

Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 30, 2013

Present:

Beth Adelman
Alice Ceacareanu
Mel Churchill
Adly Fam
Edward Herman
Lynn Mather
Suzanne Miller
Larry Sanders
Ezra Zubrow

Bruce McCombe and John Thomas led a discussion seeking input and comments about the Provost's document, *Realizing UB 2020: A Window of Opportunity*. The format of the minutes reflects the "Feedback Report" form used to gather information from units and groups across campus.

Overall Summary/Highlights

- Under what basis will junior faculty involved in clinical instruction, as opposed to research, be judged? Research oriented faculty become known for contributions to specialized areas, something that clinical faculty are usually unable to do. Boundaries between pure and applied sciences need clarification.
- The poor condition of facilities is an impediment to attracting students. Messy bathrooms and carpets held together with duct tape fail to make good impressions on prospective students, their parents, and other campus visitors.

Academic Strategy

- UB lacks office and laboratory spaces to accommodate the new faculty it expects to hire.
- New curriculum ought to include “service learning” as a way of attracting students.
- The Graduate School of Education would like to see more and expanded themes. Examples include:
 - Environment: Teaching environmental science and classroom environments.
 - Creativity: Should include posing complex problems to students to provoke creative solutions; dealing with new literacies/technologies; and integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, math (STEAM).
 - Justice: Ought to include social Justice as a strategic strength; deal with improving achievement in school, and equal access to learning opportunities.
- Digital Technologies
- Local and Global Community
- Learning across the lifespan - classroom and other contexts/teaching environment, business training
- Leadership - teachers leading students? training future leaders, teacher leaders
- Professional reflection
- Sustainability - broader than environment, schools to be productive in sustainable ways, similar to environment
- Knowledge flows, transnational flows
- Development and growth - human, community, economic, social
- Quality of life
- Strategies to retain good faculty
- Research infrastructure
- Clinical & translational unit
- UB community – downtown

GSE would also have liked to see technology emphasized more in the draft.

- Use of the term “sustainability” is unclear. Are we talking about the environment or sustaining a program or department.

General Comments

- “Should UB upgrade the Athletics Program to a peer public AAU competitive level?” (*Realizing UB 2020: A Window of Opportunity*, 19) This is not intended to decrease the importance of investments in the Libraries and laboratories, but to emphasize that leading Universities with major sports programs attract publicity, money, and students.
- How will the University evaluate the success of UB2020 following the plan’s implementation?