

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 28, 2001 (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on November 28, 2001 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of November 14, 2001](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. [Report of the Bylaws Committee – Professor Judith Hopkins](#)
5. [Center for Teaching and Learning Resources and SUNY Campus-based Assessment – Ms. Jeanette Molina](#)
6. [Dean Larry Shulman will address his experience with teaching assessment](#)
7. [Old/New Business](#)

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of November 14, 2001

The minutes of November 14, 2001 were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

Ø Professor Ollie Mixon, representing the Educational Opportunity Center, has been added to the Senate roster

Ø a faculty representative is needed for the Alcohol Review Board; he has asked the Department of Psychiatry to suggest someone

Ø Professor Perese of the School of Nursing has replaced Professor Brown as a Senator from the School of Nursing; Professor Perese will also serve as the School's FSEC representative

Ø Dr. Russell Bissett, Executive Director of the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research., will speak at the February meeting of the Faculty Senate; Dr. Bissett is responsible for facilitating and funding matches between industry and SUNY that lead to economic development; he will talk about funding opportunities available from NYSTAR

Ø Arnold B. Gardner, a former SUNY Trustee who was very active in Board's discussion of General Education, and Gordon Gross, a newly appointed SUNY Trustee will speak at the December meeting of the Faculty Senate

- schedule action items before the speakers to ensure a quorum is present (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- be advised that the Grading Committee will probably have an additional item for first reading; viz., an amendment to the Satisfactory Progress Toward the Baccalaureate Degree Policy; in order for the change to be included in the 2002/2003 Catalog and be effective after June 2002, the Senate will have to approve the recommendation at its February meeting (Professor Baumer)

Ø the Provost has accepted the Resolution on Assessment of Instructional Effectiveness and forwarded it to the President

Ø he is scheduling a discussion of tuition remission from sponsored awards for the December 5 Executive Committee meeting; he will invite Vice President Turkkan or one of her staff to speak

Ø he sent letters to Senators who have two, unexcused absences advising them that unless they present a reason for their absence they will be excused from the Senate; three Senators have presented reasons for their absence

- have absentee Senators been advised that by a certain date they will no longer be Senators so we can then recalculate the quorum requirement? (Professor Malone)

- letter did not specify a date, but we will recalculate the quorum before the December Faculty Senate meeting (Professor Cohen)

Ø at a meeting of the Budget Priorities Committee earlier this week, the Assistant Provost for Institutional Analysis, Jeff Dutton, said that for the year 2001 UB had 1,236 full time faculty and 482 part time, excluding geographic full time faculty in the Medical School; part time faculty are not members of the Voting Faculty and have an organized voice in the University only through the UUP; including part time faculty in the Voting Faculty would require a change in the Bylaws

- the Budget Priorities Committee has been concerned that the use of part time faculty is increasing; Assistant Provost Dutton provided figures for full time/part time faculty in the early and mid nineties

and current figures; the ratio of full to part time seems stable; there are difficulties with the campus-wide figures, however, first in how part time is defined and second because the use of part time faculty varies among the decanal units; in some units the introduction of practitioners' real world experience is very helpful to students, and the use of part timers is a strategic not an economic choice; the Committee believes that meaningful analysis requires a unit by unit study and is trying to frame the right questions to ask (Professor Nickerson)

- some part timers are hired on a fee for service basis, which is the pattern for practitioners for whom the real value of teaching is the prestige of being connected to the University; others are hired to teach more than one course and receive benefits; these part timers teach for a living; the Provost and UUP are interested in getting hard data on the use of these part timers and working to improve their conditions (Professor Boot)

- as a body are we interested in instructing the Bylaws Committee to look into Bylaws changes to include part timers in the Voting Faculty? (Professor Cohen)

- should first look at whether the Policies of the Board of Trustees defines Voting Faculty and Geographic Full Time (GFT) faculty (Professor Hopkins)

Ø the Division of Athletics is undergoing an accreditation by the National Collegiate Athletics Association; ask that Professor Malone, the Senate liaison to the Division of Athletics, keep the Senate informed of that process

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

There was no report of the President/Provost.

Item 4: Report of the Bylaws Committee

At the November Faculty Senate meeting's first reading of proposed changes to the Charter, there was a motion from the floor to remove the two consecutive one-year term limit on membership on the Executive Committee. The Committee was asked to consider the matter.

Professor Hopkins, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, reported that the Committee recommended the following language to accomplish the suggested change to Article VI.1.E.(3) of the Charter: "All other

members elected to the Executive Committee shall serve for one (1) year terms and shall be eligible for re-election." Membership on the Executive Committee will, de facto, be limited to four years by the two consecutive two-year term limit on membership in the Faculty Senate. The rationale for the change is that it gives units more freedom to choose their representatives, which freedom is particularly important for smaller units with few faculty willing to serve on the Executive Committee.

- will reduce turnover on the Executive Committee (Professor Fournier)
- term limit provision has been ignored when only one member of a School was willing to serve on the Executive Committee (Professor Hopkins)
- recent experience with the College of Arts & Sciences Senators was that half were unwilling to stand for election to the Executive Committee; the provision does not stop a unit from electing new representatives (Professor Baumer)
- is the problem that the Executive Committee meets too frequently? (Professor Cohen)
- Executive Committee intended to be the more effective arm of faculty governance because it would meet frequently and so be more fully informed than the Senate; the FSEC is also responsible for shepherding the work of the Senate; the negative side of turnover is the loss of institutional memory (Professor Baumer)

Professor Baumer moved (seconded) that the change be sent to the Senate with the recommendation to accept. The motion passed.

Item 5: Center for Teaching and Learning Resources and SUNY Campus-based Assessment

The Chair introduced Ms. Jeannette Molina, Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Resources. Ms. Molina has a thirty-year ground in education with experience in teacher development and in program assessment. At present Ms. Molina is the Center's only staff member, although the search for a Director is nearing its end.

When Ms. Molina began in August her first task was to set up the Center's office. Since then she has been very active, and she outlined what she has accomplished so far:

Ø the Faculty Senate Teaching and Learning Committee and the Provost have been instrumental in getting the Center going so rapidly

Ø created a basic web site < http://wings.buffalo.edu/vpaa/ctrl/files/teaching_strategies.htm> which

will be expanded; the site offers teaching tips, explains the Center's capabilities and showcases excellent teaching at UB

Ø scheduled two programs; the first was standing room only with over 120 participants and got very positive evaluations; the second program, Developing an Effective Syllabus, already has over 60 registrants

Ø planning a Winter Retreat for TA's during Winter intersession to review and re-enforce material covered in their Fall orientation

Ø have scheduled meetings with the Deans to get an overview of what the decanal units want from the Center; will also be meeting with the Department Chairs; a commonly perceived need is new faculty orientation

Ø distributed the first issue of the Center's newsletter

§ focus on what we aren't doing well and offer help to make us better rather than cheerleading for what we are doing well (Professor Boot)

§ important that the Center have several roles, not just a remediation role; some faculty have, in fact, been referred to us for help, others have come of their own volition (Ms. Molina)

§ how will the Center measure its effectiveness? (Professor Cohen)

§ have focused on getting started, rather than assessing what we have done; will ask for participants' evaluation of program we offer (Ms. Molina)

§ Center has already scheduled two activities in areas the Senate has identified problems, viz., syllabi and TA effectiveness; would you address your role in SUNY Campus-Based Assessment (Professor Adams-Volpe)

§ Center will work with Deans to facilitate the implementation of that process; Guidelines for the Implementation of Campus-based Assessment mandate assessment of four areas: programs, majors, General Education, and student intellectual growth; the Center is suggesting that assessment of programs, majors and student intellectual growth be done at the same time to avoid repetitive work; have been working with Professor Peter Gold on General Education assessment; the Center's web site will contain documents pertaining to the process, e.g. the program review instrument (Ms. Molina)

§ as a member of the Teaching and Learning Committee have been pleased with the Center's progress (Professor Sridhar)

§ SUNY requires that each campus submit its Campus-based Assessment plan to its Faculty Senate for

approval; approved plan is due in Albany in March; what is the schedule for the Senate's review of UB's plan? (Professor Nickerson)

§ appropriate Senate committees should work with the Center in implementing the process; will make presentation of the plan to the Senate much smoother (Professor Malave)

§ Center is working closely with the Teaching and Learning Committee (Professor Cohen)

§ what happens if the Senate doesn't approve UB's plan? (Professor Malone)

§ plan doesn't go forward (Professor Nickerson)

§ Center has concentrated more on getting up and running than with its role in Campus-based Assessment; only real activity has been discussions with Professor Gold on General Education (Ms. Molina)

§ since the Center's predecessor, the Office of Teaching Effectiveness, was dismantled in the early 1990's there has been no central attention to these issues; the Center owes its existence to pressure from Faculty Senate committees; UB has a lot of catching up to do and the administration must provide resources for the Center's activities; am overwhelmed at the progress the Center has already made (Professor Noble)

§ may be able to educate SUNY about service learning as an element of teaching effectiveness in this process (Professor Shibley)

Item 6: Dean Larry Shulman

Dean Shulman did not make a presentation.

Item 7: Old/New Business

Professor Baumer, Chair of the Grading Committee, outlined changes to the Reasonable Progress Towards the Baccalaureate Degree Policy that the Committee is drafting. The current Policy counts R grades towards courses attempted but not successfully completed; the application of this provision would cause several hundred students to be dismissed from the University even though their GPA are 2.0 or better. The Committee was asked to revise the provision to avoid this outcome and at the same time to look at the criteria for probation and for good standing. The draft is three pages of

standards and two pages of explanation and will likely be ready for the Executive Committee's discussion at its December 5 meeting. The Senate must have adopted the changes by its February meeting in order for them to be included in the 2002 Catalog.

- may Schools add to these standards? (Professor Shibley)
- the Policy sets the floor; possible for Departments to make additional requirements for their majors (Professor Baumer)

The Chair reported that the Fredonia College Faculty Senate passed two resolutions and submitted them to Chancellor King. The first resolution calls for an increase in SUNY tuition; the second resolution calls for a rational tuition policy for SUNY. The texts of Fredonia's resolutions appear to have been based on draft resolutions discussed at the October meeting of the SUNY Faculty Senate and scheduled for further discussion at its January meeting. He asked whether there was interest in UB's drafting similar resolutions.

- faculty are being duped into appearing to be the instigators of a politically unpopular tuition increase; since New York ranks last nationally in support of higher education, raising tuition is not the only way to increase SUNY's resources; let the Governor make that decision; would support a resolution calling for rational funding for SUNY and would also support the Governor's call for a tuition increase (Professor Adams-Volpe)

- agree with Professor Adams-Volpe (Professor Sridhar)

- wouldn't it be more responsible for SUNY to call for a tuition increase rather than relying on the Governor? (Professor Fournier)

- the Governor is the one making resource allocation decisions which force SUNY to rely on tuition for a major part of its budget (Professor Adams-Volpe)

- SUNY's budget is a joint product of the Governor and the Legislature; it has been the Legislature which has blocked a tuition increase; tuition should be raised in a rational manner rather than in large, irregular increases (Professor Baumer)

- raising fees has become the alternate to raising tuition; that strategy has been hard on students because fees are not funded by TAP; the problem arises because there is not a rational funding policy for SUNY (Professor Boot)

- should UB draft a rational funding resolution for its Senators to present to the SUNY Faculty Senate? (Professor Cohen)

- giving tuition setting authority to the Board of Trustees is an alternate approach (Professor Malone)
- would be willing to look at and support a rational funding resolution (Professor Baumer)
- critical to separate the ideas of rational funding and tuition increases as a funding vehicle; politically would be a mistake for the SUNY Faculty Senate to be the initial advocate for a tuition increase (Dr. Durand)
- will try to draft a statement on rational funding that does not specify a tuition increase for presentation to the FSEC (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- should we also draft a statement in opposition to the resolutions supporting a tuition increase and a rational policy on tuition? (Professor Shibley)
- sufficient to just submit an alternative resolution (Professor Malone)

Following an executive session the Executive Committee adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McMann Kramer
Secretary of Faculty Senate

Present: Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: M. Kramer

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

Architecture: R. Shibley

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, J. Bono, M. Churchill, C. Fournier

Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Engineering & Applied Sciences: R. Sridhar

Graduate School of Education: L. Malave

Informatics: J. Ellison

Management: J. Boot

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: A. El Sohl, B. Noble

Nursing: E. Perese

Pharmacy: A. Luzier

SUNY Senators: J. Adams-Volpe, J. Boot, H. Durand, P. Nickerson

University Libraries: J. Hopkins

Guests: J. Molina, Center for Teaching and Learning Resources

D. Longenecher, Reporter

K. Grant, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

K. Levy, Senior Vice Provost

Excused: Health Related Professions: G. Farkas

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger

Absent: Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: S. Spurgeon