



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

Faculty Senate

**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of April 23, 2003**  
(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Report of Paul A. Tokasz, 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Majority Leader
2. Approval of the minutes of March 26 and April 2, 2003
3. Report of the Chair
4. Report of the President/Provost
5. Report of the Athletics & Recreation Committee – Carl Pegels
6. Report of the Admissions & Retention Committee – Judith Adams-Volpe
7. Old/New business
8. Executive Session (if needed)
9. Adjournment

**Item 1: Report of Paul A. Tokasz, 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Majority Leader**

Provost Capaldi introduced NYS Assembly Majority Leader Tokasz. Assemblyman Tokasz said that New York State is facing a budget shortfall of almost \$12 billion, but Governor Pataki's proposed 2003/04 budget is based on several wrong choices. The Governor wants to cut nearly \$2 billion by reducing support to K-12 and higher education and health care.

Budget negotiations are a political process, and the legislature is working to restore around \$1.9 billion during their deliberations. This will require, along with other measures, raising SUNY tuition by at least \$1,200 per year. Allowing SUNY schools to charge differential graduate tuitions has also been proposed, but there is some opposition due to access concerns. Increases to property and personal income taxes, and perhaps the state sales tax, are some of the other possibilities. Tobacco settlement funds and licensing fees from video gambling devices are also likely means of addressing the fiscal crisis.

If adequate funding cannot be recovered by adopting at least most of these measures, costs for K-12 and higher education and health care will fall on local governments, which have few options besides raising taxes. Seventy cents of every dollar the state collects is returned to local governments, but that's not enough to cover their needs in the current economy.

The NYS legislature will be discussing ways to remedy the fiscal crisis over the next several weeks. Most other states are facing budget woes similar to New York's.

Professor Nickerson asked about UB's role in economic development. Assemblyman Tokasz said UB is definitely an economic engine, because it's the largest of the SUNY centers and one of the largest employers in Western New York. UB's Center for Excellence in Bioinformatics has already generated substantial economic support for developing a world-class program.

Professor Morin asked about the status of the Rational Funding Policy, which would provide for steady and predictable state funding and tuition increases. Assemblyman Tokasz said legislators have been reluctant to dedicate fixed amounts to anything.

Professor Schack commented that the Rational Fiscal Policy is actually irrational. It would have cost students more over the past seven years (when there were no increases), and next year's students would still be paying the same forthcoming increase.

### **Item 2: Approval of the minutes of March 26 and April 2, 2003**

Both sets of minutes were approved as distributed.

### **Item 3: Report of the Chair**

Chair Cohen was absent and there was no report. Chair-elect Nickerson presided at today's meeting.

### **Item 4: Report of the President/Provost**

None

### **Item 5: Report of the Faculty Senate Athletics & Recreation Committee – Carl Pegels**

Professor Pegels, who co-chairs the Athletics & Recreation Committee with Professor Gunn, began by providing several definitions of recreation: Refreshment of body or mind. Diversion. Amusement. Any pleasurable exercise or occupation.

UB offers informal recreation opportunities at the fitness center, jogging track, swimming pool, and racquetball/basketball courts in Alumni Arena. Structured recreation programs include aerobics/spinning, tennis, and Spring Fun Fest. Intramural sports attracts thousands of participants to basketball, volleyball, soccer, and six other sports. There are also 24 sport clubs and dozens of recreational classes.

Students are currently charged a \$330 Recreation & Athletics fee, which generates around \$6 million. Recreation gets 9% amounting to around \$600,000. Intercollegiate Athletics gets the remaining \$5.4 million. The total Intercollegiate Athletics budget is \$13.5 million, according to the latest IA Board report.

A new recreation center has been proposed as part of the Lee Road development project. Renovation of Clark Hall on South Campus is also planned.

The Committee's report included a statement from Professor Maureen Jameson titled "Fitness Facilities at UB: One User's Recommendations." She would like to see fitness and wellness become institutional priorities; they should be emphasized over recreation and athletics interests.

Professors Jensen and Schack commented that students involved in athletics sometimes provide short notice that they need to miss class for sports-related reasons. This causes problems when exams or special activities have been scheduled. Professor Nickerson said that the Faculty Senate has discussed this in the past and probably should revisit it.

#### **Item 6: Report of the Faculty Senate Admissions & Retention Committee**

Professor Adams-Volpe, chair of the Admissions & Retention Committee (A&RC), reported that the group has considered a proposal dealing with admission of athletes. A revised NCAA standard prompted Vice Provost for Enrollment & Planning Sullivan to appoint a committee to advise how UB will respond to the new standard. Their proposal was then presented to the Senate's A&RC for review.

NCAA guidelines that will go into effect August 1<sup>st</sup> allow for lower SAT scores from prospective student athletes if they have a higher core high school GPA within the new NCAA eligibility index. UB's position, however, is that no student with an SAT combined score below 740 should be admitted regardless of GPA.

A 1997 Faculty Senate resolution that UB should follow minimum standards set by the NCAA should now be disregarded because they have gone too low. UB's standards for admitting athletes should be consistent with our Individualized Admissions Program (IAP) criteria. This is based on t-scores, which factor a student's high school average, rank in class, and standardized test score. UB's new criteria will require a t-score of at least 36, slightly higher than the 1996 IAP minimum.

Most of UB's student athletes are admitted according to standard procedures. The proposed changes would affect only a small number each year. Twenty students are currently in limbo awaiting the outcome of these deliberations. They could be admitted under the NCAA guidelines, but not if we endorse the higher standard.

It was moved (with a second) to present this report at the May Faculty Senate meeting. The motion failed, however, following recommendations to bring it back at next week's meeting so t-scores can be clarified.

#### **Item 7: Old/New business**

None

#### **Item 8: Executive Session (if needed)**

None

**Item 9: Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

**Present:**

**Secretary:** W. Hepfer

**Arts & Sciences:** W. Baumer, S. Bruckenstein, S. Schack, K. Takeuchi

**Dental Medicine:** J. Zambon

**Graduate School of Education:** R. Stein

**Engineering & Applied Sciences:** J. Jensen, R. Mayne

**Informatics:** F. Tutzauer

**Management:** J. Boot

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** F. Morin

**Pharmacy:** G. Brazeau

**Public Health & Health Professions:** G. Farkas

**SUNY Senators:** J. Adams-Volpe, M. Kramer,

P. Nickerson (Acting Chair)

**University Libraries:** CA Fabian

**Parliamentarian:** D. Malone

**University Officers:** President Greiner, Provost Capaldi

**Guests:**

W. Coles, Professional Staff Senate

D. Longenecker, Reporter

C. Pegels, Athletics & Recreation Committee

L. Stewart, EDAAA

P. Tokasz, NYS Assembly

**Excused:**

**Chair:** M. Cohen

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** C. Granger

**Absent:**

**Architecture & Planning:** S. Danford

**Arts & Sciences:** C. Smith

**Institutional/General:** O. Mixon

**Law:** L. Swartz

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** J. Hassett

**Nursing:** E. Perese

**SUNY Senator:** H. Durand