

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 13, 2004

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 2004, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of September 22 and 29, 2004
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Charging the Faculty Senate (FS) Tenure & Privileges Committee – S. Schack
5. Report of the FS Information & Library Resources Committee – M. Cassata
6. Old/New business
7. Executive session (if needed)
8. Adjournment

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of September 22 and 29, 2004**

Both sets of minutes were approved as distributed.

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

Chair Nickerson reported:

- The presidential investiture is set for this Friday. Representatives from our sister universities around the world have already started arriving for the big event. A symposium of the current status of recruiting and retaining international students is scheduled for Saturday.
- The Graduate School Executive Committee will be meeting regarding appointments to the graduate faculty. The current procedure is lengthy and complicated, but a proposal that full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty would automatically be eligible will be discussed.

- At the next two FS meetings, we will have reports and discussion about the planning process that is currently underway.
- The Teaching & Learning Committee met last week and discussed distance education. They'll report and present a resolution at next week's FSEC meeting.

Professional Staff Senate (PSS) Chair Larry Labinski reported that President Simpson spoke to the group and fielded questions at the PSS General Membership Meeting in September. Provost Tripathi attended a recent meeting of the PSS Executive Committee and answered their questions.

### **Item 3: Report of the President/Provost**

President Simpson said that he views Friday's investiture ceremony as a small part of a larger theme – celebrating the academic enterprise. The inaugural events that are taking place this month are meant to showcase UB as an academic institution.

### **Item 4: Charging the FS Tenure & Privileges Committee (FSTPC) – S. Schack**

Professor Schack solicited suggestions for topics to be dealt with by the FSTPC, which he chairs. He said that he had already received a request to review the "3-year rule," which is about the minimum waiting time before a promotion case can be resubmitted. There is also concern because the President's Review Board (PRB) no longer writes detailed reviews of promotion cases. Might this become a problem?

#### Questions & comments:

- There is supposed to be an annual meeting between individual faculty members and their department chairs. Do we know if this is being done and whether it's effective? (Nickerson)
- What happens when tenure is denied? Can faculty be retained by transferring them to qualified lines, i.e., clinical, research, or visiting lines? Does this serve the interests of the university? (Nickerson)

- Under what circumstances is it appropriate to “stop the tenure clock?” In the past, some faculty members were transferred to qualified lines for a year or so to give them extra time to finish a book or otherwise add to their dossier. (Nickerson)
- Another way that some faculty have used to their advantage is to get hired for a year on a visiting line at another institution. This hasn’t counted as time toward tenure at UB. (Schack)
- If the 6-year rule for compiling a tenure dossier is a SUNY Board of Trustees rule, there shouldn’t be exceptions except in rare cases. Promotions and tenure decisions should be based on fair and representative judgments. The same time frame should apply to everyone. Faculty should be judged on criteria appropriate for their discipline. (Simpson)
- The SUNY Trustees adopted the longstanding AAUP criteria that any appointment beyond seven years is a tenured appointment. In the sixth year, at the latest, therefore, tenure-track faculty members need to be considered for permanent appointment. If approved, the person will be kept on, but, if tenure will not be forthcoming, the person is given a year’s notice and receives a termination letter at the end of the seventh year. (Baumer)
- Are there clear guidelines for soliciting letters for promotion and tenure cases? How many external and/or internal letters should there be? Do external letters all need to come from tenured faculty at peer review institutions? Are there criteria for determining what’s a peer institution? What’s the best way to evaluate faculty research? (Nickerson)
- We need to have information to make appropriate judgments. External assessment from peer or superior institutions is still the best method for determining whether a faculty member is qualified. Quality control decisions should be made by faculty. (Simpson)
- The University Libraries use internal letters from UB faculty to document librarians’ teaching role. Most library instruction is directed toward supporting classroom teaching. (Tysick)

## **Item 5: Charging the FS Information & Library Resources Committee (ILRC) – M. Cassata**

Professor Cassata became chair of the ILRC toward the end of last academic year. The group has meet several times since and heard about many library-related issues. They welcome suggestions for discussion topics.

Steve Roberts, assistant vice president for University Libraries, also

attended to update FSEC about several library matters. He reported that the Libraries have negotiated a new contract for Elsevier Scientific Publisher's ScienceDirect online journals. Coverage has been expanded to include Academic Press and Harcourt Press titles, so UB now has access to over 1,100 journals through this deal. Beginning in 2005, we'll go to an electronic-only model, purchasing print subscriptions at a discount only when absolutely necessary.

### Questions & comments:

- What happens to our access if we cancel an Elsevier journal subscription or can't afford to renew the ScienceDirect deal when it's renegotiated? (Schack)
- Our contract guarantees access to the coverage we've paid for, even if we decide not to renew some titles in the future. Also, we're a member of the Center for Research Libraries, which has been archiving ScienceDirect titles in case there's an unexpected event such as Elsevier getting purchased or going out of business. Such scenarios are highly unlikely, although we might encounter a situation sometime when we simply can't afford the price that Elsevier decides to charge. (Roberts)
- The American Chemical Society has a different policy. All online access is lost when a subscription is cancelled. (Bruckenstein)
- There are numerous pricing structures and conditions regarding access, and libraries have to evaluate them on their individual merits and risks. Most libraries can't afford a combination subscription covering a print journal plus online access, and the trend is to go for electronic only because that's what faculty and students prefer. (Roberts)
- What's the distribution of disciplines covered by UB's ScienceDirect package deal? (Cassata)
- Elsevier is primarily a science publisher, but many other disciplines are represented as well. Elsevier has purchased many social science journals in recent years. (Hepfer)
- The ScienceDirect deal costs UB much less than having separate subscriptions to all the titles that we would be purchasing anyway. (Roberts)
- ScienceDirect coverage now extends to 1996 or so. Are there plans to make earlier volumes accessible online? (Schack)

- Elsevier is working on a retro-conversion project that will make earlier volumes available online. When titles become available, they'll be covered by our contract. (Roberts)
- The storage facility that was supposed to be underway by now hit a bureaucratic snag and has been set to the rebidding stage. The original plans regarding site and capacity remain essentially unchanged – a building behind the Holiday Inn that will hold 1.5 million volumes on 30-ft.-high shelving. All of the UB libraries' have overcrowded shelving, and we'd like to free up some additional study space where students can work on group projects. After the structure is built and low-use materials have been moved there, faculty will still be able to get books within a day, and articles will be scanned and made available via a secure Web site. (Roberts)
- Are library records more vulnerable to confidentiality infractions under the U.S. Patriot Act? (Cassata)
- Can someone with technical know-how find out two years from now what a UB faculty member or student was search for on a computer today? (Bruckenstein)
- Borrower information is only kept on borrowed books until they're returned. As for records of Internet searches, there are no search histories kept on library computers. You'll need to check with Computing & Information Technology (CIT) regarding their policies for other computing operations. (Roberts)
- Money that used to be spent on amassing library materials is now being used to lease access to online information. It's a new model for the way libraries have to operate in order to provide the best service. Libraries are buying more to satisfy individual requests rather than trying to anticipate future demands. We're also spending more on interlibrary borrowing/lending. It's a necessary way to maximize our resources. (Roberts)
- It will be useful if the ILRC would monitor what kinds of interactions take place between libraries, departmental library liaisons, and the people they serve. (Nickerson)
- Should there be some kind of outside review of our library system's needs and functioning? Since libraries are changing so much, perhaps an external reviewer could tell us if we're doing the right thing. (Nickerson)
- The ILRC would like to expand its membership. Can FSEC help in identifying some additional members? (Cassata)

- FSEC will try to help with that. We'll also see about adding some student representation.  
(Nickerson)

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

None

## **Item 7: Executive session (if needed)**

There was an executive session

## **Item 8: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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: GS. Danford (P)

Arts & Sciences: S. Bruckenstein (A), S. Schack (P), K. Takeuchi (E)

Dental Medicine: M. Donley (P)

Education: X. Liu (P)

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

Informatics: J. Ellison (P)

Institutional/General: O. Mixon (A)

Law: L. Swartz (E)

Management: C. Pegels (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: : J. Evans (A), L. Harris (A), J. Hassett (A), J. Sellick (A)

Nursing: P. Wooldridge (A)

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau (A)

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

Social Work: Barbara Rittner (E)

SUNY Senators: W. Baumer (P), W. Coles (E), M. Kramer (P), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries: C. Tysick (P)

University officers: President J. Simpson

Guests: P. Balzano (SA), M. Cassata (ILRC), M. Cochrane (Reporter), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Senate), S. Roberts (Univ. Libraries)