



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

FACULTY SENATE

October 7, 2014

CHAIR:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

SECRETARY:

Cynthia Tysick

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Ernest Sternberg

ARTS & SCIENCES:

Alex Anas
Joe Buscaglia (excused)
Melvyn Churchill
Michael Cowen
Kenneth Dauber
Stephen Dyson
Walter Hakala
James Holstun
Jacob Kathman (excused)
Charlotte Lindqvist
Sara Metcalf
Peter Morgan (absent)
Alyssa Mt. Pleasant
Harvey Palmer
Katja Praznik
Adam Sikora
Kristin Stapleton
Jean-Jacques Thomas (absent)
Camillo Trumper
Marion Werner (excused)
Paul Zarembka

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Michael Hatton (absent)
Ray Miller
Sawsun Tabba
Mine Tezal (absent)

**ENGINEERING & APPLIED
SCIENCES:**

Paschalis Alexandridis
Christine Human
Igor Jankovic
James Jensen
Joseph Mollendorf
Adel Sadek (absent)
Weifeng Su
Sabanayagam Thevanayagam
Robert Wetherhold

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION:**

Maureen Boyd
Anne Perroult
Lorna Peterson
Sarah Robert
Lynne Yang

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH &
HEALTH PROFESSIONS:**

Bob Burkard
Deanna Hostler(excused)
Marianthi Markatou (absent)
Machiko Tomita (absent)

LAW:

Christine Bartholomew
Martha McCluskey

MANAGEMENT:

Veljiko Fotak
Jun Ru (absent)
Larry Sanders

**MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL
SCIENCES:**

Daniel Amsterdam
Jeffrey Anker
Matthew Barth
Kathryn Bass (absent)
Peter Bradford
Michael Chaskes
George Chen (absent)
Peter Elkin
Edward Fine
Lorna Fitzpatrick (absent)
John Gibbs (absent)
Richard Gronostajski
Hoon Jung (absent)
Vijay Iyer (absent)
Dennis Nadler (absent)
Chukwumere Nwogu
Garbriela Popescu
Laurie Sadler
David Shucard (excused)
George Simpson
Satpal Singh (absent)
Scott Stewart
Daniel Swartz (absent)
Susan Udin
Charles Wiles
Taechin Yu

NURSING:

Grace Dean
Donna Fabry

PHARMACY:

Alice Ceacareanu
Fred Doloresco

SOCIAL WORK:

Robert Keefe (excused)
Kathleen Kost

SUNY SENATORS:

Henry Durand (absent)
Adly Fam (excused)
Kathleen Kielar (excused)

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Glendora Johnson-Cooper
Ophelia Morey
Margie Wells

PARLIAMENTARIAN (interim):

Paul Zarembka

GUESTS:

Elaine Cusker, Academic Affairs
Krista Hanypsiak, Honors College
Kira Lowe, Enrollment Management
Alex Reid, English
Christian Flaugh, RLL
John Wood, International Education
Maria Chavan, Undergraduate Education
Richard Cohen, Philosophy
James Marotto, Philanthropy
Liz Siderakis, Philanthropy
Claire Schen, History
Gail Willsky
Michael Cohen, Medicine
David Hill, Reporter
Diane Christian, English
Paul Luce, Psychology
Andy Stott, English
Peter Biehl, Anthropology
Beth Del Genio, President's Office
Marcia Zubrow, Law Library
Teresa Miller, Provost's Office

Meeting began at 3:05pm

1. Approval of the minutes from 4/15/14
 - The body voted to approve the minutes from the April, 15, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.
2. Housekeeping
 - There was a question raised as to whether or not there was a quorum at the April 15th meeting and after revue of the attendance it was determined that yes, there was a quorum.
 - With the passing of Bill Baumer the Faculty Senate is without a Parliamentarian. In the Interim, for this meeting, Robert Burkard has agreed to serve as today's Parliamentarian.
 - The meeting is also happening simultaneously in at the Center of Excellence downtown with one member in attendance at that location. This is a pilot to see if virtual conferencing is a viable option for future meetings.
 - With the retirement of Edward Herman the faculty senate is in need of a Secretary. A call was placed over the summer and only Cynthia Tysick responded to the call. A vote was called of the Faculty Senate for Cynthia Tysick as Secretary.
 - James Holstun called into question the validity of the process, stating that there needed to be a full election for the position.
 - Ezra did not feel it was necessary, that having only one candidate answer the call was sufficient. The Faculty Senate did not have the funds to run a full election of all voting faculty for the position of Secretary.
 - A vote was called and Cynthia Tysick was voted in as Secretary of the Faculty Senate to finish Ed Herman's term.
3. Report of the President
 - SUNY Board of Trustees were on campus this summer (6/16-6/17). We tried to highlight the education and research here at UB. They were impressed by the university and would like to hold future meetings here.
 - Middle States Reaccreditation is complete. The President acknowledged the hard work of all faculty, staff and students in the process.
 - The EOC Building was dedicated to Arthur Eve. The President praised Mr. Eve's dedication to education and important role he played in the city of Buffalo.
 - Alex Cartwright has taken a position within SUNY as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of the State University of New York system. Dr. Venu Govindaraju will be the Interim Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development.
 - Robert Granfield is now the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.
 - The Alumni Association event at Larkinville was a huge success with 400 present.
 - The President will be giving his State of University address on October 17th at 11:00am in Slee Hall.

4. General Education Reform presentation

- Ezra announced that the first reading of the New General Education Proposal will be done at the November 4th meeting of the Faculty Senate with the 2nd reading and vote, assuming a quorum, to be done at the December Faculty Senate meeting.
- Andy Stott opened with the history of UB General Education and the need for reform after over twenty years.
 1. Current lack of identity, coherence, and sense of purpose.
 2. Too many exemptions and waivers are given out. With less than 40% of all undergraduates completing the full General Education program.
 3. Assessment is difficult.
 4. Student opinion holds the General Education Curriculum as something to “get through” and having no value to their education.
 5. It fails to inspire academic curiosity.
- The Steering Committee recommends 40 credits regardless of major with very limited and strict waiver abilities.
 1. Core component is integrative learning with a paths of inquiry approach that loops back to what a student has already learned throughout their academic career.
 2. It would consist of:
 - a. First year Experience: Honors College, Departmental first year programs, and UB101 would not go away. This would be a course taught by senior, ladder faculty.
 - b. Communicative Literacy: Students as writers with oral communication added into the curriculum. The original draft for this course has been updated from the June 2014 report with the learning outcomes reorganized and prioritized to better meet the goals and objectives of the New General Education program.
 - c. Math/Quantitative Reasoning: Will go beyond the Algebra and Trigonometry and include a liberal arts focus on quantitative reasoning. Students would be required to take this course early in the UB career. The committee saw this course as offering unique ways for disciplines who don't normally collaborate on course development to work together.
 - d. Scientific Inquiry: Will expand students' understanding of scientific domains and increase scientific literacy.
 - e. Thematic Clusters: Will be courses created in the departments that revolve around 2 of the UB2020 themes. Students would be required to take 3 courses.
 - f. Global Cluster: Students will have 3 options. 1) Foreign language track for 9 credits. 2) International experience for 6 credits 3) 3-3 credit courses with a significant global or diversity focus.

- g. Transfer students: need more positive experience with UB General Education. With a limited number of waivers in the new program these students will begin to feel more a part of the General Education experience. There is a proposed 3 credit Transfer Seminar, that would replace the First year Experience for these students.
 - h. Capstone: using an eportfolio students will reflect and collect coursework for inclusion into the portfolio throughout the General Education program. In the junior year they will work to assure all relevant and required representations of their General Education experience are in the ePortfolio.
- Open Discussion (there were multiple microphones and some members of the audience did not hold the microphone up to their mouth, therefore exact transcripts were impossible to obtain for most of the open mic sessions)
 - Robert Burkard: in regards to quantitative and scientific reasoning. What he heard today was a little better than was he had been told. However, he did still feel this was a watering down of the curriculum. He was also pleased to learn that students would still be required to take Undergraduate Learning Center math courses if necessary. He raised the concern regarding input necessary from accrediting bodies within disciplines/departments.
 - Audience member (name unknown): slow down. Beta test parts or all of this for a year.
 - Audience member (name unknown): Empower the program more, be flexible. It's innovative and interesting but can't figure out how to retool current courses. Details are missing, would like to see the money trail for this new program.
 - Susan Udin: 44 new FTEs with only 9 of those being tenure track. Who are the 35? She raised concerns about who was doing the teaching.
 - 1. Andy referred to the Resource Report added to the updated New General Education Reform proposal that calls for a net in new faculty with a total of 45 FTEs (specific tenure track count not given).
 - Steve Dyson: Enthusiastic about the program but wanted to know if the committee had looked at what high schools students are currently learning and doing. Also, will there be an environmental impact study done at the departmental level.
 - 1. Andy noted that there will be a 2 year "hold harmless" policy. This is has an element of calculated risk.
 - Lynn Young: what will be the process for submitting new courses.
 - 1. Andy advised that once the curriculum is approved by Faculty Senate there will be a call for new courses. It will take approximately 2 years from course creation to implementation.
- 5. Department of Jewish Thought

- Diane Christian reported that the Faculty Senate Academic Planning and Assessment Committee reviewed the proposal and recommends not to move forward with a Department of Jewish Thought at this time.
 - Bruce Pittman, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave a presentation to the Faculty Senate outlining the justification for the formation of the department. Highlights include the uniqueness of the program within SUNY and the potential to create Masters and Ph'D. programs within the next two to three years.
 - Martha McCluskey asked who were the members of the committee and how did they meet?
 - Diane replied that they were a standing committee but did not give the member names.
 - Gabriela Popescu asked what are the advantages of having a department rather than an interdepartmental program.
 - Bruce replied the main advantage was programmatic focus that included study, students, and academic scholarship.
 - Gabriela asked if they could just have a program without a department.
 - Bruce replied that a department would have gravitas, higher standing, and be longer lasting than a program that could come and go.
 - Paul Zarembka: Why not have departments of Islamic, Christian, and Atheist thought. What was so special about Jewish Thought?
 - Bruce: students, faculty, and staff have been asking for this department for decades.
 - James Holstun: Diane's committee says that it fails as a Department of Jewish Studies but we are voting on a Department of Jewish Thought, what is the difference?
 - Richard Cohen then presents his letter. (see attached)
 - Ezra: it is now 4:30p and we are technically at the end of our meeting. Should we vote now?
 - Martha: motions to ask for further discussion and refer it back to the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee for a second report.
 - Ernest Sternberg: Asks the Faculty Senate to reconsider the makeup of the committee and amends Martha's motion to recommend that it not go back to the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee but back to Faculty Senate Executive Committee to assign the task to another committee.
 - Diane disavows Ernie's comments regarding herself and her work on the committee, noting that it was a committee report not the report of one individual.
 - Member (name unknown) noted that UB lacks a theological studies department and would benefit from having one but that the Faculty Senate needed to be prepared to support departments of Islamic and Christian thought as well.
 - Member (name unknown) wanted to know how this department would interact with other departments or schools like Law and Medicine?
 - At this point it was voted on and determined that there was no longer a quorum.
6. Ezra opened floor back up for comments on the New General Education Reform.

Time was 5:07pm Secretary left the meeting. Discussion continued for another 45 minutes.