FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 12, 2012

Chair

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

Secretary

Edward Herman

Architecture & Planning

Adly Fam

Joseph Mollendorf

Arts & Sciences

William H. Baumer

Melvyn Churchill

Steven Durbin

Dental Medicine

Elaine Davis

Engineering & Applied Sciences

Joseph Mollendorf

Adel Sadek

Graduate School of Education

Suzanne Miller

Law

Lynn Mather

Management:

Larry Sanders

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Rajendra Badgaiyan

James Hassett

Ranjit Singh

Social Work

Robert Keefe

SUNY Senators

Jennifer Gottdiener

Donald Grinde

Kathleen Kielar

Peter Nickerson

University Libraries

Beth Adelman

Parliamentarian

William H. Baumer

President

Satish K. Tripathi

Provost

Charles (Chip) Zukoski

GUESTS:

Sharon Nolan-Weiss, EDAAA

Ann Marie Landel, Professional Staff Senate

Daniel Ovadia, Undergraduate Student Association

1. The FSEC Minutes of May 15, 2012 were accepted with the following amendment to section 1.

Quorum: The Parliamentarian confirmed that an FSEC quorum is 13 people. FSEC, however, is empowered to act on time sensitive business and must report on these activities at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

2. Report of the Chair (Ezra Zubrow). Zubrow participated in the following activities during the summer:

- Investigated the pros and cons of the Shale Resources and Society Institute.

- Consulted with Scott Weber about the revised summer session schedule and intersession bridge courses.
- Worked with the Chancellor's Awards Committee, the Budget Priorities Committee, and the Research Committee.
- Met with leadership of campus governance bodies including the Professional Staff Senate, PEF, UUP, and the police union. Leaders of these groups agreed to meet regularly to discuss common concerns.

3. Report of President Tripathi:

- The President acknowledged that Charles (Chip) Zukoski began working at UB on June 1.
- He and Zukoski will soon begin visiting schools throughout the campus.
- Eighty new faculty began their UB careers this semester.
- UB created 20,000 new seats to accommodate students in the Finish in 4 program.
- UB will benefit from the new SUNY financial model that will be implemented in the 2013/2014 academic year. It considers tuition revenue as compared to total costs associated with graduation taking into account that some programs are more costly than others. SUNY will help campuses make up the income shortfalls. The model also addresses missions of schools, outside research moneys, and different costs of living throughout the state. Moneys collected by schools will remain at their respective campuses.

4. Report of Provost Zukoski:

- UB expects to hire 250 new faculty and professional staff in coming years. This is in addition to replacement positions for approximately 150 faculty who retire or relocate to other universities.
- The financial model developed for hiring new faculty includes resources for support staff.
- Zukoski asked Alexander Cartwright, Vice-President for Research, and Zubrow to form a joint task force that will investigate issues pertaining to academic freedom, academic integrity, confidentiality, and disclosure of financial interests as they pertain to research.
- The Provost's Office received 27 3 E grant proposals that request $9 million. Four and a half million dollars is available for this program.

- The new Dean of Engineering should be chosen and on campus by the Spring semester.

5. Institutional Course Evaluation Solution (Carol VanZile-Tamsen, Ph.D.; Associate Director, Office of University Accreditation and Assessment, and Joseph Mantione, Assistant Vice Provost, Institutional Analysis)

- UB uses 5 different course evaluation solutions in 12 colleges.

- Four units use ConnectEdu software (College of Arts and Sciences, Dental Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health)
- Three units use Paper (Architecture and Planning, Education, and Law)
- Two units use in-house software (Engineering and Medicine)
- Two units use SmartEvals (Management and Social Work)
- One unit uses e*Value (Pharmacy)

- Academic support groups that offer instruction use additional systems.
- Preparing course evaluations in some units is cumbersome.
- Students do not have one place where they can evaluate their courses, and response rates are sometimes too low to be meaningful.
- The goal of this project is to help UB agree upon one evaluation system for the entire University. It will offer:

- Improved efficiency.
- More reliable results.
- Increased transparency for students that encourage greater response rates.
- Easier availability of data and reports for assessment purposes.
- Easier review among faculty.
- Simpler reporting for accreditation.

- The system should include 3-5 common questions asked across all disciplines. The Faculty Senate in collaboration with the Associate Deans Council will develop these questions. Beyond that, units would have flexibility to ask questions appropriate to their disciplines.

- The Blackboard system does not have an evaluation module and its owners have no intention of developing one.

- J. Mollendorf asked if it is legal to withhold student grades if they fail to complete a course evaluation. Zubrow will ask the University Counsel for an opinion.

- D. Grinde said evaluation questions created by his school are not as useful as those he chooses to ask his students.

- W. Baumer pointed out that consistent good evaluations are correlated with the number of A's students achieve.

- Responding to J. Gottdiener who asked if they contacted SUNY to learn if a statewide system is under consideration, Mantione said they did not do so.

- VanZile-Tamsen and Mantione assured Zubrow that they would seek approval from the Faculty Senate before purchasing a system.

6. FSEC discussed committee memberships in Executive Session.