

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of May 3, 2005

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate (FS) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at the Center for Tomorrow to consider the following **agenda**:

1. Approval of the minutes of April 5, 2005
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Report on the SUNY Senate meeting in Syracuse – M. Kramer
5. Discussion of the elements of the Faculty Code of Conduct
6. Recent developments in the College of Arts & Sciences – U. Sukhatme
7. Old/New business
8. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of April 5, 2005

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson's report included:

- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) recently passed two resolutions. The first was: BE IT RESOLVED that the FSEC, acting for the Faculty Senate, expresses thanks to President Simpson for encouraging the extensive involvement of the faculty in the UB2020 planning process.
- The second resolution was: BE IT RESOLVED that the FSEC, acting for the Faculty Senate, recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Loyce Stewart as Director of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Affirmative Action, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FSEC expresses extreme regret at her untimely death and extends our sympathy to her family.

- The FSEC met with Dr. Anne Huot, chief of staff for the SUNY provost. She talked about Mission Review II and the forthcoming campus visit of the interlocutors.
- UB's Interim Director of Athletics, William Maher, reported on athletics to the FSEC. At another session, Professor Charles Fournier discussed some new NCAA academic regulations and their implications for UB's Division I-A teams.
- The FSEC also heard reports from Pat Armstrong, director of admissions; Joseph Krakowiak, director of UB's residence halls & apartments; and Sharon Mitchell, director of student health & wellness.
- The FS Grading Committee has been working on possible revisions to UB's academic integrity policy and the policies for undergraduate and graduate student grievances. These will be dealt with early in the fall semester.

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

Provost Tripathi said he's been at UB for almost a year now. It's been an exciting year, and he's pleased by all that's been accomplished during the planning process. He just left one of the UB2020 envisioning retreats and is very gratified by the turnout and participation. It's good to see faculty and administrators coming together to talk about their work, research, and the future of the university.

Important positions have been filled during the past year; other searches are underway, some nearing completion.

Questions & comments:

- UB currently lacks a "brand" that could help our recruitment and retention efforts. How can we promote the excellence that's been identified during the UB2020 process? (Dryden)
- Vice Provost Mike Ryan and Vice President Dennis Black are working on a report that addresses these issues. Retention has improved in recent years – it's now above 84% -- but there's still plenty that needs to be done. (Tripathi)

- The planning process has energized the campus. Thanks are due to President Simpson and Provost Tripathi for initiating UB2020, and for emphasizing undergraduate education during last Friday's Celebration of Excellence. (Adams-Volpe)
- UB does a lot for Honors students, but many other worthy students have financial difficulties. We should do more to help them. (Coles)
- What's the status of the UBSummer program? (Labinski)
- Lectures were presented nearly every day last summer. There was a charge, and they weren't very well attended and didn't make money. This year we're going to focus on areas of excellence and offer weekly lectures that will be free. (Tripathi)
- It's refreshing that the planning process has made academic life a top priority. It's brought faculty together to collaborate on many important issues. This type of intellectual endeavor should be continued after the planning process is done by offering programs where faculty could come together just to discuss ideas. A guest lecturer could be invited to present a provocative topic to stimulate discussion. (Schack)

Item 4: Report on the SUNY Senate meeting in Syracuse – Marilyn Kramer

SUNY Senator Marilyn Kramer summarized her "Report of the 140th Plenary Meeting [of the] SUNY Faculty Senate," which was distributed with today's agenda. Highlights included:

- Professor Carl Wiezalis (Upstate Medical University) was elected Senate President for the 2005/07 term.
- Chancellor King provided a legislative update on matters affecting SUNY. He was applauded and honored with a "Friend of the SUNY Faculty Senate" award on the occasion of his imminent resignation as Chancellor.
- Provost Salins discussed the upcoming conference in Syracuse, "Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment: Continuing the Dialogue."

- Dan Sheppard (SUNY Office of Finance & Business) presented an update on the legislative budget, which provides \$2.06 billion in core instructional funding for State-operated and statutory campuses; this is a 4.1% increase.
- The Governance Committee presented a panel discussion on faculty evaluation of senior-level administrators. The emerging principles were that the process requires a strong, institutional culture of faculty governance, and it's not a "one size fits all" process.

Item 5: Discussion of the elements of the Faculty Code of Conduct

Chair Nickerson solicited comments regarding a faculty code of conduct. President Simpson has asked the FS to develop a statement regarding what is proper, professional behavior. The code is likely to address expectations, but not enforcement or penalization issues.

Professional Staff Senate (PSS) Chair Larry Labinski reported that the PSS Policy & Governance Committee has been revising their code of ethics. The new version will be voted on by the PSS in the fall, and perhaps it could eventually be merged with the FS document.

Several existing policies need to be considered when the faculty code of conduct is drafted, including:

- Faculty/Staff Handbook (available online
[at http://www.business.buffalo.edu/UBBContent/Hrs/facultyhandbook/I.htm](http://www.business.buffalo.edu/UBBContent/Hrs/facultyhandbook/I.htm))
- Policies of the Board of Trustees
- UB Sexual Harassment Policy
- FS policy on faculty-student relationships

Item 6: Recent developments in the College of Arts & Sciences – Uday Sukhatme

Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), Uday Sukhatme,

reported on recent CAS activities and initiatives. CAS is the largest academic unit at UB with 13,000 students and 450 faculty in 30 departments. Disciplines span the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Research funding has grown by 60% in the past two years. In 2002, the size of the CAS faculty was small compared to other AAU institutions, and our graduate stipends weren't competitive. A strong recruitment effort, however, led to a 20% increase in the number of faculty, including several with outstanding academic credentials. We were also able to increase graduate student stipends by \$2,000.

Several faculty-generated "signature" centers have been created to support interdisciplinary research and collegiality:

- Center for 21st Century Music
- Center for Visual Studies
- Center for Film Arts
- Arts Administration Program
- Geographic Information Sciences
- Center for Molecular Diversity
- Center for Excellence on Human Capital
- Nanomedicine
- Center for Children & Families
- Buffalo Ontology Institute
- Humanities Institute
- Center in Augmentative Communication

Other CAS initiatives include:

- Promotion & tenure workshops/guidelines
- Library funds for new hires
- Departmental assessments
- CAS in Point, e-newsletter

- UB Summer lecture series

A “snow map” was commissioned to showcase GIS expertise and to aid in recruiting. Contrary to Buffalo’s snow-laden reputation, the map (online at <http://cas.buffalo.edu/commentary/buffalo-weather.html>) shows that the largest snowfalls occur south of the city. The campuses, which are located to the north, actually average a relatively modest amount, comparable to many other U.S. cities.

CAS aims to improve the undergraduate educational experience. Its goals for 2005-2008 include having every department ranked in the top half for comparable institutions, with at least seven departments in the top quartile. It also aspires to increase staff size to 300, research funding to \$30 million, and fundraising commitments to \$5 million per year. Other plans involve furthering undergraduate involvement in research and Study Abroad.

Item 7: Old/New business

None

Item 8: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 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 (A), K. MacKay (P)

Arts & Sciences – R. Allen-King (P), S. Bennett (P), S.

Bruckenstein (A), J. Buscaglia (P), M. Chen (P), M. Churchill (P), M. Detty (A), L. Dryden (P), J. Faran (P), A. Graves (A), T. Gregg (A),

R. Hoeing (P), C. Lamb (P), M. Lichtel (P), A. Markelz (A), N. Matthews (P), P. McDevitt (A), J. Mendoza (A), A. Monteiro (A), J. Pappas (A), S. Rothenberg (E), S. Schack (P), D. Street (P), K. Takeuchi (A), J-C Thill (P), T. Thurston (A), G. Timler (P), P. Vanouse (A), D. Wackerroth (A), C. Welch (P), R. Woodard (E), J. Yu (A)

Dental Medicine – P. Bradford (P), M. Donley (P), E. Pantera (A), J. Zambon (P)

Education – J. Hoot (P), X. Liu (P), L. Malave (P), T. Schroeder (P)

Engineering & Applied Sciences – A. Aref (P), C. Basaran (P), A. Bisantz (P), S. Chen (A), J. Jensen (P) K. Lewis (P), P. Lin (P), R. Wetherhold (P)

Informatics – J. Ellison (A)

Institutional General – O. Mixon (A)

Law – D. Filvaroff (A), R. Reis (A), L. Swartz (A)

Management – J. Boot (A), S. Gunn (P), C. Pegels (P), N. Suresh (P)

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences – D. Amsterdam (P), F. Baddoura (A), C. Cohan (P), M. Dryjski (P), J. Evans (A), J. Figueroa (A), E. Fine (P), W. Flynn (A), J. Gibbs (A), H. Hameer (E), L. Harris (P), J. Hassett (P), D. Holmes (P), T. Langan (A), V. Li (A), F. Loghmanee (P), A. Manyon (A), N. Miele (E), A. Posner (P), J. Sauret (A), J. Sellick (P), R. Stephan (A), G. Sufrin (A), F. Velazquez (A), B. Weinstock-Guttman (P)

Nursing – P. McCartney (P), P. Wooldridge (A)

Pharmacy – K. Boje (A), G. Brazeau (P)

Public Health & Health Professions – C. Crespo (A), G. Farkas (P)

Social Work – S. Green (A), B. Rittner (A)

SUNY Senators – W. Baumer (P), W. Coles (P), M. Kramer (P), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries – J. Adams-Volpe (P), HA Booth (P), S. Davis (P), C. Tysick (A)

Guests – P. Balzano (Student Assn.), M. Cochrane (Reporter), L. Labinski (Professional Staff Senate)