

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
December 6, 2011**

Present:

CHAIR OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Ezra Zubrow

SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Edward Herman

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Stratigakos, Despina

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Baumer, William (Parliamentarian)

Dyson, Stephen

Metcalfe, Sara

Meyerowitz, Ruth

Schiff, Randy

Zarembka, Paul

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Miller, Ray

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Chiu, Ming Ming

Miller, Suzanne

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Mollendorf, Joseph (Alternate-Paul Desjardin)

Sadek, Adel (Alternate—Kemper, Lewis)

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Kiviniemi, Marc

Wilson, John

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Smith, Sanjukta

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nisbet, Patti

SUNY SENATORS

Fam, Adly

Gottdiener, Jennifer

Nickerson, Peter

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Kost, Kathleen

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Bradford, Peter

Feng, Jian

Fine, Edward

Gelfond, Daniel

Lyndaker, Anne Marie

Mastrandrea, Lucy

Singh, Ranjit

Smolinski, Robert

Tumiel-Berhalter, Laurene

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Belford, Rebecca

Bush, Renee

Lavin, Michael

Walsh, Tiffany

GUESTS

Landel, Ann Marie—Professional Staff Senate

Minutes of November 1, 2011: Accepted with correction. The year was mistyped as 2001.

Report of the Chair (Ezra Zubrow)

- Zubrow said that since becoming Chair of the Faculty Senate he has undergone a steep learning curve attempting to understand how the University works.
- The Budget Priorities Committee created sub-committees to evaluate different aspects of the budget.
- Zubrow had conversations with Scott Weber, Vice-President for Undergraduate Education. “Finish in Four” is now a faculty policy, as well as an administrative one.
- Fall 2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) activities:
 - Faculty Senate representatives recommended improvements to the HUB. Zubrow would like an IT person dedicated to serving HUB related faculty needs.
 - FSEC instructed the Computer Services Committee to draft a privacy policy by March 1, 2012. The Committee will consult with the University’s Council and IT attorneys. See FSEC minutes of November 9, 2011 and November 30, 2011 for details.

- FSEC met with UB's Sustainability Officer, Ryan Mcpherson, to discuss how his efforts relate to the University's strengths. See FSEC Minutes of October 12, 2011 for details.
- FSEC reactivated the Research and Creative Activities Committee which will work with the Vice-President for Research and Sponsored Programs.
- FSEC reactivated the Athletics Committee. Fred Stoss, University Libraries, is its new Chair. See FSEC Minutes of October 26, 2011 for details.
- FSEC met with University emergency-crisis personnel to discuss the need for a centralized emergency czar position. (Joseph Brennan, Associate Vice President for University Communications, James Reger, Emergency Manager, University Police, and Gerald Schoenle, Chief of University Police) Those attending determined that the current configuration works well. See the November 9, 2011 FSEC Minutes for details.
- FSEC discussed the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Deborah Hard, its Director. EAP hopes to provide counseling sessions in the future if their staffing situation improves. See Minutes of November 30, 2011 for details.
- UB is discontinuing its Digital Measures system that captures annual faculty activities. FSEC met with Craig Abbey, Senior Assistant Vice President, Institutional Analysis, (assisted by Carol Vanzile-Tamsen, Research Analyst, Institutional Analysis) to discuss alternatives. See the FSEC Minutes of November 30, 2011 for details.
- FSEC nominees serve on Dean's searches and 3E review committees.
- Paul Zarembka reminded Zubrow that the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender Equity in Promotions prompted the Faculty Senate Tenure Committee to report on gender equity. After asking Zubrow if the Tenure Committee will be reconstituted, the Chair responded affirmatively and asked for volunteers.

Report of the President (Satish Tripathi)

- The President congratulated Interim Provost Stenger on his new position, President of Binghamton University.
- Bruce McComb will become the new Interim Provost. He did an excellent job as Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Tripathi works well with him. McComb delayed a sabbatical leave to accept this position. He will follow the same budget course created by Stenger.
- The President expects the Provost Search to be completed in March and the new Provost will start this summer.
- President Tripathi spoke about three current searches.
 - Vice-President for Alumni Relations. The University narrowed the search to two finalists.
 - Vice-President for Finance and Administration. The University narrowed the search to three finalists.
 - Dean of Nursing. This search is nearly completed.
- The President noted that the NYSUNY 2020 Proposal remains unsigned, but he expects that will not be problematic.

Report of the Faculty Senate Fall Plenary Session (Adly Fam)

- Fam said that shared services both between and within campuses was the predominant topic discussed.
- According to SUNY, shared services represent alternatives to draconian cuts.
- Administrative resources saved through shared services will be applied to academic purposes.
- Senators at the Plenary Session expressed concerns about sacrificing programs. The language program at Albany is an example.
- Fam also noted that Senators were discontented about secrecy within the SUNY administration.

- Fam noted that a speaker believed SUNY needs a University-wide policy to protect faculty and staff records. E. Herman said that such a policy ought to encompass paper as well as electronic formats.
- See Appendix A for Fam's written report.

Other business

- Randy Schiff (English Department) spoke about scheduling problems and classroom assignments.
 - He expects to display manuscripts electronically when teaching, but the rooms assigned to him do not always have adequate technology.
 - Others also noted similar problems.
 - Zubrow, who teaches in Ellicott, said he sometimes has to wait 1.5 hours before someone responds to technology problems in a classroom.
 - A Senator noted that departments can request technological upgrades to their rooms, but Central Scheduling will afterwards control these rooms.
 - Stenger noted that Central Scheduling controls 55% of all classrooms. Departments schedule remaining rooms locally.
 - Although Central Scheduling claims all rooms accommodate IT, the technology available is sometimes insufficient.
 - UB hopes to have every classroom technology intensive, but this is a slow process.
 - Zubrow said he will ask Central Scheduling to report to the Faculty Senate about these issues. If the report is incomplete, he will invite Central Scheduling representatives to an FSEC meeting for discussions.
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- Edward Fine (Medical School) spoke about difficulties he has scanning information. The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) in the Health Sciences Library (HSL) has a computer and scanner that ought to be upgraded. Fine cannot determine who owns the equipment because TLC and HSL each claim that their

counterpart is responsible for the upgrade. Stenger suggested that Professor Fine speak to Lucinda Finley, the Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs, who administers TLC.

Appendix A

Report on Faculty Senate Fall Plenary, Oct. 20 – 22, 2011

The most important issue that dominated the plenary was Shared Services and Governance:

- There is need for metrics and benchmarks to identify what is saved as a result of Shared Services and Governance, and what are these savings targeted for.
- Shared Services and Governance should be applied not only between campuses, but also within each campus.
- Faculty and staff senates should participate with the administration in committees for identifying shared services and governance. The Chancellor will send letters to campus presidents to this effect. This is in addition to similar letters from the Faculty Senate President, Kenneth O'Brien, to the Presidents of UB and Buffalo State College as a result of discussion with our UB Faculty Senate President, Ezra Zubrow.
- As observed by the Chancellor, campuses with 5,000 or fewer students tend to be top-heavy in their administration. It is recommended to formulate guidelines for, at least a range, of the appropriate size of the administration based on the size and mission of each campus.
- The financial issues underlying the need for increased efficiencies from initiatives such as Shared Services are believed to be systemic and are not transient.
- Concern was expressed about targeting General Education programs, citing recent reduction in foreign language offerings on some campuses as an example.

Also discussed in the plenary:

- Why the need for secrecy in recruiting for leadership positions?
- Issues related to privacy of information and the conditions under which information on staff computers and University server accounts could be copied and accessed. It recommended that SUNY prepare a policy in this regard.