

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE February 27, 2002 (unapproved)

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met at 2 PM on February 27, 2002 in Capen 567 to consider the following agenda:

1. [Report of the Chair](#)
2. [Report of the President/Provost](#)
3. [Report from Dean George Lopos on the status of the Millard Fillmore College reorganization](#)
4. [Report from the Faculty Senate Affirmative Action Committee - Co-chairs: Professors David Banks and Gerard Rosenfeld](#)
5. [Old/new business](#)

Item 1: Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that:

- excepting one, all schools have responded to his query about how they handle information technology and what their IT concerns are; he has forwarded the responses to Professor Jameson, Chair of the Computer Services Committee
- all Senate Committees, excepting the Faculty Tenure and Privileges Committee and the Facilities Committee, have met and will report to the Executive Committee in the coming weeks; he has encouraged the chairs of the two inactive committees to convene their committees
- at the March 6 Executive Committee meeting Vice President for Student Affairs Black will report on what is happening on the South Campus and on problem behavior in the dorms; in his absence the Secretary will chair the meeting
- the 2002/2003 Faculty Senate schedule has been drafted
- There was a motion (seconded) to accept the schedule. The motion passed unanimously.
- Professor Nickerson attended a meeting of the Graduate School Executive Committee on the Chair's behalf
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 - responsibility for the Shombung Fellowships and the Graduate EOP Fellowships has been transferred to the Graduate School; these fellowships will be awarded at the same time as teaching assistantships making them more effective as recruitment tools; there was discussion of: the creation of a category of Graduate

School faculty who would supervise Master's students only; the use of study abroad credits for a graduate degree; and for programs that offer both Bachelor's and Master's degrees whether different or common courses should be used (Professor Nickerson)

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- the Graduate School want to ensure that graduate students do extra work if common courses are used; the creation of a second category of membership in the Graduate School is being considered because the increase in Master's programs will tax the capacity of the Graduate School to provide supervision for those students (Vice Provost Grant)

Item 2: Report of the Provost

The Provost has been busy:

- dean searches for the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Architecture and Planning, and the School of Management are progressing; five candidates for each of the three positions are being interviewed
- planning for a Bioinformatics building has begun; the building will be located next to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute whose animal facilities, cafeteria, auditorium and classrooms it will be able to share; there is a high level of cooperation among UB, Roswell Park and Hauptman-Woodward which is very powerful and very appreciated at the state level
- federal lobbying activities are gearing up; Bioinformatics will continue to be a focus; additionally there will be an initiative for the proposed School of Allied and Public Health
- she has been talking with various foundations
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 - UB was 60th in the Chronicle of Higher Education's list of
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 - the top 100 grant getting institutions; which is impressive (Professor Cohen)
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 - are now the top-ranked public institution in New York (Provost Capaldi)

Item 3: Report on the status of Millard Fillmore College

After serving 77 years as UB's evening college, the Millard Fillmore College has been reorganized as its continuing education division.

Dean Lopos explained that

- he will assume the additional title of Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- MFC will no longer provide evening and surge classes for campus undergraduates; those become the responsibility of the academic units
- MFC will reduce its courses offerings from 375 to about 50 carrying an MFC prefix, will focus exclusively on adult, non-traditional students by aggressively pursuing contract teaching opportunities, expanding its certificate programs, and identifying and developing market opportunities for course offerings from the academic side
- MFC will hire and support its faculty and provide appropriate academic guidance to its students but admissions, records and registration will be done by UB, avoiding duplication of efforts
- the reorganization should integrate evening students more fully into the UB community and eliminate the myth that different was lesser
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 - does MFC have a large cadre of adjunct faculty? (Professor Cohen)
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 - not many; since 1995 the quality of MFC adjunct faculty was ensured by having departments approved faculty hired by MFC to teach academic courses (Dean Lopos)
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 - some departments did not do a good job of evaluating the applicants for MFC teaching positions because they felt disassociated from MFC (Professor Fournter)
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 - in this new configuration, will MFC students pay full fees, especially the technology fee? (Professor Adams-Volpe)
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 - some fees can be waived; other fees are prorated for part-time students; distance learning students pay the full technology fee (Dean Lopos)
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 - has MFC considered teacher certification programs? (Professor Fournter)
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 - MFC certificates are local, are not registered with SUNY and don't appear on UB transcripts; by contrast certification programs offered by the School of Dentistry and the Graduate School of Education are registered with SUNY and do appear on UB transcripts (Dean Lopos)
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 - Provost's Office will monitor to ensure that departments schedule an appropriate range of evening classes, e.g., General Education courses (Vice Provost Grant)
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 - many regular students need evening classes in order to graduate in 4/5 years; in the past some MFC courses were 30% days students (Dean Lopos)
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 - good that the departments will now control evening classes because day students sometimes took evening classes believing they were different from day classes (Professor Sridhar)
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- in some cases students preferred having faculty with real life experience as practitioners in the field (Dean Lopos)
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- is there a relationship between MFC and distance learning? (Professor Malone)
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- initially distance learning was seated in MFC; MFC is now responsible for the promotion of distance learning but the staff and facilities used for distance learning have moved to the CIO and the Vice Provost for Educational Technology (Dean Lopos)
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- what are the admission criteria for students entering the evening program? (Professor Baumer)
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- admissions will be handled by the same staff who admit day students; the criteria will allow for special circumstances (Dean Lopos)
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- regular admission has always contained provisions for non-traditional students and special circumstances so this is not a door into UB; there are three gains from the MFC reorganization: the quality issue was settled; duplicate services were eliminated, and the academic units have gained additional resources for meeting their teaching responsibilities (Vice Provost Grant)
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- pool of non-traditional students is shrinking because of the population decline in WNY and the increasing percentage of people who attend college immediately following high school graduation; additionally many departments have for a long time offered regular courses in the evening and those will continue to be available (Professor Baumer)
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- is distance learning growing? (Professor Cohen)
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- a number of institutions invested heavily in distance education, but only a handful have succeeded in being profitable (Vice Provost Grant)
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- distance learning should be seen as serving our educational mission not as a money making venture (Dean Lopos)

Item 4: Report from the Affirmative Action Committee

Professor Banks, Co-Chair of the Affirmative Action Committee, stated that the Committee is focusing this year on changes that would improve the rate at which UB attracts and retains minority faculty. The Committee will benchmark UB against Stony Brook, Indiana, Illinois, Florida and Virginia in regard to the number of minority faculty on those campuses and policies and procedures relevant to their retention rates.

Policies and practices concerning recruitment are a major concern of the Committee. The Committee will look at documentation from committees that function like UB's President's Panel on Search Procedures at those benchmark institutions to see if they operate under more helpful language.

The Committee will also discuss the possibility of creating centers of academic excellence that intrinsically involve the presence of minority scholars. Such centers could improve UB's success in recruiting minorities in other fields as well.

- Professor Banks concluded by saying the Committee would not be ready to bring recommendations to the Senate until next year.
- Professor Rosenfeld, second Co-Chair of the Committee, added that he and Professor Banks have been working with the President's Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Diversity under the leadership of Dr. Durand. The Task Force will send its report and recommendations to the President this year. He noted, however, that its recommendations are likely to be things that have been discussed since the 1950's. Success will lie in the implementation of those recommendations, not in additional discussion of them. He strongly asserted that we know what we have to do but need the will to do it.
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 - the Task Force's report should be ready for the President by the end of this semester; assume he will share it with the Senate; the Senate will, hopefully, be able to support the Task Force's recommendations (Dr. Durand)
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 - UB is moderately successful at recruitment but poor in retention of minority faculty because UB is not seen as having a welcoming climate; as a result few minority faculty are ever considered for tenure (Ms. Stewart)
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 - search committees should be given help early in the process about how to attract minority applicants (Professor Sridhar)
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 - for twenty years my department could not find a single minority faculty member; we now have a minority Dean, and miraculously we are suddenly finding qualified minority applicants; the lesson is that when the dean and the administration are seen as committed to identifying minority applicants there is a greater chance of success; a major problem in retaining minority faculty is that their colleagues do not understand or value their research (Professor Malave)
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- in some disciplines the need is to get minority undergraduates in the pipeline to mature into scholars; in biology only about 15 African-Americans a year get Ph.D.'s and the competition to hire them is intense (Professor Fourtner)
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- twenty five years ago the same argument was made and minorities are still not in the pipeline; there is simply not an institutional commitment to provide the resources and develop structural mechanisms necessary to change (Pro