

## FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of February 1, 2005

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate (FS) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, at the Center for Tomorrow to consider the following **agenda**:

1. Approval of the minutes of December 7, 2004
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President on a tuition policy proposal
4. Update on UB2020 – S. Tripathi
5. Mission Review II – S. Tripathi
6. Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Albany – W. Coles, III
7. Old/New business
8. Adjournment

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of December 7, 2004**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

### **Item 2: Report of the Chair**

Chair Nickerson's report included:

- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), in collaboration with the FS Committee on Teaching & Learning, interviewed the six finalists for the position of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.
- The Provost has announced an opportunity for faculty to participate in a leadership program offering the opportunity to learn about administration at the presidential/provostial level. The program is open to faculty members holding the rank of full professor.

- Phase I of the planning process has been completed. FS committees will be asked to work on areas identified in the first phase.
- According to the Standing Orders of UB's Faculty Senate, elected senators have an obligation to attend its meetings. "If an elected Senator and his/her Alternate are absent from two consecutive meetings of the Senate, or from three meetings during the academic year, without explanation of such absence satisfactory to the Chair of the Senate... or if an elected Senator and his/her Alternative are absent from four meetings during the academic year even with explanation, the Senator's membership in the Senate shall cease..." Please designate an alternate and notify Anna Kedzierski (645-2003, kedziers@buffalo.edu) of that person's name if you have not already done so.
- The FS Affirmative Action Committee is still working on a handbook for recruitment and retention. They have met with the Provost and Chief of Staff to review progress on diversity by the Academic Planning and Academic Support committees.
- The Secretary of the Faculty Senate is also the chair of the Elections Committee. Professor Hepfer will run the meeting during his report.

Professor Hepfer said that a call for nominations for Chair of the Faculty Senate had been sent out in early December. Four nominations had been received, and the nominees were contacted. Two graciously declined, and one didn't respond. That leaves Chair Nickerson as an unopposed candidate. The established procedure for this situation is for the Secretary to cast a single ballot and solicit Senate approval. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the vote, and Dr. Nickerson was re-elected as Chair for 2005/07.

### **Item 3: Report of the President on the tuition policy proposal**

President Simpson said he attended a meeting of SUNY campus presidents recently and heard Chancellor Robert King propose some significant changes to SUNY's tuition policy. President Simpson supports the proposal, which calls for tuition to remain the same for undergraduate freshmen over four years. This guaranteed

predictability will allow students and their families to deal better with education costs. The plan will become effective with the 2005/06 academic year.

The tuition for successive freshmen classes would be adjusted based on the Higher Education Price Index (HAPI), a national index that reflects annual education costs.

The plan also provides for tuition differentiation at SUNY institutions, so university centers will be able to charge more than the four-year colleges. Universities have higher costs because of their research mission.

Another provision of the tuition plan calls for a compact with the state whereby the state agrees to cover basic expenditures such as energy costs and increases due to negotiated salary agreements.

Savings from the plan should be devoted to providing financial aid, because we want UB to remain accessible to all deserving students. Although there likely will be a tuition increase prior to the 2005 fall semester, the long-range benefits of the plan outweigh that price hike.

#### **Item 4: Update on UB2020 – S. Tripathi**

Provost Tripathi reported that the initial stage of the academic planning process has been completed. A progress report about the first phase will soon be available on the Web at <http://www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/progress/interimreport.pdf>.

The first phase dealt with identifying UB's strategic strengths, i.e., academic areas that the university considers to be among its best opportunities for achieving significant academic prominence and recognition. These grow out of our established excellence and have their roots in the distinctiveness of our faculty, research, and creative efforts. They are often multidisciplinary and have the potential to extend the boundaries of the entire institution. Strategic strengths are socially relevant and are often concerned with emerging fields of discovery.

The 10 academic areas that have been identified as strategic strengths are:

- Aging and chronic diseases
- Artistic expression and performing arts
- Biodefense and response to catastrophic events
- Civic engagement and public policy
- Clinical sciences and experimental medicine
- Literary, cultural, and textual studies
- Information and computing technology
- Molecular understanding of biological systems
- Nanomaterials
- Bioinformatics and health sciences

The next phase of UB2020 will engage a broad cross section of the UB faculty in a visioning process. There will be a day-long retreat so selected researchers, PIs, and faculty can share their knowledge and develop a vision for each strength.

Subsequent phases will involve identifying and assessing competitive programs and sources for external funding. We'll then proceed to create an operational plan for each strategic strength.

### **Item 5: Mission Review II – S. Tripathi**

Provost Tripathi explained that the purpose of SUNY-mandated Mission Review is to provide UB and SUNY leadership with a forum for discussing our institutional aspirations for the next five years. Because the second Mission Review (MR2) coincides with our UB2020 planning activities, our responses are informed by information gathered during that process.

MR2 is a compact with SUNY in which UB commits to certain goals and conditions. In order for UB to become a top-tier public research university, for example, we need to build faculty strength and

infrastructure. With a solid infrastructure, we can begin to increase our enrollment (up to 30,000 FTE) while hiring additional faculty to support our research, teaching, and service mission.

The following investments will be necessary for UB to achieve these goals:

- Provide state tax support associated with the 1,400 FTE students UB now enrolls beyond current tax-funded levels of enrollment;
- Invest in hiring 250 additional faculty;
- Invest in a campaign to make SUNY graduate/teaching assistantship stipends among the most competitive;
- Provide UB with the capital over the next 5 years to fund our expanded research facilities and capital needs;
- Enable campuses to retain their undergraduates and graduate application fee income to build recruitment infrastructures and merit-based financial aid programs;
- Place funding for specific university-wide program allocations that predictably are allocated each year to our campus.

The MR2 Mission Summary Document is available online at <http://www.provost.buffalo.edu/MRII/missionreviewII.pdf>.

### **Item 6: Report on the SUNY Senate meeting at Albany – W. Coles, III**

SUNY Senator Coles provided a written report and summarized the main topics addressed at the recent Winter Plenary Meeting of the University Faculty Senate in Albany:

- The SUNY Senate passed a resolution strongly supporting Chancellor Robert King's leadership following recent political maneuvers to terminate his tenure in the position.
- SUNY Provost Peter Salins wants faculty to be actively involved in their campus's Mission Review process. Data on graduation rates and other concerns are available

<http://www.sysadm.suny.edu/provost/MissionReview/mr2/CAttachTable.htm> and <http://www.2.edtrust.org/edtrust>.

- All SUNY campuses have now complied with the campus-based assessment mandate. Despite assurances that the information would not be released, data had to be made public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The inclusion of much content has resulted in a positive response from media regarding SUNY's assessment initiative.
- Budget concerns include SUNY's \$85 million shortfall, the \$7.8 million cut in EOP funding, and the rising journal costs.
- The Academic Bill of Rights ([see http://www.aaup.org/statements/SpchState/billofrights.htm](http://www.aaup.org/statements/SpchState/billofrights.htm)) may become a hot topic.

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

None

## **Item 8: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 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), I. Casas (P), M. Chen (P), M. Churchill (P), M. Detty (A), L. Dryden (P), D. Eddins (A), J. Faran (P), A. Graves (A), T. Gregg (A), R. Hoeing (A), C. Lamb (P), M. Lichtel (P), A. Markelz

(P), N. Matthews (P), P. McDevitt (P), J. Mendoza (P), A. Monteiro (P), J. Pappas (A), S. Rothenberg (E), S. Schack (P), D. Street (P), K. Takeuchi (P), T. Thurston (A), G. Timler (P), P. Vanouse (P), D. Wackerroth (P), R. Woodard (E), J. Yu (P)

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

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

Engineering & Applied Sciences – C. Basaran (A), A. Bisantz (E), S. Chen (A), P. DesJardin (P), J. Jensen (P), K. Lewis (P), P. Lin (P), A. Reinhorn (A)

Informatics – J. Ellison (P)

Institutional General – O. Mixon (A)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social Work – 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 (P)

University Officers – J. Simpson, S. Tripathi

Guests – P. Balzano (Student Assn.), M. Cochrane (Reporter), L. Labinski (Professional Staff Senate), L. Meister (Student Assn.), M. Ryan (VPUE), S. Yiu (Student Assn.)