

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes, February 13, 2013

Chair:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

Secretary:

Edward Herman

Arts & Sciences:

William H. Baumer

Melvyn Churchill

Stephen Dyson

Dental Medicine:

Elaine Davis

Engineering & Applied Sciences:

Adly Fam

Joseph Mollendorf

Graduate School Of Education:

Suzanne Miller

Law:

Lynn Mather

Management:

Larry Sanders

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:

Ranjit Singh

Michael Stachowiak

Nursing:

Grace Dean

Pharmacy:

Alice Ceacareanu

Social Work:

Robert Keefe

SUNY Senators:

Michael Behun

Donald Grinde

Kathleen Kielar

Peter Nickerson

Parliamentarian:

William H. Baumer

GUESTS:

Sharon Nolan-Weiss, EDAAA

Ann Marie Landel, Professional Staff Senate

Daniel Ovadia, Undergraduate Student Association

OTHER GUESTS:

Kara Sanders, University Registrar

Scott Weber, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

- FSEC approved the minutes of January 30, 2013.
- Chair's Report
- Zubrow thanked E. Herman for the assistance provided in compiling Realizing UB2020 feedback for the Campus Advisory Committee.
- Zubrow introduced Danny White, Director of Athletics, and emphasized to FSEC that two thirds of the Athletics budget is from external funds.
- Presentation by the Director of **Athletics**, Danny White.
- [Click here](#) to view White's presentation.
- White said that:

- UB's 550 student athletes do well academically. Average GPA's are nearly 3.00 and nineteen athletes have 4.0 grades.
- UB Athletics has a \$1.7 billion impact on the local economy.
- The potential for UB Athletics is unlimited. Buffalo has the 51st largest TV market in the nation and is in close proximity to other larger ones. New York City and Toronto are two examples.
- The game plan is to develop a strategic plan and a facilities master plan for Athletics. The ultimate goal is to encourage and develop a collegiate athletics tradition.
- White believes that football is the key that "drives the train." When compared to other football programs, he thought UB's development is closest to that of Boise State and Louisville. The recent success of Rutgers, which just entered the Big 10 Conference, should be a confidence builder for Buffalo.
- According to White, constructing a field house for the football team would help Buffalo recruit top prospects. His office seeks private moneys to do so.
- Athletic success will contribute towards making UB more relevant to the community.
- Athletics is a strong marketing tool that attracts students. Applications at the University of Mississippi increased 30% following Cotton Bowl appearances, and applications to Butler University increased after it reached the finals in the NCAA basketball tournament.
- Big time sports have a better chance of success at UB when students feel they have an ownership stake in its development.
- Constructing a stand-alone recreation facility would also contribute towards attracting athletes and other students. White and Dennis Black, Vice President For University Life And Services, conversed about this.
- S. Miller inquired about the costs of building a program. White admitted that UB's financial investments are small. He pointed to the University of Mississippi, his former employer, stating that during a recent year it earned nearly \$30,000,000 from the football program.
- White agreed with M. Stachowiak who stated that a recreation facility ought to be included in the downtown Medical Campus.
- Replying to M. Behun's asking when UB football might become self-sustaining, White did not have timetable.

- S. Dyson thought that the North Campus living areas have a negative impact on recruitment of athletes.
- Responding to E. Herman's question about his role in promoting general fitness among all students White said that recreation and athletics are generally separate entities at the Division 1 level. Students can participate in intramural competitions and club teams.
- A. Landel asked if UB athletes are involved in the local community. White noted that teams compete for community service hours.
- White realizes that the Athletics Department must improve communications with the *Buffalo News* and other local media. His office collaborates with media professionals in the Center for the Arts to develop more attention grabbing videos and other ads.

- **Decanal Review**

- FSEC passed a motion last year to create a committee charged with evaluating decanal review policies.
- Confusion existed among those present about the length of a dean's appointment and how often the University reviews his/her performance.
- E. Zubrow noted that he and the Provost agreed that the Faculty Senate could suggest 3 people to participate in decanal reviews.
- S. Miller and E. Davis volunteered to serve on the committee, and Zubrow will seek additional volunteers from the faculty.
- D. Grinde reminded Zubrow that UB uses a questionnaire when reviewing deans.

(Note: The change to the Academic Calendar suggested in point 5 is effective January 2014. Those in points 6 and 7 below are recommendations to the Faculty Senate and the President.)

- **Winter Intersession**

- FSEC approved unanimously revisions to the academic calendar to accommodate Winter intersession classes. See the revised calendar at http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/governance/fac-sen/documents/Academic_Calendars.pdf.
- FSEC considered whether or not to hold classes **on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**.
- Stony Brook recently voted to hold classes on these holidays.
- Twenty of the 29 SUNY 4-year colleges hold classes on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. [A FAQ on the Stony Brook Web site notes that 22 of the 29 schools hold classes on these holidays. <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/calendarmessage2.html>]
- D. Grinde said that secular institutions ought to have policies concerning classes on religious holidays, but a specific religion should not be singled out.
- Fam thought a SUNY-wide policy should govern this.
- Zubrow argued that Christmas should not be considered a holiday and that the Winter intersession could then be expanded to 5 weeks. Baumer responded that society at large recognizes Christmas as a holiday in a secular sense.
- FSEC approved the following motion: UB Will not observe religious holidays in the University calendar. 12 in favor and 2 opposed.
- [SUNY's "Calendar, Development of Campus Instructional Procedures," document number 1000, effective February 18, 1981, states:

"Under existing State law (Education Law §224-a), campuses are required to excuse without penalty individual students absent from class because of religious beliefs and to provide equivalent opportunity to students to make up study or work requirements missed because of such absences." http://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=16, Viewed February 22, 2013)]

- **Labor Day**

- FSEC discussed the possibility of holding classes on Labor Day.
- Reasons for doing so:
 - The impact of a holiday at the beginning of a semester is disruptive, particularly when students use the three day holiday to travel home. They often don't return in time for Tuesday classes.
 - UB does not observe many other national holidays.

- Reasons for not doing so--Zubrow thought it would create problems with unions.

- Other comments:

- K. Saunders noted that 9 of the 29 SUNY 4-year colleges have class on Labor Day. [Alfred State, Alfred University, Canton, Cobleskill, Delhi, Morrisville, Oneonta, Plattsburgh, and Potsdam]
- If enacted, Labor Day would become a floating holiday.
- Employees with small children will encounter problems, but they are not unique.
- S. Weber remarked that his 2 children both go to colleges that hold classes on Labor Day
- Student input is important to this issue.

- **Elections**

- The Chair of the Bylaws Committee cast a single ballot electing **Ezra Zubrow Chair and Edward Herman Secretary** of the Faculty Senate because they both ran unopposed. Their terms will run from July 2013 – June 2015.

- The Chair of the Bylaws Committee cast a single ballot **electing Adly Fam State University Faculty Senate Senator**. His term runs from July 1 2013 – June 30m 2016. See Appendix A (Attached)

Prepared by
Edward Herman
Secretary, Faculty Senate

Appendix A



13 February 2013

UB Faculty Senate Officer Elections

There is one candidate for each of these offices. Consequently, election is completed by these single ballots:

That the Chair of the Bylaws Committee cast a single ballot electing Prof. Extra Zubrow Chair of the UB Faculty Senate for a term 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015.

That the Chair of the Bylaws Committee cast a single ballot electing Librarian Edward Herman Secretary of the UB Faculty Senate for a term 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015.

That the Chair of the Bylaws Committee cast a single ballot electing Prof. Adly Fam State University Faculty Senate Senator for a term 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2016.

WHBaumer

Chair, UB Faculty Senate Bwylaws Committee
Professor, Philosophy
136C Julian Park Hall
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14260-4150
Tel: 716-645-0164
Internet: whbaumer@buffalo.edu