

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of April 2, 2003 - (approved)**  
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The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2002, in 567 Capen Hall to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Report of the Interim Dean of the School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences - Margaret Paroski](#)
4. [Report of the Bylaws Committee - Judith Hopkins](#)
5. [Report of the Student Life Committee - Peter A. Nickerson](#)
6. [Report of the Educational Programs & Policy Committee - Ted Steegmann](#)
7. [Approval of the Faculty Senate Schedule for 2003/04](#)
8. [Old/New business](#)
9. [Executive Session \(if needed\)](#)
10. [Adjournment](#)

The intent of these questions is to gather information to help prospective students and their parents make knowledgeable decisions about colleges and universities.

### **Item 1: Report of the Chair**

The Chair mentioned that he had read an interesting article in the April 4th Chronicle of Higher Education. "Will Congress Require Colleges to Grade Themselves," by Stephen Burd, told how a lobbying group called the Career College Association has asked Congress to require all higher-education institutions to compile an annual "report card" based on questions such as the following:

1. What is your institution's primary mission?
2. What are the demographics of the student body?
3. How many students are there per faculty member at your institution?
4. How much money do you spend per student on educational expenses?
5. What kind of services do you provide your students?
6. What proportion of your students graduate within six years?
7. What percentage of student return for their second year, third year, etc.?
8. What percentage of your students transfer in or out of the institution each year?
9. How successful are your students in getting jobs after they graduate?
10. If you train your students in specific fields, how well do they do on licensing or certification exams?
11. Do your students and alumni rate your institution favorably on satisfaction surveys?
12. Are employers satisfied with the skills your students and alumni exhibit at their jobs?

The intent of such questions is to help prospective students and their parents determine whether a particular college is right for them.

## **Item 2: Report of the President/Provost**

None

## **Item 3: Report of the Interim Dean of the School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences - Margaret Paroski**

Dr. Margaret Paroski, Interim Dean of the School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, discussed their recent accreditation survey by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). UB is one of the few schools to get an eight-year accreditation (through 2010). The evaluators were favorably impressed with the new organ-based curriculum, which has fewer lecture hours and more small-group problem-solving to promote active learning. There's faculty commitment and student enthusiasm for the new curriculum. Former Dean

Bernardino was credited for his leadership, management of financial resources, and communication with faculty and students.

The accreditation survey procedure involves a self-study, and then a site team visits campus to check its validity. Although their overall comments were highly favorable, there were a few "dings," which the School is working to correct or improve.

Noncompliance items included the need to set global objectives and assessment criteria for the curriculum; also, not providing enough career, financial aid, and debt management counseling. The counseling issues have already been improved, but curriculum assessment will be harder. Many qualities of good doctors are intangibles.

#### **Item 4: Report of the Faculty Senate Bylaws Committee - Judith Hopkins**

Professor Hopkins reported that the Bylaws Committee was given one charge during the past year: To formalize a procedure by which faculty nominees are selected to serve on a Presidential Search Committee and to draft wording for that procedure to go in a governance document. The procedure was to be based on the process that FSEC had just used in selecting faculty members for the current search committee for President Greiner's successor. The SUNY Guidelines, which advised that a meeting of the entire faculty be held to select nominees, are unworkable at this large institution.

The Committee's first draft described the recent process, but a second draft generalized the procedure to be applicable for all committees whose faculty nominees or members are to be determined by the Voting Faculty. The Bylaws Committee favored the second version, which was revised slightly and submitted to FSEC as a proposed draft amendment to the Charter of the Faculty Senate [added text is in bold; there are no deletions]:

Article VI: Committees of the Faculty Senate.

1. Executive Committee of the Senate.

## F. Duties

5. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Senate's Committee on Committees... It shall also nominate members of the Voting Faculty to serve on non-Senate committees and other bodies which seek Senate representation.

(a) The Executive Committee shall nominate members of the Voting Faculty to serve on search committees for the President and other senior university administrators.

(b) For any committee, including any search committee, whose faculty nominees or members are to be determined by the Voting Faculty of UB, the Executive Committee shall act for the Voting Faculty in recognition of the impracticability of a meeting of the Voting Faculty for this purpose.

i. The Executive Committee shall call for recommendations of candidates by and from the Voting Faculty.

ii. Those recommending candidates shall verify their candidates are willing and able to serve, and shall provide brief statements of the values their candidates would contribute to the committee.

iii. The Executive Committee, in executive session, shall discuss the candidates and vote on them by secret ballot; those receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be elected.

(c) To the extent possible the persons elected should constitute a balanced representation of the major organizational constituencies of the University at Buffalo (under 2003 circumstances, one-third of the persons elected could be from the College of Arts & Sciences, one-third from the other areas of the core campus, and one-third from the Health Sciences).

Professor Schack said we should not make it mandatory that nominators "provide brief statements;" just make it advisable because it's helpful to our deliberations. We risk losing good candidates if the Charter says a statement is required. He recommended changing (b) ii. to "Those recommending candidates shall be asked to verify that their candidates are willing and able to serve, and to provide brief statements..."

Professor Schack also suggested omitting the parenthetical (under 2003 circumstances...)

out of (c). Future constituencies will interpret it relative to their own time and place.

Professor Schack also recommended changing (b) i. by prefacing that sentence with "To the extent possible." There may be circumstances when we need to act faster than the proposed legislation will allow.

Professor Hopkins said that the proposal wouldn't pertain to the hypothetical circumstances; it's only intended to address situations when the entire faculty needs to be consulted.

Chair Cohen thanked Professor Hopkins and her committee's work. The Bylaws Committee should now review their proposal in light of today's advisory comments and prepare a revised (or not) version that will be presented to the Faculty Senate early in the fall semester.

#### **Item 5: Report of the Student Life Committee - Peter A. Nickerson**

Professor Nickerson is Chair of UB's Faculty Senate Student Life Committee (SLC) and Co-chair of the University Senate's SLC. UB's Committee has had wide-ranging discussions about topics of interest to both groups.

Drivers of 15-passenger vans must now receive training and get certified. The UB Student Association has switched to minivans. Drivers' license records are checked regularly.

There are new regulations for handling funds from student fees. Seven student government organizations at UB collect substantial sums in fees, and they are all in compliance with the new regulations.

The SUNY Senate's Committee is examining issues related to international students. They will probably sponsor a SUNY conference on best practices for handling issues related to

recent changes in federal laws affecting immigration status and the tracking of students coming from abroad to the U.S.

UB and other institutions now have to monitor and report all changes in international students' academic programs. UB's SLC plans to present a resolution expressing concern over the recent regulation barring dependents of international students from studying in the U.S.

UB's SLC is also working on a proposal for sponsoring a conference in collaboration with the Teaching & Learning Committee: Understanding Our Students - Factors That Influence Learning.

The Lee Road project, after much consultation across campus on the proposal, is set to proceed in phases after funds are identified to develop the infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.).

UB's SLC has also discussed faculty office hours, syllabus information, the Greek system, block scheduling, and ways to enhance the college experience for scholarship students who aren't part of the Honors or Scholars programs.

#### **Item 6: Report of the Educational Programs & Policy Committee - Ted Steegmann**

Professor Steegmann, chair of the EPPC, said that the Committee had discussed advantages and disadvantages of requiring freshman to declare a major, but had been told by FSEC in January that it's now a non-issue. Recent rumors are that it's not a dead issue, so some follow up seems to be needed.

The UB Scholars Program is for students with excellent academic records, but who are just outside the requirements for the University Honors Program. The EPPC recommends the following enhancements for the UB Scholars Program:

- Increase awareness of the Scholars Program among UB faculty.
- Establish a system to make available faculty mentoring and research training.
- Improve information availability on major requirements, especially concerning career and research opportunities.
- Facilitate faculty-student research collaboration.

The Scholars Program has been instrumental in increasing the quality of incoming and current undergraduates. There's a \$1,000 annual scholarship for students who qualify. Perhaps retired faculty could play a mentorship role in the program.

Professor Brazeau suggested promoting the program by highlighting faculty-student interactions in the Reporter. Donna Longenecker agreed that it's a good idea and said she'll follow up.

#### **Item 7: Approval of the Faculty Senate Schedule for 2003/04**

The 2003/04 Faculty Senate Meeting Schedule was discussed briefly. It follows the same pattern we've been using for years, and there were no requests for changes.

#### **Item 8: Old/New business**

None

**Item 9: Executive Session (if needed)**

None

**Item 10: Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

**Present:**

Chair: M. Cohen

Secretary: W. Hepfer

Architecture: S. Danford

Arts & Sciences: W. Baumer, S. Schack, K. Takeuchi

Dental Medicine: J. Zambon

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Jensen, R. Mayne

Informatics: F. Tutzauer

Law: L. Swartz

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: C. Granger, J. Hassett, F. Morin

Pharmacy: G. Brazeau

Public Health & Health Professions: G. Farkas

SUNY Senators: M. Kramer, P. Nickerson

University Libraries: CA Fabian

**Guests:**

J. Hopkins, Bylaws Committee

D. Longenecker, Reporter

M. Paroski, Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

T. Steegmann, Educational Programs & Policy Committee

**Excused:**

SUNY Senator: J. Adams-Volpe

Parliamentarian: D. Malone

**Absent:**

Arts & Sciences: C. Smith, S. Bruckenstein

Graduate School of Education: R. Stein

Institutional/General: O. Mixon

Management: J. Boot

Nursing: E. Perese

SUNY Senator: H. Durand