

Minutes of February 15, 2012

Present:

Chair

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

Secretary

Edward Herman

College of Arts & Sciences

William H. Baumer

Melvyn Churchill

Graduate School of Education

Suzanne Miller

School of Architecture & Planning

Despina Stratigakos

School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Joseph Mollendorf

Adel Sadek

School of Law

Martha McCluskey

School of Management

Larry Sanders

School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Nader Nader

Ranjiv Singh (Excused)

School of Nursing

Mary Carey

School of Pharmacy

Alfred Reiman (Excused)

School of Social Work

Kathleen Kost

SUNY Senators

Jennifer Gottdiener

Donald Grinde

Peter Nickerson

University Libraries

Michael R. Lavin

Parliamentarian

William H. Baumer

Guests

EDAAA --Sharon Nolan-Weiss

President--Satish K. Tripathi

Professional Staff Senate --Ann Marie Landel

Provost (Interim)—Bruce McCombe

Other Guests

Lorna Peterson

- **Corrections to Previous Minutes requested by Jennifer Gottdeiner.**
- **Faculty Senate Executive Committee, November 30, 2011:** The Chair's Report incorrectly stated that "Zubrow will ask the Curriculum Committee to discuss course compression that shortens end of semester time for reporting grades." The corrected copy reads "Zubrow will ask the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, a standing committee within the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, to discuss course compression that shortens end of semester time for reporting grades."

- **Faculty Senate Executive Committee, January 25, 2012:** The Interim Provost's Report (Shared Services section) incorrectly stated "FSEC agreed that the Chancellor's Office has not considered carefully its implications." The corrected version reads "The consensus among FSEC is that the Chancellor's Office has not considered carefully its implications to SUNY University Centers."
- **Report of the President (Satish Tripathi)**
 - The President said that the **Athletic Director, Manual Ward**, did a tremendous job at UB. Ward recently accepted the same position at the University of Connecticut, a school that holds the academic values for athletes that Ward stressed at Buffalo. An Interim Director will be appointed within days and a search committee will be formed next week. Tripathi hopes to fill the position by June.
 - **Provost search:** The search committee narrowed the list of candidates to approximately 12, and the University expects to invite 3-5 finalists to campus. The President would like the search completed before the spring break.
 - **Dean of Engineering:** A search for the new Dean of Engineering will begin soon. Tripathi wants the new Provost and prospective candidates to have an opportunity to become acquainted prior to making a decision.
 - SUNY approved the President's participation in the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.
 - **Budget:** Interim Provost McCombe and Sean Sullivan, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning and Budget, hope to convince SUNY to adopt an AAU model for reallocating funds.
- **Report of the Interim Provost (Bruce McCombe)**
 - **Calendar:** UB hopes to adjust the academic calendar to create longer intersessions where students could take short, compacted courses. The other 3 university centers do the same. See below the Report of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education for more information.
 - **Finish in four** will be launched on February 15. A longer intersession will help students who take short courses graduate in four years.

- **3E proposals:** From among 101 proposals submitted, the 16 successful ones maximize benefits to the entire University. (Previous minutes stated that 15 were approved.) The original intent was for the Provost's Office and individual units to fund proposals at a 7 to 1 ratio. However, given the enrollment shortfall, successful proposals will be funded at a 2 to 1 ratio between the Provost and the units.

Several successful proposals include hiring of additional staff (35 faculty and 28 other employees) create a \$15 million annual expenditure to the units once the grants expire.

- **Report of the Chair (Ezra Zubrow)**
 - Zubrow met recently with deans of Pharmacy, Social Work, and the Dental School.
 - The Chair spoke about **social service activities UB offers** the community. The School of Social Work whose students provide 225,000 hours per year to the community is one example. Moreover, those affiliated with UB's health related schools provide a good deal of medical services through ECMC, the School of Pharmacy, and the Dental School.
- **Report of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (Scott Weber)**
 - **Finish in Four:** Finish in Four provides students with a road map for planning their education and graduation. Incoming freshmen is the only group affected.
 - **Calendar:** Expansion of the intersession break to accommodate short bridge courses is under consideration by Weber's office. The spring semester would begin around January 25. Students would return to campus the first week in January for 2-3 week courses, research and internship experiences, and/or field trips. This will work well for linear courses that require specified prerequisites.

This impacts student services and faculty workloads. Weber has not yet discussed this with UUP, but he does not anticipate problems implementing it because the program works well at Albany, Binghamton, and Stony Brook. Faculty possibilities include extra service compensation, reduction of fall/spring course loads, or hiring adjunct instructors. Joe Mollendorf stated that students will have difficulty absorbing information when taking such short courses, and Don Grinde, who taught at schools offering intersession courses, said that some classes are more appropriate for this short time frame than others. Grinde also thought that implications must be evaluated for all schools and campus services.

Responding to Kate Kost's comment that the change will only affect the spring semester, Weber said it now seems to, but everything is still under discussion. Regarding summer sessions, the University would have 2 five week instead of the current 2 six week semesters. William Baumer reminded Weber that federal regulations require fall and spring college semesters to include at least 15 weeks.

Reacting to Zubrow's question about how further discussions should proceed, Weber thought that a small single committee with Faculty Senate representation ought to be formed. FSEC agreed in principal to participate in this exploratory group. Specific charges are not yet developed.

- **UB Foundation (UBF) (Edward Schneider, Executive Director)**
- Martha McCluskey asked Schneider several questions.
- Would the report completed by the Foundation on January 31 be made public? Schneider responded that it was submitted to SUNY. It is SUNY's responsibility to release all foundation reports once approved by the Trustees.
- She then inquired about the Foundations conflict of interest policy. Schneider said that SUNY does not have clear guidelines on this issue, and that UBF will amend its policy once SUNY issues better defined guidelines. He also said that UBF hired a conflict of interest consulting firm and takes this issue very seriously.
- McCluskey asked Schneider to confirm that the Foundation does not have publicly available operating guidelines. Schneider—yes, that is correct.

- Do government grants go through the University Research Foundation? Schneider answered that is the case because the Research Foundation is a public entity. SUNY's foundations handle private moneys acquired by the University. All such funds are used for the respective campuses. UB's amount is the largest.
- Zubrow asked if the Foundation has formal operating agreements with the University. Schneider responded affirmatively. The Charter issued by New York State requires the Foundation to have 25 voting members, the Trustees. UB created a Board of Directors that includes that includes emeritus Trustees. Only current trustees vote at UBF meetings. Trustees can serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms and Directors serve 3 year terms without limit. The Trustees select the Foundation Chair from among their members annually. Seven Foundation committees deal with audits, compensation, development, executive affairs, finance, investments, and properties.
- Faculty and departments have money on deposit with UBF. The Foundation pools and invests money for the entire University, not individuals or departments. Departments can use their invested funds to establish endowed chairs.
- Suzanne Miller spoke about a 2007 audit naming UBF that found \$6.3 million was lost and unaccounted for. She asked Schneider what happened because the media reported but then failed to follow the story. Without offering specifics, he said that the University dealt with the problem and UBF did nothing wrong.
- **Un-moderated Listserv (Lorna Peterson)**
- Lorna Peterson submitted documentation asking that the Faculty Senate create an un-moderated listserv. (Appendix A) FSEC discussed the advantages and

disadvantages of doing so, and invited Peterson to return to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

Advantages:

- Issues and concerns would be openly discussed.
- Faculty who disapprove could opt out.

Disadvantages:

- The Faculty Senate ought to formally inform UB faculty of its activities. An un-moderated listserv does not do this.
- The Faculty Senate can use a social networking site, such as Share Points, instead of a list.
- Zubrow thought the Faculty Senate needs a controlled notification list, as well as a listserv where ideas are exchanged.

Appendix A

For Discussion at Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 2/15/12

Sunday, February 12, 2012 1p [Lorna Peterson]

Request to reinstate the FACSSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST as un-moderated

"The Faculty Senate encourages faculty to communicate about issues relevant to the University at Buffalo."

<http://faculty-senate.buffalo.edu/discussion/indexDiscussion.htm>

Background

From UB Listserv Support cit-listserv@buffalo.edu Wed 02/01/12 1:48 PM

"List created: Mon Aug 6 14:54:47 US/Eastern 2001

There are 1,765 subscribers of which two have an add date in 2011

List Owner Information:

Anna Maria Kedzierski

Ezra Zubrow"

From Anna Maria Kedzierski: Feb 1, 2012:

" ... It represents the best estimate we have of all the voting faculty. Individuals are added when the Faculty Senate receives an up-to-date listing of all voting faculty membersfrom Human Resources. The list is gone through carefully to add newly employed faculty and delete those names of faculty who have left the university or have passed away. There are some faculty who have chosen to remove themselves from the list.

It was an un-moderated list at the beginning"

On September 22, 2010 Robert Hoeing, Chair of the Faculty Senate sent the following:

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, 22 Sep 2010 17:35:42 -0400

From: "Hoeing, Robert" <rghoeing@BUFFALO.EDU>

Reply-To: Faculty Senate Voting Faculty

<FACSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU>

To: FACSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU

Subject: Final message

"Dear Faculty,

1. The Voting Faculty listserv will be kept (and possibly renamed) but restricted to about 3 or 4 individuals who occasionally need to send messages of importance relevant to all voting faculty. The ability to reply to all on the listserv will be disabled, and thus all discussion and unwanted e-mails will be eliminated."

Events leading up to turning FACSEN-Voting-Faculty-List as moderated:

During the 30 day period of August 28-September 28, 2010, approximately 200 messages were posted to this list concerning the appointment of an interim president by the chair of the University Council. At least six individuals wrote over the list complaining about the messages and requested that faculty stop using the "Reply All" function. There may have been additional private messages to chair Hoeing. Professor Hoeing changed the settings to the FACSEN-Voting-Faculty-List to moderated.

Previously Professor Hoeing had written:

"Date: Thu, 9 Sep 2010 17:08:42 -0400

From: "Hoeing, Robert" <rghoeing@buffalo.edu>

Reply-To: Faculty Senate Voting Faculty

<FACSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU>

To: FACSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST@LISTSERV.BUFFALO.EDU

Subject: Revised agenda

Dear Colleagues,

in consideration of VP Nostaja's message, I revise the agenda for tomorrow's meeting. I will still deliver a brief report; I suggest we then turn our attention to selection of our next President, her/his qualities and qualifications, etc. This would also be an ideal time for us to voice our major concerns, so that we can begin to address them, and --- more positively --- our ideas on the future of UB as a great institution.

We have had lively discussion over the past several days; I would like for us to keep the momentum going in our involvement in the issues confronting us. (underlined added)

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Bob"

During the time of debate and discussion the **UB Faculty Senate Discussion List** was established:

"A list for members of the UB voting faculty to discuss matters of concern with each other. List Owner Information: Jim Holstun English 306 Clemens Hall (716) 645-0672 (days) List created: Fri Sep 17 11:48:05 US/Eastern 2010"

On Nov 24 Professor James Holstun requested that someone else take over ownership of this list. On Nov 28, Professor Lorna Peterson volunteered to be the list owner. In June 2011, Professors Holstun and Peterson became co-owners. There are 67 members enrolled on this list. Traffic is light with the highest number of posts in one month occurring during September 2010 with 67 messages. The fewest number of posts occurred in December 2011 when there were none. Average number of posts per month is 8. This indicates that traffic on an un-moderated Faculty Senate list would also be few in number.

On the Blackboard site, UB Faculty Senate, the last posts were October 2, 2010. The number of views the few posts have is in the 40s to 50s. But unless I have overlooked something, there have been no posts since October 2, 2010. From the UB Faculty Senate BB site you will see that there are 6 participants and 19 posts. This site has the 1700+ UB Voting Faculty enrolled.

Reinstating the FACSSEN-VOTING-FACULTY-LIST as un-moderated will remove an unnecessary barrier to faculty communication.