

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Minutes of February 23, 2000 - (approved)

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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2:00 PM on February 23, 2000 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the minutes of February 2 and February 9, 2000](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
4. ["Expectations of students - classroom behavior"](#)
5. [Graduate Student Association](#)
6. Old/New business

Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

1. he attended the Provost's meeting with the Deans; Dean Lopos spoke on distance learning as facilitated by the Millard Fillmore College; the relationship of the MFC to the other Decanal units was raised but not resolved; Provost Triggler talked about enrollment plans and negotiations with Central Administration; in discussing Mission Review Provost Salins raised the issue of selectivity in undergraduate admissions; UB is looking at the cost of supporting selectivity with merit scholarships and honors programs.
2. he attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Graduate School; units of the Divisional Committees are planning procedures for initial appointments and periodic renewal of appointments to the Graduate School; a variety of approaches are possible; for example, in the Health Sciences chairs must submit renewals for Graduate School faculty every 5 years with a minimum requirement of 2 peer reviewed publications; the Graduate School has doubled its investment in graduate student recruitment to \$140 K and hopes to spend this amount in each of the next 3 years
3. the FSEC and the Faculty Senate have adopted (or been adopted) by the Pre-Professional Shared Interest Housing; Chris Connelly, Coordinator of the Pre-Professional SIH, and J. Celock, Red Jacket Council, presented a commendation to Edna F. Biondo, Assistant Manager of FSA Food and Vending Services at Red Jacket Quad, for

her service to students and making them feel part of a UB family; the FSEC gave Ms. Biondo a round of warm applause

4. Professor Welch, Chair of the Academic Planning Committee, will present the APC's recommendation on the creation of a Department of Women's Studies. Professor Welch stated that the APC had been concerned about the small number of core faculty in the proposed Department. In a lengthy memo Professor Marcus, its Chair, provided details about the number of adjuncts that would be involved in the Department and the process of planning their participation. Her responses satisfied the APC which therefore recommends that the FSEC "indicate to the Provost, and to the Dean and faculty of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, its formal acceptance of departmental status for Women's Studies". There were comments from the floor:

- what is the role of the FSEC in this matter? (Professor Swartz)
- as per the *Bylaws of the Voting Faculty* and the *Charter of the Faculty Senate*, we are to be consulted by the administration on matters of academic structure and name changes (Professor Nickerson)
- have no doubt that the APC did a thorough job, but the FSEC doesn't have the data from which it could itself object or consent to the proposed change; also need to know what criteria are being applied in decisions to consolidate some departments while splitting up others; am concerned about the sequence of events leading to the decision to make Women's Studies a department; the Women's Studies Program was first told that it could not become a department and would have to change its departmental affiliation; at that juncture the senior faculty member in charge of the Program left the University; now the decision has been reversed (Professor Swartz)
- agree that the trend has been towards departmental consolidation, so the APC looked very carefully at the proposed change; the model being followed is that of the Department of Comparative Literature which has a small core faculty but draws strength from associated faculty; the Department of American Studies is in the process of being dissolved with its constituent parts being taken up by Women's Studies, the Program for the Americas and others; Women's Studies is trying to develop certain types of identity and focus which makes external recruitment important (Professor Welch)
- the FSEC has among its responsibilities that of advising the administration on matters of academic structure; the administration does not treat the advice of the FSEC lightly; it would be highly inappropriate if the administration failed to consult with the FSEC (Professor Baumer)
- in prior discussions of this matter consultation with the governance body of the College of Arts & Sciences was recommended and that seems not to have been done; the report presented by the APC

doesn't answer questions raised both in its own earlier report and by the FSEC; we don't have facts enough to form an opinion about the merits of the proposed change (Professor Schack)

- understand that there are new faculty in Women's Studies who don't know who is responsible for their dossier preparation; the current Chair is tenured in the School of Law which has very different tenure expectations than the College of Arts & Sciences (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- Professor Schack is suggesting that all relevant material considered by a committee be brought to the FSEC; that does not seem an efficient use of the FSEC's time; can, however, supply minutes of the APC's discussion and a longer report if they are desired; there is a commitment to external recruitment of a new chair to be in place by Fall 2001; because of a heavy agenda, the College of Arts & Sciences' Policy Council will not be able to consider the matter of Women's Studies at its next meeting (Professor Welch)
- request that Professor Welch give a brief summary of the APC's considerations on the principal points of concern, viz. why a department and what are its general mission, goals and curriculum? (Professor Baumer)
- what are the financial ramifications of creating this new department?; am not advocating that all committees bring all material to the FSEC, but that in serious matters the FSEC should be given detailed and careful analyses (Professor Schack)
- the APC has done considerable work on this issue (Professor Nickerson)
- if the body is prepared to give me the time, will be happy to respond to questions: departmental status is common for Women's Studies at those AAU institutions that support the discipline; the use of the small core faculty/large associated faculty departmental model is a cost conscious choice; external recruitment for a new departmental chair will give the College of Arts & Sciences faculty a good opportunity to participate in the development of departmental priorities; Women's Studies aspires to offer a Ph.D. program (which would be the only one in New York) and departmental status is the norm for offering the Ph.D (Professor Welch)

Professor Baumer moved (seconded) to approve the establishment of the department. There was discussion on the motion:

- troubling that in the context of making an appointment the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences mistakenly believed that Women's Studies already had departmental status (Professor Swartz)

- don't see the strategy that leads on one hand to the creation of an Institute for Gender Studies and an Institute for the Americas, but a Department of Women's Studies (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- am against the proposed change; we have always been concerned about the quality of a program that has a small faculty to support it; doing a program cheaply is not in the interest of the students (Professor Fournier)
- arguments for the proposal are weak in that they are too general; would just as well support the creation of separate departments for applied and pure mathematics; need a discussion of the criteria and priorities for creating departments (Professor Schack)
- have no sense of the difference between a program and a department (Professor Charles Smith)

Professor Baumer moved (seconded) that the motion be returned to committee for further consideration and response to the FSEC in light of the questions raised this afternoon. The motion passed unanimously. Professor Welch jested that brevity may be the soul of wit but not of Senate reports. **Item 2: Report of the President/Provost**

There was no report of the President/Provost.

Item 3: "Expectations of students - classroom behavior"

Over the years there has been concern about disruptive student behavior in the classroom. Vice President Black noted that UB's student rules and regulations do not address classroom behavior, and that in the absence of such rules and regulations, dealing with instances of disruptive behavior in the classroom has been difficult. The Office of Student Affairs has handled incidents as they arose and has looked at student codes from other institutions. Vice President Black asked for an open discussion of the prevalence of problem classroom behavior and what the role of faculty is in dealing with it. There were comments from the floor:

- have no problem with Student Affairs drafting a classroom code of conduct; students will not bring a charge of disruptive classroom behavior against other students to the Student Judiciary, so need a different mechanism (Professor Fournier)

- making one's classroom expectations very clear in advance will help prevent problems; for behavior which is seriously disruptive, should be able to call on Public Safety to remove the student; is it possible to write a reasonable code of conduct to govern classroom behavior? (Professor Malone)
- am thinking about a "do's and don'ts" list for students, e.g., don't come late to class, don't talk in competition with the instruction, don't bring beepers into the classroom, etc., about procedures for removing a disruptive student from the class, either short or long term, and about material for faculty suggesting strategies for dealing with disruptive behavior; any regulation of classroom behavior must preserve the right of free discussion and must be clear to all students (Vice President Black)
- faculty development strategies may be more useful than regulations for students; if we impose regulations on students, need to also acknowledge faculty classroom responsibilities, e.g. coming to class on time, being prepared, etc. ; only a small percentage of students and faculty engage in inappropriate classroom behavior(Professor Meacham)
- may be only a small number of disruptive students, but they impact all the other students; faculty who teach large classes may see more problem behaviors; have tried to find out what policies are in force with no success (Professor Jorgensen)
- don't need regulation of minutiae; instead, adopt the principle that a student can't engage in behavior that disrupts the learning experience for other students, with the faculty member being the sole arbiter of what that behavior is; faculty need to know what actions they can legally take, e.g., can one throw a disruptive student out of class, and if so to whom does one send the student? (Professor Schack)
- need a clear statement of acceptable faculty responses and a clearly designed appeal process (Vice Provost Goodman)
- decision to bar a student from the remainder of a course should be automatically reviewed (Professor Schack)
- mandatory class attendance policies can lead to disruptive behavior; students may have legitimate reasons why they come late or why they bring a cell phone into class; a faculty member who has repeated problems with disruptive students may herself be the problem (Mr. Connelly)
- students may not know that certain behaviors are unacceptable in the classroom; it's a problem if faculty respond in a fashion that escalates the situation; it is also a problem if faculty attempt to impose an academic penalty on what is a behavioral problem (Dr. Durand)

- my approach is to tell a student who is being disruptive to either stop the behavior or leave the class permanently; the student can then file a grievance; faculty need to act as if they are in charge, i.e., dress appropriately and make an organized presentation (Professor Baumer)
- are there legal ramifications to throwing a student out of class? (Professor Tamburlin)
- a single code would be better than individual expectations; other students can influence the behavior of their peers (Mr. Pallickal)
- FSA vending machines are near classrooms, making it easy for students to carry in food (Professor Boot)
- faculty in clinical situations have a very serious interest in bringing inappropriate student behaviors under control before the public is impacted (Professor Parese)
- invoke peer pressure by leaving the classroom after telling the students that they are responsible for the material which would have been covered and that they can extract the material from the offending student (Professor Charles Smith)
- is there a policy about students using UB equipment to view and download pornography? (Dr. Durand)

Item 4: Approval of the minutes of February 2 and February 9, 2000

The minutes of February 2 and February 9, 2000 were approved.

Item 5: Graduate Student Association

The Chair introduced David Forgues, President of the Graduate Student Association and Anna Furgiuele, editor of the *Quill*. Mr. Forgues explained that the Graduate Student Association, one of the seven student governments at UB, represents 5,000 graduate students (excluding those of the Medical School, the Dental School, the Law School and the Management School). The GSA sponsors departmental clubs that organize discipline related activities for graduate students and that send representatives to the GSA Senate, the decision making arm of the GSA. By contrast, the Graduate Student Employees' Union (GSEU) is a completely separate organization which represents only those graduate students who are employed by the University. GSA and GSEU do have some common concerns and work cooperatively whenever possible. This year's goal has been to reach out

to campus organizations to improve services offered to the graduate student population. Ms. Furgiuele added that many of the services the University offers are marketed towards undergraduates, and graduate students don't realize they are also eligible for these services. The GSA generally serves as an advocate for graduate students' interests.

There were questions from the floor:

- what are some areas of graduate concern? (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- fees and the funding of stipends (Mr. Forgues)
- often problems arise from miscommunication and can be resolved by talking with the parties involved (Ms. Furgiuele)
- is GSEU a help or a hindrance? (Professor Malone)
- try to work collaboratively in the best interest of the students (Mr. Forgues)
- is it difficult for graduate students to get a University wide perspective? (Professor Nickerson)
- difficult to establish a connection to the University since there is no central location for graduate students (Ms. Furgiuele)
- GSA sponsors social and academic functions of general interest to help graduate students meet other graduate students (Mr. Forgues)
- common graduate housing is helpful in establishing social relations outside of one's discipline (Professor Fourtner)
- hope that the new housing on campus, like Flickinger Court, will help (Mr. Forgues)
- GSA should post directly to departmental list serves; my School tends to have older graduate students who have different needs than traditional graduate students (Professor Jorgensen)
- faculty also have difficulty establishing social connections within the University because of the lack of a central place to meet (Professor Charles Smith)
- the Graduate School also has programs that reach out to students; for example, it holds the Sigma Psi poster competition and research fair every year; it has developed a web site for channeling questions from students and faculty appropriately and to provide access to policies and procedures, it shares in funding the Mark Diamond Research Fund (Associate Provost Thompson)
- does the Division of Student Affairs have contact with the GSA? (President Greiner)
- they have been making an effort to be more inclusive of graduate students (Ms. Furgiuele)

Item 6: Name Change for the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences has asked to change its name to the Department of Biotechnology and Laboratory Medicine. Professor Tamburlin explained that the proposed name better reflects the Department's mission and the potential career paths of its students. The Department is expecting approval of a new program in biotechnology for students who will work in industry (but will continue its medical technology program). Additionally, the phrase Clinical Laboratory Sciences is somewhat outdated.

There were comments from the floor:

- Engineering and Biology have had programs in biotechnology and you need to make sure this use of the term biotechnology won't be confusing within the broad context of the University (Professor Fourtner)
- the course content of this program is very different from other programs; have talked with Biology and Pharmacy about the content and they made no objection to our program; makes sense for a program name to reflect its content even if the name is used in several programs (Professor Tamburlin)
- will check with Professor Baier and with Professor Ryan in Engineering about the use of the term biotechnology (Professor Nickerson)
- advise the administration that the name change seems reasonable, but that to avoid confusion the term biotechnology should be appropriately modified wherever it appears (Professor Schack)

Professor Baumer moved (seconded) that the name change be approved. There was discussion of the motion:

- will we include the provision about modifying the term biotechnology? (Professor Adams-Volpe)
- yes (Professor Nickerson)

The motion passed unanimously.

There being no old/new business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn McManh Kramer
Secretary of Faculty Senate

Present:

Chair: P. Nickerson

Secretary: M. Kramer

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, C. Fourtner, J. Meacham, S. Schack, Charles Smith

Dental Medicine: M. Easley

Engineering & Applied Sciences: D. Malone

Graduate School of Education: T. Schroeder

Health Related Professions: J. Tamburlin

Information Studies: C. Jorgensen

Law: L. Swartz

Management: J. Boot

Nursing: E. Parese

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

University Officers: W. Greiner, President

Guests:

M. McGinnis, *Reporter*

S. Alaimo, *The Spectrum*

C. Welch, Chair, Academic Planning Committee

C. Connelly, Pre-Professional Shared Interest Housing

J. Celock, Red Jacket Council

E. Biondo, FSA Food and Vending Services

M. Thompson, Graduate School

D. Forgues, Graduate Student Association

A. Furgiuele, *Quill*

K. Levy, Senior Vice Provost

L. Pallickal, Undergraduate Student Association

D. Black, Vice President for Student Affairs

N. Goodman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Excused:

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Cedric Smith

SUNY Senators: J. Fisher

Absent:

Architecture: R. Shibley

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Albini

Pharmacy: N.

University Libraries: A. Booth