

# FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Minutes of October 21, 1998 (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on October 21, 1998 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 1998
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Charging the Faculty Senate Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee
5. Charging the Faculty Senate Computer Services Committee
6. Decanal review
7. Old/new business**Item 1: Report of the Chair**

Professor Nickerson being stricken with laryngitis, Professor Welch chaired the meeting. Professor Welch presented the Chair's written report.

Professor Kramer observed the October 13 meeting of the University Council, on the Chair's behalf. The University Council approved the establishment of the Albert J. and Tatiana M. Wright Memorial, the establishment of a Citizens Commission on Student Life and Intercollegiate Athletics, and the establishment of a Citizens Commission on University Facilities and Land Use. President Greiner reported to the Council on the Resource Allocation Methodology, UB enrollment and on current and projected student housing initiatives.

Professor Nickerson attended a meeting of the Graduate School Executive Committee at which progress towards an electronic application form common to all units in the Graduate School was discussed. Increased graduate applications are expected when the form is available. Dean Triggles intends to direct the funds received from the applications process to the Departments.

The President and the Provost have proposed that Millard Fillmore College report to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences with the proviso that professional schools with undergraduate programs take responsibility for their own evening and summer programs. This is a major reorganization for which Faculty Senate review would be appropriate. The Chair's report suggested referring the proposal to the Faculty Senate Governance Committee. The Committee would need a formal charge and its membership enlarged. Professor Welch asked for comments:

have the President and Provost already committed to this restructuring? (Professor Schack)

will inquire as to the status of the restructuring (Professor Welch)

**A motion to refer the proposal to the Governance Committee for its study passed.**

Two resolutions (Grade Replacement and Achievement Testing) have been submitted to the President. The Resolution on Achievement Testing was also sent to the University Faculty Senate. No responses have yet been received.

There were comments from the floor:

Vice Provost Goodman has suggested that a revised grade replacement policy would not be implemented till Fall semester 1999 (Dr. Coles)

the removal of the restriction permitting grade replacement only for C+ or lower grades from the Resolution on Grade Replacement seemed to some to be such a major change to the Resolution that voting should have been postponed until the next Faculty Senate meeting. The decision to vote was within the Chair's discretion, but perhaps criteria to guide the Chair might be developed (Professor Malone)

in essence this is a question of whether second readings are non-amendable (Professor Harwitz)

perhaps further discussion of the issue should be scheduled for a future FSEC (Professor Welch)

this is not an issue of sufficient weight to warrant further FSEC consideration; no Senator objected to

voting on the revised Resolution prior to the vote, and the vote to adopt the Resolution was not a close

one (Professor Schack)

**Three Faculty Senate Committees continue to be active. The Budget Priorities Committee, the Academic Planning Committee and the**

Educational Programs and Policy Committee are scheduled to meet the week of October 26.

Professor Welch introduced students who were attending their first FSEC meeting.

## **2: Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 1998**

The Minutes of October 7, 1998 were approved.

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

There was no report of the President/Provost.

## **4: Charging the Faculty Senate Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee**

Professor Welch introduced Professor Frisch, Chair of the Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee, Dr. Gresham, Vice President for Public Service and Urban Affairs, and Dr. Brooks-Bertram, Associate for Faculty Development in Public Service. Professor Frisch characterized the Committee as being less active last year than it wished because the formation of the College of Arts and Sciences absorbed the time and energy of the administration and the faculty who most need to develop their understanding of the role of public service. However, working closely with the Vice President for Public Service and Urban Affairs the Committee designed a major forum on the role of public service in a research university. In conjunction with the forum the Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee met with the Founders Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences, using the forum's featured speaker, Dr. Barry Checkaway of the University of Michigan, as a facilitator. The aim of the meeting was to build a concern for the role of public service into the agenda of the Founders Committee. The Committee hopes to continue discussions with

the Founders Committee; both committees will meet for the first time in November. Professor Frisch suggested that for the coming year the Committee should continue to focus on how public service figures in the mix of research and teaching as the College of Arts and Sciences sets up its personnel procedures. It is likely that the Committee will work with the Founders Committee and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to set up a series of hands on workshops on public service for junior faculty, personnel administrators and department chairs. Professor Frisch asked for additional member for the Committee. Professor Welch noted that the Committee had been established with a four-year sunset provision for 1998, and FSEC would need to discuss that as well.

Professor Welch then turned the floor over to Vice President Gresham. The definition of public service is not well understood by many, and indeed the definition is in a state of flux. During the coming year the Office will focus on advancing the idea of public service as the application of scholarship. Vice President Gresham gave some examples of public service activities currently going on: there is opportunity for faculty to participate in the Buffalo City Charter Revision Committee, the University is involved with Kids Voting, e.g., Professor Jacobson will be doing the research necessary to expand the range of the program to 18 to 24 year olds who aren't voting. The Office is active in publicizing public service activities, and that publicity will bring increasing numbers of requests for faculty support of projects. Vice President Gresham emphasized that she is not interested in adding public service as a separate criterion to teaching and research. She is interested in partnering with the Faculty Senate Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee to explore how teaching and research can serve UB's many different communities. The Committee will also help interact with the Presidential Review Board, the Founders Committee, and various promotion and tenure committees. It will also be essential that the standards and mechanisms for evaluating service be agreed upon before service contributions can be integrated into the University's reward structure.

Professor Frisch added that what is needed is not an additional item on a checklist but a culture change. He characterized the uncomfortableness that many people have with public

service as "the basket problem." They see the issue as how to weigh the contents of separate baskets of teaching, scholarship and public service.

Dr. Brooks-Bertram then discussed the Faculty Development Public Service Initiative which will make a one year \$10,000 grant for a public service proposal that is primarily research and scholarship driven. Her Office has received a number of queries from applicants that mirror some of the concerns Vice President Gresham and Professor Frisch have mentioned. Untenured faculty in particular want to know how such a project would be viewed in relation to tenure. It is interesting that applicants are coming from the sciences where the definition of service is more fully developed.

Professor Welch asked for comments:

a University is an institution for learning; we are not designed for service, we are not good at it and we shouldn't do it (Professor Boot)

especially as a public university, service is critical to UB's survival; we need to build the perception that UB is important to the community whether or not one's children are students here; not everybody will be involved but faculty and administrative support should be available for service activities (Professor Schuel)

research should have a connection to the lives of people and that connection can be service; there is frequently need for follow-up activities after a service project has been completed (Professor Malave)  
as a member of the School of Management at the University of Minnesota engaged in service activities for the public and private sectors both on a pro bono and a contractual basis, which activities were thought of as a normal part of faculty duties; would UB consider such activities service? (Professor D'Elia)

yes, service is the expertise and the research that comes out of your discipline used to generate knowledge, to create more user friendly applications of the research and to show others how to use the research to their benefit (Vice President Gresham)

excellent universities (Harvard, Berkeley University of Michigan) pursue complex and varied activities outside the reach of traditional teaching and scholarship (Professor Harwitz)

## **Item 5: Charging the Faculty Senate Computer Services Committee**

Professor Welch noted that before charging the Faculty Senate Computer Services Committee it was important that FSEC have a fuller idea of some of the activities being undertaken in the area of computer access. He introduced Senior Vice Provost Tufariello to speak on Access '99.

Access '99 aims to introduce students to general computer technology in order to help them with course work and to prepare them for the working environment. Of this year's incoming freshman class, 69 % already have access to computers, up from 60 % last year. We will expect students to become proficient in e-mail, using the web and using productivity tools. The student training component will require coordinating existing programs of the Libraries, CIT, UB Micro and course related training. The STARS (Student Technical Assistants in Residence) program will provide training in the dorms. The ROCS (Recycling Old Computers for Students) program will provide computers to students who can not otherwise afford them.

We also expect to develop courses which are technologically sophisticated. The Educational Technology Center, located in the Science and Engineering Library, will be open by Spring semester 1999 to support faculty development. The Center will offer short courses, individualized instruction and have technology for faculty to try out. Center G.A.'s will do office calls. Professor Willbern of the English Department will be its Director. There will also be a course team approach for selected classes which have large freshman enrollment, e.g. Chemistry 101, Psychology 101, to ensure that faculty in those courses are technologically prepared. There will also be a small amount of aid to upgrade faculty hardware. Course management software, e.g. Top Class, Learning Space, is being explored. The Standards Committee, chaired by Professor Shapiro, is being formed to develop standards for hardware and software.

Access '99 is being funded in part by \$1.2 M of new money. Additional contributions from units, e.g. the Libraries are supplying personnel, are hard to quantify but are helpful.

Chief Information Officer Innus then spoke. The Information Technology (IT) Steering Committee is working to ensure that the programs Senior Vice Provost Tufariello described have adequate infrastructure support. Example of this are the increase in the size of the modem pool from 450 to 1,000, the increase in the speed of the modem pool, and the upgrade of the public laboratories, now located in the Libraries. The IT Steering Committee is also looking at a range of student support possibilities from computer registration to accessing grades by computer. Administrative computing is not Y2K compliant, so that will require a major effort, as will building in the capabilities necessary to support Responsibility Centered Management and All Funds Reporting.

Professor Welch followed up on the preceding reports by saying that two major charges for the Computer Services Committee would be continuing to monitor and advise on the progress of Access '99 and on the ways in which faculty development is being enhanced.

Professor Straubinger, Chair of the Committee, reported on the work of the Committee. Members of the Committee have heard concerns about the planning process underlying Access '99. Professor Straubinger, having represented the Committee at meetings of the IT Steering Committee, is impressed by the breadth of the planning effort, but communication to the faculty and even to the IT staff needs to be improved. Another concern for faculty is how to bring plans to the attention of the body that can act on them. Faculty access to computing is also a major concern. There is a moratorium on funding for upgrading or replacing faculty workstations, and this is discouraging for faculty who lack adequate web access. There is faculty concern about the nodes ranging from how are they functioning to inter-node cooperation. There is also concern among faculty about adequate student access to computing.

Professor Welch asked for comments from the floor:

will the ROCS computers have adequate functionality to support the full range of a student's needs; for example a student could need audio capacity, a CD ROM drive, and the capacity to handle Adobe Acrobat and very large PDF files? (Professor Adams-Volpe)

the Standards Committee will recommend the minimum functionality that all students will need and the

ROCS computers will hopefully meet that (Senior Vice Provost Tufariello)

Access '99 will exacerbate problems of intellectual equity at UB since bright students will do very well, but the worst students will be even more lost; faculty may be overwhelmed by student use of e-mail (Professor Churchill)

the intelligence problem is a general one not confined to Access '99; set up hierarchical structure for e-mail in large classes (Senior Vice Provost Tufariello)

the cost of recycling a used computer may be greater than an inexpensive new computer; the Standards Committee should also explore high end capabilities for those that want enhanced access; in addition to Access '99 issues, the campus must continue to support regular computer needs (Professor Sridhar)

e-mail is useful to students, but electronic text books are not easy to use, and CD ROMs accompanying text are very expensive (Juliann Mathis)

electronic texts are reasonable to use and avoid the expensive of buying textbooks; should be room to experiment (Eran Kabokov)

difficulties in using computers are often problems of premature optimization, using the computer to do things it doesn't yet do well; the etiquette of old technology is often a good guide to the etiquette that will work with new technology (Professor Schack)

## **Item 6: Decanal Review**

Discussion of Decanal review was postponed to another meeting. Professor Welch pointed out that the issue of Decanal review has been of great interest to the Faculty Senate for the last ten years. The *Guidelines for Dean's Reviews and Evaluations* was drafted and issued by the Provost's Office. The Provost is very serious about Decanal review and conducted two reviews last year. The Provost wants a discussion on how to communicate the results of a Decanal review to the University community.

## **Item 7: Old/New Business**

Professor Boot noted that the draft policy on consensual faculty/student relations is on the agenda for the FSEC of October 28. He will be looking for a sense of the FSEC as to whether

there is interest in having any policy in place or whether the problem with the proposed policy is only one of wording.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Kramer  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

**Present: Chair:** Peter Nickerson

**Secretary:** Marilyn Kramer

**Engineering & Applied Sciences:** Ramalingam Sridhar

**Graduate School of Education:** Lilliam Malave

**Health Related Professions:** Judith Tamburlin

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

**Management:** John Boot

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Boris Albini, Herbert Schuel

**Natural Sciences & Mathematics:** Melvyn Churchill, Samuel Schack

**Nursing:** Powhatan Wooldridge

**Pharmacy:** Nathan

**Social Sciences:** Mitchell Harwitz

**SUNY Senators:** Judith Adams-Volpe, Dennis Malone, Claude Welch

**University Libraries:** Dorothy Woodson

**Ex Officio:** Robert Hoeing

**Excused: Dental Medicine:** Robert Baier

**Law:** Louis Swartz

**Social Sciences:** William Baumer

**SUNY Senators:** John Fisher

**Guests:** Professor Michael Frisch, Chair, Faculty Senate Public Service/Urban Affairs Committee

Dr. Mary Gresham, Vice President for Public Service and Urban Affairs

Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Associate for Faculty Development in Public Service

Professor Robert Straubinger, Chair, Faculty Senate Computer Services Committee

Dr. Joseph Tufariello, Senior Vice Provost

Voldemar Innus, Chief Information Officer

Eran Kabakov, Undergraduate Student Association

Dr. William Coles, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Sue Wuetcher, *Reporter*

John Celock, *The Spectrum*

Juliann Mathias, *The Spectrum*

Jill Terrari, *The Spectrum*

**Absent: Architecture & Planning:** Shahin Vassigh

**Arts & Letters:** Martha Hyde

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences:** Cedric Smith