

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 24, 2003

(unapaproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2003, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of September 3rd and September 10th, 2003
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Interaction with Student Association officers - George Pape
5. Update on UB budget - Provost Capaldi, Susan Hamlen
6. Old/New business
7. Executive session (if needed)
8. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of September 3rd and September 10th, 2003

Both sets of minutes were approved after a motion passed to expunge all references to executive session considerations.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson said he had received a memo from Vice President Black regarding UB's approach to sweatshop legislation. UB will:

- modify the bidding processes for state purchases of apparel & sports equipment.
- form an advisory committee.
- establish an informational Web site.
- develop an annual report to the campus.

The Executive Committee of the Graduate School met last week and decided that Graduate School policies will be re-examined this year. One in particular, the policy regarding outside readers, may be revised. Currently the name of an outside reader must be submitted for

Graduate School approval to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. A new policy might allow the outside reader to be a member of the committee, but not the department.

Other discussion topics included:

- A new Graduate School faculty academic advisory committee that would review petitions or other forms on behalf of the faculty.
- Possible changes in the Schomburg Fellowship & GEOP Tuition Fellowship programs.
- Advanced certificates.
- The maximum credit hour limit on internship/placement experiences.
- Faculty submission of late grades & revisions of grades based on extra work after a semester has ended.
- An interdisciplinary philosophy of science course.
- Dual-listed courses.

Several SUNY senators went to Albany to attend a planning meeting for the SUNY Senate.

Topics there included:

- Value-added assessment.
- The state budget.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

None

Item 4: Interaction with Student Association officers - George Pape, SA president

Student Association (SA) president Pape has also been president of the State University of New York Student Assembly for the past year and a half. The SUNY Student Assembly has representatives for all 64 SUNY campuses, and its president serves as an ex officio member on the Board of Trustees.

One of the main concerns of UB's SA is the presidential search process, which has not offered any opportunity for student input. Although confidentiality is a valid concern, SA should at least be involved when finalists are interviewed.

Another concern is tuition. The recent tuition increase was unfair and could have been avoided if there were a rational tuition policy providing for gradual increments based on, say, the Higher Education Price Index. That would be preferable to going years without an increase and then getting hit with a big price jump.

SA would like to coordinate student appointments to university-wide committees. All requests for student representation should be channeled through SA, which is UB's student governance organization.

SA is also advocating for a university-wide booklist. If all faculty would submit their lists of required textbooks to SA, that information could be made available on the SA Web site, and students would then be able to comparison shop for the best prices locally or online. SA already runs a successful bookswap program, and a booklist is just another way of trying to help students save money.

SA is trying to improve communication with UB's Greek organizations and with peer governance bodies statewide. They're also striving to improve entertainment opportunities for students by hiring better known acts to perform on campus. Getting students to attend popular events will make them feel more connected to the UB community and the college experience.

Professor Baumer said that a university-wide booklist would be difficult to coordinate. His experiences with Follett's have mostly been positive. Publishers are usually the ones responsible for high textbook prices.

Professor Schack said that SA's request for booklists seems reasonable, and faculty should try to honor it whenever possible. SA will have to be flexible, however, because some assigned readings are compilations instead of commercial texts, and sometimes new faculty aren't hired until after textbook ordering deadlines.

Professor Rittner suggested that booklist submission procedures could be simplified if a single list could be e-mailed to all interested parties.

Chair Nickerson recalled that the Faculty Senate used to have a bookstore committee with faculty, staff, and student members. He'll see whether a new bookstore committee might be formed to address current concerns.

Mr. Pape said he's frustrated by the tuition hike. Although the University Senate drafted a rational tuition policy document, he's not confident that it's going to pass, and it was too late to have any bearing on the current problem anyway.

Professor Wooldridge explained that the tuition increase was a necessary economic consequence of reduced state funding. The money is needed, and the state is unable to provide it. Faculty don't like to see tuition increases either, but there's nothing left to cut.

Mr. Pape said that SA wouldn't oppose a rational tuition increase; they're upset because the large tuition hike won't improve anything; it will only maintain the status quo. If New York had had a rational policy in place since the last increase in 1995, current students wouldn't be saddled with the large increase to make up for the years when tuition stayed the same.

Professor Schack said that the current tuition isn't making up for past undercharging. A graduated system of tuition increases would have cost students more in past years, but the current cost would be the same as it is now. A rational tuition policy can't work in a weak economy in a state with New York's irrational budgetary system.

Mr. Pape said Sub-Board I is the fiscal accounting agency that oversees the SA budget. It is an independent organization, so no single campus group can control it. Auditors ensure that there is accountability for expenditures. SA's budget comes from student activity fees, which every student must pay. They're voted on by the student body every four years, so they've remained constant since nobody wants to pay more. UB's activity fees are relatively low compared to most other SUNY schools.

Chair Nickerson said that student representatives will be appointed to appropriate Faculty Senate committees. Student input provides a valuable perspective, and we welcome their participation.

Item 5: Update on the UB budget - Provost Capaldi & Susan Hamlen, chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Priorities

This item was postponed.

Item 7: Old/New business

None

Item 8: Executive session (if needed)

FSEC met in executive session

Item 9: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Attendance (P = present; E = excused; A = absent)

Chair: P. Nickerson (P)

Secretary: W. Hepfer (P)

Architecture & Planning: S. Danford (P)

Arts & Sciences: S. Bruckenstein (A), M. Churchill (P), R. Hoeing (P), S. Schack (P), K.

Takeuchi (P)

Dental Medicine: M. Donley (P)

Education: L. Malave (P)

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen (P), R. Mayne (P)

Informatics: F. Tutzauer (P)

Institutional/General: O. Mixon (A)

Law: L. Swartz (P)

Management: J. Boot (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: J. Hassett (A), G. Logue (A), B. Murray (A), J. Sellick (A)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (P)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (E)

Public Health & Health Professions: C. Crespo (P)

Social Work: B. Rittner (P)

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe (P), W. Baumer (P), M. Kramer (E), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries: CA Fabian (P)

Guests: K. Grant (Academic Affairs), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Sen.), G. Pape (SA), L. Stewart (EDAAA), S. Wuetcher (Reporter), J. Xiang (SA Student Affairs)