles (Chip) Zukoski

GUESTS:

Ann Marie Landel, Professional Staff Senate (Excused)

OTHER GUESTS:

Austin Booth, University Libraries

Disclaimer: The Secretary missed this meeting due to a family illness. Minutes were taped and then transcribed. Names of speakers were not always identifiable.

1. Chair's Report

- Zubrow said that the Faculty Senate will consider changes to the Academic Calendar at its April 2 meeting (holding classes on Labor Day and the Jewish High Holidays). The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will vote at its April 3 meeting if the April 2 meeting does not have a quorum. Voting results are recommendations to the Provost and President who will decide.

- Zubrow, Jim Jarvis—UB’s Associate Counsel, and Tara Singer Blumberg—UUP’s Labor Relations Specialist, discussed floating holidays. No one is certain how UB developed 3 such days, but the *Contract* states campuses can have only 2.
- The University-Wide Evaluation Committee will work through the Summer and into the 2013-2014 Academic Year. Its findings will have implications for promotion and tenure.
- The next phase of Realizing UB2020 will begin shortly.

2. President’s Report:

- The President reported that 170 UB alumni, including 20 PhD’s met with him in Seoul, and a number of UB graduates of Civil Engineering met with him in Taipei.

3. Provost’s Report

- Zukoski reported progress on Realizing UB2020. He met with the University Cabinet and Deans to streamline the report, and expects to release the next version in early April.
- Sequestration will affect UB. NIH grants will decrease by 50% and the level of decrease in NSF funding is unknown. Implications of lower funds provided to Albany by Washington are also unknown. Discussions among the President, Zukoski, and Alexander Cartwright—Vice President for Research, about how to handle the situation continue. Cartwright’s office will likely sponsor additional grants writing workshops.

4. Report on the University Libraries (Austin Booth, Vice-Provost for University Libraries)

- Booth said the Libraries are going through an exciting time and must be nimble to adopt to change. Its strategic planning coincides with Realizing UB2020.
- She spoke about 4 issues affecting the Libraries.
- **EBooks:** The Libraries have a user driven acquisition program whereby citations are put in the Libraries Catalog. The Libraries automatically purchase a book after users select it three

times. Booth admitted that this represents speculative purchasing, something most libraries are not yet good at. Other aspects of EBooks include:

- Discussions with the Hathi Trust, a consortium of institutions that operate a digital archive.
- Digital rights management which are unclear.
- **Scholarly Publishing:** Costs of scholarly publishing are unsustainable. Author fees for open access journals are usually paid by the Provost.
- **Repurposing Libraries Space:** The Annex freed up Libraries space for a number of alternative uses. These include places for collaborative learning, multimedia, teaching, and quiet study. Plans for the Capen Library involve overlapping areas with Student Services that covers tutoring and informal learning places. The focus on library services for the Downtown Medical Campus emphasize services and expertise rather than collections.
- **Redeploying Staff Roles:** Digital libraries require library staff to respond to different types of inquiries and adopt new skill sets. For example, questions pertaining to data manipulation are very dissimilar and far more complicated than checking facts in an encyclopedia. Moreover, librarians today must learn how to teach information literacy that underscores concepts, rather than specialized tools as in the past.
- Booth also said that:
- Budget restrictions will force libraries to share collections with other institutions, something both library staff and users are unaccustomed doing.
- Libraries must develop data management plans, particularly for “born digital” materials—items that never appeared in another format. Standards describing what to preserve and how to do so must be developed.
- Questions to Booth and Responses:
- E-textbook project

- **Q:** Should purchasing textbooks become the responsibility of the University Libraries? **R:** A 3E grant funds the Libraries E-textbook pilot project. Booth noted the Libraries are good at getting deals and that the issues need further studying.
- **Q:** Are the Libraries in the business of purchasing textbooks? **R:** Current purchases are part of a pilot project. Focus in the Fall 2012 semester was on specific classes, and that in the Spring 2013 is upon specific groups (EOP and honor students).
- **Q:** Why were some classes selected and not others, and what do you expect to learn from this? **R:** The Libraries solicited interest from faculty, and selected courses that cover large numbers of students. We hope to learn how students feel about E-textbooks. Those preferring print and digital formats are split approximately 50% each.
- Zubrow noted that students did better in his spatial analysis course when using an electronic text.
- **Q:** Can students get reduced textbook prices from the University Bookstore? **R:** The bookstore is a private entity. Bookstores have gone to court when universities attempted to undercut textbook prices.
- **Q:** What infrastructure is needed for E-textbooks? **R:** Publishers supply their own infrastructures. Many are good for most students, but often fail to meet needs of the disabled.
- **Q:** How does use of E-textbooks affect student privacy? **R:** Privacy is protected. The Libraries rejected a publisher who wanted to acquire student profiles.
- **Q:** Since the number of journal subscriptions decreased, have the Libraries purchased individual articles when necessary? **R:** The Libraries use a token system with selective publishers. All departments do not get the same number of tokens. Booth could not say who get what.
- **Q:** D. Grinde said he was on a Library of Congress Advisory Board involved in digitizing out of print titles. Do the Libraries have access to this information? **R:** The Library of Congress has several digitized collections available to the public, but searching across collections can be difficult. Coordinating digitization should be a concerted effort.

5. Faculty Proposal for Distribution of Research Funds at UB (Michael Stachowiak and Rajendra Badgaiyan)

- See Appendix A for a copy of the proposal.
- The purpose of the proposal is to address what Stachowiak and Badgaiyan see as a fundamental limitation of NIH and NSF grant programs, the failure to fund basic science. Both agencies do good jobs at funding translational research and that pertaining to patents. Expectations are that funded projects show short term paybacks.
- Basic science research is very significant, but does not offer short term benefits.
- Assistant professors and graduate students are most affected by this.
- Stachowiak and Badgaiyan argue that the University ought to think differently. UB already puts significant resources into salaries, equipment, real estate, and other resources. They advocate creation of an internal funding source to support high risk basic science research. Funds would be distributed competitively and transparently for the most innovative proposals. J. Mollendorf asked who would decide which are the most innovative.
- A. Fam asked about funding sources.
- Stachowiak suggested that improving relations with the community, which he thought has ample resources, is one source.
- Zubrow suggested putting a 1% tax on grant overhead distributed to departments and deans, but the Provost indicated that these moneys are not overhead. They are tuition and state resources. Such a tax is possible, but services, supplies, and other funded activities would suffer. He also noted that any amount the University provides would be insufficient.

6. SUNY Faculty Senate Winter Plenary January 24-26 SUNY Oneonta

- See Appendix B for a report on the meeting.

Prepared by
Edward Herman, Secretary

Faculty Senate

Appendix A

Faculty Proposal for Distribution of Research Funds at UB:

Given the continued decline of federal and non-federal grants (typically less than 5% awarded) a new strategy must be developed to effectively utilize internal resources and funding to get the maximal effect. While our faculty members have made in the past and will continue their outstanding efforts to bring the external funding, simple arithmetic shows that this will not be sufficient for the UB to excel as a leading research institution. Thus we believe that a new strategy is needed to assure continuity and further growth of the original and advanced research at UB.

We propose to develop an **UB Innovative Research Fund (UB-IRF)** by using currently available research funds and developing additional funds. This **UB-IRF** would offer grants distributed to the most innovative projects, which are at an early stage of development and hold a promise to grow into unique and fundable research projects. This can be achieved by allowing our faculty to compete for the UB-IRF intramural funding. The Deans could setup a number of an NSF-style 'study sections', which should include both external and internal reviewers. Only meritorious proposals should get the funding. This process may need to cap the limit for a single department to avoid overfunding a department at the cost of other departments. This proposal would create a healthy competition among departments for funding and research excellence. On the long run, the UB-IRF it would make our faculty more effective in obtaining the extramural funding.

In summary, the UB-IRF should help us : (1) to continue the most advanced and innovative research at our University, (2) establish and maintain the leading role for UB as a national and international research institution and (3) maintain and further develop the graduate education offered by UB.

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Appendix B

[click here for Appendix B](#)