

## FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of February 7, 2006

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate (FS) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at the Center for Tomorrow to consider the following **agenda**:

1. 2nd reading - Faculty Code of Conduct - ad hoc Code drafting committee
2. 1st reading - Change of course resignation date - W. Baumer
3. Approval of the minutes of December 6, 2005
4. Report of the Chair
5. Report of the President/Provost
6. Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Farmingdale, NY - P. Nickerson
7. Old/New business
8. Adjournment

### **Item 1: 2nd reading - Faculty Code of Conduct - ad hoc Code drafting committee**

Chair Nickerson explained that today's action items were moved to the top of the agenda because a quorum was more likely to be present earlier in the meeting.

Professor Samuel D. Schack, a member of the ad hoc Code drafting committee, began by indicating sections of the Code that had been changed following the discussion at the December FS meeting:

- The term "faculty" is now defined in Section 2 as "all individuals entrusted with instructional or research responsibilities."
- Section 3 is now titled "Ethical Principles in Practice."

- The second bullet under "Scholars" in Section 3 now refers to "scholarly and creative activities."
- Under "Teachers" in Section 3, the bullet that previously said "expected to know the law and University policies." now says simply "expected to know University policies," since everyone can't be expected to know the law.
- Under "Colleagues" in Section 3, a sentence has been added to clarify that "All faculty must honor the confidentiality of faculty evaluations and searches."
- "University Citizens" in Section 3 clarifies that full-time faculty have a primary responsibility to the university." It also seeks to be realistic by stating, "Faculty are not to make systematic use of university facilities, supplies, staff or students for personal financial gain."
- "Community Citizens" now says "Faculty members should be aware that their public statements may be understood as speaking for the University and consequently should take care not to represent personal opinions as University opinions."

The ad hoc committee discussed whether to address faculty's role as clinicians in the Code but elected not to because it's meant to apply to all faculty university-wide. Special obligations that pertain to individual schools should be covered in a similar statement that might be developed at the school level.

Questions and comments mostly dealt with suggested wordsmithing. The following changes were approved for the final version of the document:

- Instead of saying "all possible conflicts of interest," the first bullet under "Scholars" (Section 3) should be shortened to "Faculty will fully disclose all conflicts of interest."
- The last bullet under "Scholars" (Sect. 3) should be changed to: "Faculty will not intentionally distort or misrepresent research data."
- "Unreimbursed" should be added in the first paragraph under "University Citizens" (Sect. 3) so it reads "Faculty are not to make systematic, unreimbursed use of university facilities."

- The Code won't become law. It's not an administrative document, and it's not a contract. It's intended simply to be a guide to professional behavior so UB faculty members can know what is expected of them as university employees.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the "Faculty Code of Conduct." It was supported by a unanimous vote and will now be sent on to President Simpson.

### **Item 2: 1st reading - Change of course resignation date - W. Baumer**

Professor William H. Baumer is chair of the FS Grading Committee, which is recommending the following change to the time period during which a student may resign a course:

"A student may unilaterally resign a course without penalty through the eleventh week of a Fall or Spring semester, and through the first two-thirds of any other academic term. Any resigned course shall be included in the student's record of study with a grade of 'R', but no credits shall be accrued and neither the grade nor the credits shall be included in computation of grade point averages; the student may again enroll in the course in any subsequent academic semester or term."

A student may petition to resign a course after the resignation date by specifying extenuating circumstances justifying the late resignation. This petition is normally a request for administrative withdrawal; if that is granted, the grade recorded is 'W'.

### **Item 3: Approval of the minutes of December 6, 2005**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

### **Item 4: Report of the Chair**

Chair Nickerson's report was distributed with the agenda. Topics included:

- Chancellor Ryan visited our campus and interacted with the Faculty Senate and Professional Staff Senate in January. SUNY Faculty Senate Chair Carl Wiezalis also spoke at that event. Professor Wiezalis said he would like to return to UB in the spring when he could have more time to interact with our FS.
- In the latest Chronicle of Higher Education, a list of college and university endowments shows that the SUNY System's is \$463,214 million; that makes it no. 119.
- Class photo lists became available to instructors this semester. The idea for this came from the FS Committee on Teaching & Learning.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) spent the last two meetings discussing UB's plan for Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment. The state-mandated plan calls for external measures to assess three aspects of general education: mathematics, writing, and critical thinking.

### **Item 5: Report of the President/Provost**

None

### **Item 6: Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Farmingdale, NY - P. Nickerson**

Chair Nickerson was one of the SUNY senators and governance leaders who attended the January 26-28 SUNY Senate meeting at SUNY-Farmingdale. His report, which was distributed with the agenda, included:

- Kimberly Cline is the new chief financial officer for the SUNY system.
- The SUNY provost has established a committee to develop a campus application strategy for the Faculty Development initiative.

- Applications for "Conversations in the Disciplines" are due by April 1, 2006. The SUNY Senate passed a unanimous resolution to restore annual funding for CITD to \$50,000.
- The SUNY Senate Undergraduate Committee is sponsoring an academic integrity symposium on March 23-24 in Albany.
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- SUNY counsel has previously opined that the Open Meetings law is not applicable to campus faculty senates.
- SUNY Provost Peter Salins has confirmed that he will leave that post and return to a teaching and research position at SUNY-Stony Brook.

## **Item 7: Old/New business**

None

## **Item 8: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Hepfer  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

ATTENDANCE (P = present; A = absent; E = excused)

**Chair** - P. Nickerson

**Secretary** - W. Hepfer

**Parliamentarian** - W. Baumer

**Architecture & Planning** - GS Danford (P)

**Arts & Sciences** - S. Bennett (A), R. Bobe (P), J. Buscaglia (P), J. Campbell (P), M. Churchill (P), V. Danilovic (P), L. Dryden (P), J. Faran (P), S. Gabriel (A), R. Giese (P), R. Hoeing (E), E. Juarros-

Daussa (A), C. Lamb (P), M. Lo (P), A. Markelz (P), N. Matthews (P), J. Mendoza (P), S. Rothenberg (A), SD Schack (P), N. Shiode (P), L. Simms (A), D. Street (P), K. Takeuchi (P), J-C Thill (A), G. Timler (P), R. Woodard (P), J. Yu (P)

**Dental Medicine** - P. Bradford (P), M. Donley (E), G. Ferry (E), E. Pantera (P), J. Zambon (P)

**Education** - M. Kibby (A), J. Lee (P), L. Malavé (A), T. Schroeder (P)

**Engineering & Applied Sciences** - P. Alexandridis (P), C. Alphonse (P), C. Basaran (P), G. Dargush (P), K. Lewis (P), D. Pados (A), A. Titus (P) , R. Wetherhold (P)

**Informatics** - J. Ellison (P)

**Law** - S. Ghosh (A), T. Miller (A), J. Milles (P)

**Management** - J. Boot (P), S. Gunn (P), W. Lin (A), M. Trivedi (P)

**Medicine & Biomedical Sciences** - D. Amsterdam (E), M. Dayton (A), W. Fiden (P), E. Fine (P), W. Flynn (A), L. Harris (P), J. Hassett (A), L. Hernan (A), P. Joshi (E), T. Langan (A), V. Li (A), A. Manyon (A), N. Miele (P), R. Noble (P), A. Posner (A), J. Sauret (A), J. Sharp (P), G. Snyder (A), J. Springate (P), G. Sufrin (E), F. Velazquez (A), A. Weinstock (P), B. Weinstock-Guttman (P)

**Nursing** - C. Curran (A), P. Wooldridge (P)

**Pharmacy** - G. Brazeau (P)

**Public Health & Health Professions** - K. Personius (A)

**Social Work** - B. Rittner (A)

**SUNY Senators** - W. Baumer (P), HW Coles (P), H. Durand (P), P. Nickerson (P)

**University Libraries** - J. Adams-Volpe (P), HA Booth (P), M. Kramer (P), D. Tao (P)

**Guests** - B. Burke (EDAAA), M. Cochrane (Reporter), L. Labinski (Professional Staff Senate), J. Ludwig (CAS), L. Meister (Undergrad. SA), S. Nolan-Weiss (EDAAA), K. Saunders (VPUE)