

## Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Minutes of September 1, 1999 - (unapproved)  
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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on September 1, 1999 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. Report of the Chair
2. Report of the President/Provost
3. Charging the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity
4. What's new with WBFO?
5. Old/new business

### Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed Dr. Durand as the new SUNY Senator, Professor Bromley as the interim representative from the Graduate School of Education and Professor Welch who will be attending ex-officio as prior Chair of the Faculty Senate.

The Chair reported that:

1. in executive session on August 25, FSEC talked about the issue of affirmative action searches, principally as they relate to recent appointment of senior administrators at UB; FSEC is concerned that there is a trend away from such searches and will refer the matter to the Affirmative Action Committee to be reported on by the end of the Fall semester
2. in executive session on August 25, FSEC noted with regret Professor Woodson's resignation as SUNY Senator; the Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee recommended that she be replaced by the candidate who had received the next most votes (Dr. Durand); the Bylaws Committee will be asked to examine the *Standing Orders* provisions for replacing a resigning Senator
3. the President and Provost accepted the Faculty Senate resolution on grade replacement for immediate implementation, and the revised policy was included in UB's current *Undergraduate Catalog*; however, CIT says it

lacks resources to write a program to implement the policy this semester; what is the sense of FSEC about the priority of implementing the grade replacement policy:

- some athlete students' ability to continue at UB is dependent on this policy being implemented; need to get on with it (Professor Malone)
- needs to be a discussion of the trade-off of priorities with CIT; don't want to just hand over more money to CIT (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- in response to my written inquiry about expeditiously implementing the policy Vice Provost Goodman said that since CIT is giving priority to Y2K and Access '99 the only option is for advising staff to work with students individually; can't certify athlete scholars as eligible to play on the basis of a promise to fix the problem next semester (Professor Malone)
- students pay a hefty computer services fee, so services for students should get priority (Professor Boot)
- shouldn't discuss CIT's priorities without CIT represented, but we do need to talk with them and have a say in their priorities (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- more appropriately a problem for the President; he needs to resolve the conflict of priorities, perhaps by giving CIT more resources (Professor Schack)
- am not aware that CIT sets University priorities; matter should be decided among the senior officers of the University; doubtful that we still have a Y2K problem so close to the end of the year (Professor Baumer)

Professor Welch moved (seconded) the following resolution: "The FSEC reemphasizes the academic importance of implementing the grade replacement policy early this semester, and urges President Greiner to seek a rapid solution". The resolution was unanimously adopted.

- implementing the grade replacement policy will have an immediate effect on students, especially those whose financial aid is in jeopardy, while the Y2K problem is four months away (Dr. Coles)

1. the SUNY Senate Executive Committee has passed a resolution supporting the Old Westbury faculty's call for the College Council to follow presidential search guidelines

- don't know details other than that guidelines were not being followed in Old Westbury's search for a new President, and the Chair of the SUNY Senate has been meeting with the Chancellor and Egan about the matter(Professor Adams-Volpe)
  - according to the *New York Times* the advertisement for the position came out and within the week the Reverend Calvin Butts was chosen for the position by the College Council; additionally the Reverend Butts will continue as pastor of his church and will devote himself to the Presidency only part time (Mr. Celock)
  - there are also real estate issues involved in the appointment (Professor Boot)
1. the meeting of the Voting Faculty is on September 21 and we will be advertising it to encourage turnout
  2. a small group met with Vice Provost Goodman to discuss the issue of financial aid and our good standing policy; the Grading Committee will put this item on fast track; rules on financial aid coming from federal sources allow some latitude in an institution's policy defining good standing, but the policy must be applied to all students; the Grading Committee will focus on the issue of improvement in student progress and whether we should make adjustments in our current policy

## **Item 2: Report of the Provost**

Budget issues are in the forefront since neither the SUNY budget nor the UB budget is clear yet. SUNY lacks appropriations to cover lost hospital revenues, salary increases (although this is expected to be covered), inflation, enrollment above base and the RAM process, and sponsored program increases above the RAM process. Taken together these produce a \$20 M deficit. If the deficit is shared among the campuses, UB's share will be \$3M, but there is a possibility that SUNY will absorb the \$20M.

At this point the Provost was urgently called away; during his absence Item 3 of the Agenda was completed. The Provost then continued his report.

New York is not alone among the states in refusing to increase funding for higher education. The National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education has released a report stating that funding increases of 6% a year would be necessary to sustain current funding

levels in higher education, an unlikely scenario. While the New York Legislature seems unwilling to increase SUNY's base budget, it is interested in funding initiatives that promise specific benefits. UB received extra money for the Center for Advanced Medical Technology, its cooperative project with Roswell Park, for a down payment for putting the Medical School's practice plan in order, and for gender equity in athletics.

The Y2K plan, which the Legislature also passed, could potentially change the way science and technology is administered in New York. The plan creates an Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research which will have significant funding to sponsor research at academic institutions in New York. Fostering research in science and technology is critical to New York's health. New York's mix of public and private institutions should work cooperatively to convince the state to adequately support research.

President Greiner added that a partnership between Cornell and the SUNY Centers emerged during the budget process in Albany. Cornell receives the largest per capita tax allocation from the state so when tax funding is reduced, Cornell takes the biggest hit. Working cooperatively to keep tax funding up makes good sense. Furthermore science faculties in both public and private universities are relatively small, and it will take the combined work of all to meet New York's research needs.

### **Item 3: Charging the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Creative Activity**

The Chair introduced Professor Strauss, the new Chair of the Committee on Research and Creative Activity who comes to UB from Duke University, Vice President Landi and Joseph Cusker. Nothing that Provost Triggles has charged the Deans with doubling sponsored research within the next five years, the Chair suggested that the Committee could usefully look at whether this is a feasible goal and how it could be accomplished.

Vice President Landi reported that after three years of falling volume in sponsored research there was a slight increase (\$73 M up from \$70 M) in the 1998/1999 year. The

volume of sponsored research will probably rise again in 1999/2000 because of funding brought by the Research Institute on Addictions.

Vice President Landi described the process of incorporating the Research Institute on Addictions into UB. The Institute will continue to operate with its current staff (45 state employees and 100 Research Foundation staff) in its current housing, which facility will be added to UB's inventory. The Director of the Institute will report to the Provost, and the Institute's administrative activities will be merged with UB's. The Institute's budget consists of \$3.2 M in state funds and \$5.5 M in funded research.

- has the number of research proposals increased and what is our success rate?; are there implications of the merger with the Institute to UB's relationship with Roswell Park Cancer Institute? (Professor Welch)
- during the three year period of decline the number of proposals and the success rate also declined, although the dollar value per award increased; during the 1998/1999 year the number of proposals and the amount requested per proposal increased; there are natural linkages between the Institute, Roswell and UB, especially in the biological and behavioral sciences (Vice President Landi)
- is there a rationale for the goal of doubling sponsored research or is it just rhetoric? (Professor Swartz)
- our aspirational peers have sponsored funding of about \$150 M or double our \$75 M (Professor Boot)
- does the loss of faculty, especially senior faculty who attract larger grants, account for the decline? (Professor Schack)
- from 1991 to 1997 an unusually large number of active researchers left UB and were either not replaced at all, or were replaced by more junior faculty; this accounted for half the loss of grants (Vice President Landi)
- during the period of decline, did our peers also lose funding? (Professor Sridhar)
- our peers, including peers within SUNY, increased their funding (Vice President Landi)
- is there consideration of supporting faculty in "hot areas" where the teaching load is heavy and recruitment frequently not successful to make more time for research? (Professor Sridhar)
- need to target institutional resources on academic areas in which we want to remain competitive (Vice President Landi)
- only way for UB to double its sponsored research is to free active researchers from teaching (Professor Malone)

- an important part of UB's strategy is to take steps that enable accomplished researchers to include others in grants and get larger grants; to meet the five year goal, we need to increase funding 15 % (\$10/\$11 M) per year; in the first years the only way to increase by that amount is to recruit faculty who can bring grants with them and who can provide additional research leadership (Vice President Landi)
- rationale for the goal of increasing sponsored research is to upgrade UB's reputation; doubling sets a challenging, but attainable goal; Professor Hay has joined my office for a two year appointment (while retaining his other duties) to undertake initiatives to increase research; he is proactively seeking advice, having formed a faculty advisory group to advise on research directions in which the University should invest and a users group to test out the nuts and bolts of getting a proposal through (Provost Triggler)
- important to include the Committee on Research and Creative Activity in the loop; the Committee has, for example, already done a nuts and bolts examination of the process of seeking external funding and has drafted revisions to Sponsored Programs' *Director's Handbook* (Professor Nickerson)

The Chair invited Professor Strauss's comments on possible directions for the Committee. Professor Strauss said he would seek input from faculty. He also noted that, coming from a private institution where faculty were expected to cover their salaries by grants, he sees state financial support for SUNY as the equivalent of a large endowment that pays for faculty salaries. He acknowledged that teaching loads here are heavier than at private institutions, but he believes that we can create a climate that facilitates research and aids in retention of active researchers.

Provost Triggler noted that he has known Professor Strauss over many years, and he and Professor Hay look forward to working with Professor Strauss. He emphasized that being tenured is like obtaining a several million-dollar endowment; recruitment and retention decisions go to the heart of what the University does.

There were comments from the floor:

- Professor Hay's appointment in the Provost's Office is another instance of an administrative position being filled without a search, avoiding procedures with which others must comply; are suddenly being told that only funded research counts although in the recent past we have been told that teaching,

public service and plain research were important; the Provost single handedly is establishing new rules of the game and creating uncertainty and tension that makes it difficult for faculty to labor productively  
(Professor Boot)

- within academic units temporary assignments are frequently made without any search; in such cases there is no vacancy being filled, but rather additional responsibilities are being added to an existing line; a search is appropriate for a continuing position, but an internal appointment is appropriate for a temporary situation; on the professional side appointments are made balancing affirmative action considerations with staff development concerns; the ground rules as to teaching, public service and research have not changed; in the sciences especially, funded research has been given more priority  
(President Greiner)
- funding may have been on the agenda before, but in FSEC there has only been discussion of research  
(Professor Boot)

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

Knowing the tune but not the words, President Greiner spared FSEC his rendition of the UB Fight Song. He pointed out that as of 12:01 AM UB was a member of Division IA; he resisted the impulse to call President Sample at 7:00 AM this morning to thank him for putting UB on this path, but he will do so during the afternoon.

Hadley Village is very attractive, and students like it a lot. East Lake Village construction is already underway; this is the first step in building housing around East Lake. Construction of high rise facilities on Lee Road will be the next project. Our goal is to double on campus housing.

A marching band has been formed. Seven local high school bandmasters have been volunteering to train the band and it is doing well.

These are all efforts to build a welcoming community for the students. They should help in retaining the students, which we were very successful in recruiting.

UB' New York City recruiting office is now well positioned to begin attracting students from the City and from Long Island. UB has not done well in this area in the last several years, and we need to begin making inroads with the students who now choose Stony Brook, Binghamton and other regional competitors.

UB has been very successful in recruiting exceptional new faculty, and we have also made a major commitment to merit scholarships. In doing so we have over extended our budget, which will make this an even tougher financial year. But these are investments in shaping the institution.

**Item. 5: What's new with WBFO?**

The Chair introduced Associate Vice President Petro. Dr. Petro described WBFO as a major public service of the University; the station also serves the University by telling the community about UB. WBFO has thrived for the past nine years under the direction of Jennifer Roth, the station manager. The station has extended its reach by more than doubling its transmission power and adding repeater stations serving Olean and Jamestown. The station is a public relations bargain for the University which provides 25% of the station's budget while the remainder of its funding comes from grants, memberships and corporate underwriters.

Before Ms. Roth began her report, the Chair noted that FSEC always enjoys hearing from her and celebrates her enthusiasm for the station. Ms. Roth said that WBFO is its people, those on the air and those who support them. The station has 12 full time employees, a number of part timers and volunteers, student employees and a student intern. There is an Advisory Board made up of community members and UB staff which helps form the vision of where WBFO is going. Finally there are the members.

The station is in a very strong state. Membership has been steadily increasing; pledges were up this year by 37% over last year with no extra staff expense being incurred. Underwriting increased to a total of \$180 K this year. Listenership is up; in any quarter hour

segment WBFO has 4,400 listeners, and it has increased its market share to 2.5%. WBFO has upgraded its technology and also now has a up transmission site.

Local programming is also strong. UBeat, 90 second segments highlighting UB programs, facilities and resources, won the C.A.S.E. Gold Award. The *Buffalo News* has given WBFO a \$50 K grant to expand local programming, which is funding a third news position responsible for community affairs and arts reporting. Opus Classics will begin its 1999/2000 season broadcasting the Amherst Saxophone Quartet from the newly renovated Allen Hall Theater. CBS will be there filming segments for a program on the Quartet. President Greiner's call in show will also be returning.

Ms. Roth stressed that WBFO is always interested in connecting with UB faculty who have program ideas, who would be willing to serve as resource persons, or who have news stories to share. WBFO is also interested in student participation and has a track record of developing students into radio professionals. She thanked the many UB supporters who have made WBFO strong.

Associate Vice President Petro announced sadly that Ms. Roth has resigned effective the end of September to manage WCAL at St. Olaf Lutheran College in Northfield, Minnesota. WCAL has twice the budget and staff of WBFO. The Associate Vice President described Ms. Roth as one of the country's top public radio professionals and thanked her for nine wonderful years.

WBFO will recruit for a new general manager. The Associate Vice President will serve as interim general manager until the new manager is in place.

The Chair asked for comments:

- [would you comment on the student station WRUB and on whether the near demise of WNED-AM had a positive impact on WBFO fund raising \(Professor Welch\)](#)

- WBFO has established a good relationship with WRUB and has given it equipment; had feared a negative impact from the effort to save WNED-AM, but there didn't appear to be one; WNED-AM's listenership has been declining over the past several years (Ms. Roth)
- has the increase in funding come from a broadened membership base or from larger pledges? (Professor Fournier)
- the base has broadened from about 5,000 to about 6,000; there has also been a higher level of giving and an increase in multiple gifts in a year; underwriting has also gone up (Ms. Roth)
- a major accomplishment was a \$200 K endowment from the Davis family (Associate Vice President Petro)
- strong team leader makes for good team members, so Ms. Roth must share in the compliments for WBFO; Ms. Roth expresses herself very elegantly on air and in letters to members; disappointed that Will Short, the puzzle master on Sunday morning, has not used any of the puzzles I have contributed; consider the following puzzle for next week's FSEC: if one spells out the months of the year, what criterion places the months of February, March, April, August and November in one group and January, May, June, July, September and October in a second group? (Professor Boot)
- what would it take to bring Fresh Air at 5 AM? (Professor )
- was a difficult decision to offer Morning Edition at 5 AM instead of Fresh Air (Ms. Roth)
- strange that WNED-AM continues to duplicate Morning Edition and All Things Considered in light of its financial difficulties (Professor Schack)

Professor Boot moved (seconded) a motion to thank Ms. Roth for her excellent service. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 6: Old/new business**

Professor Malone asked about the status of rewording the statement on the need for administrative notification of the Faculty Senate of changes to academic units. The Chair will schedule this matter for further discussion.

Professor Boot asked for the record show that at the September 25 FSEC meeting, "audible hilarity" met the Chair's comments on the possibility of re-establishing a Department of Biostatistics.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Kramer  
Secretary of Faculty Senate

**Present:**

**Chair:** Peter Nickerson

**Secretary:** Marilyn Kramer

**Parliamentarian:** Dennis Malone

**Ex Officio:** Claude Welch

**Arts & Sciences:** William Baumer, Charles Fournier, Samuel Schack, Charles Smith

**Engineering & Applied Sciences:** Ramalingam Sridhar

**Graduate School of Education:** Hank Bromley

**Health Related Professions:** Judith Tamburlin

**Law:** Louis Swartz

**Management:** John Boot

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Cedric Smith

**Pharmacy:** Nathan

**SUNY Senators:** Judith Adams-Volpe, John Boot, Henry Durand

**University Officers:** William Greiner, President

David Triggles, Provost

**Guests:**

H. William Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Jack Meacham

Dale Landi, Vice President for Research

Joseph Cusker

Mara McGinnis, *Reporter*

John Celock, *The Spectrum*

Harold Strauss, Chair, Committee on Research and Creative Activity

Jennifer Roth, Station Manager, WBFO

Carol Petro, Associate Vice President for University Services

Kenneth Levy, Senior Vice Provost

**Excused:**

**SUNY Senators:** William Fisher

**Absent:**

**Architecture:** Shahin Vassigh

**Arts & Sciences:** Mitchell Harwitz, Henry Sussman

**Dental Medicine:** Robert Baier

**Information & Library Studies:** George D'Elia

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Boris Albini

**Nursing:** Jacqueline Thompson

**University Libraries:** Dorothy Woodson