



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

FACULTY SENATE

November 4, 2014

CHAIR:

Ezra B. W. Zubrow

SECRETARY:

Cynthia Tysick

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Ernest Sternberg

ARTS & SCIENCES:

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

Paul Zarembka

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Michael Hatton
Ray Miller
Sawsun Tabba
Mine Tezal

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

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

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Maureen Boyd
Anne Perroult (excused)
Lorna Peterson
Sarah Robert
Lynne Yang

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Peter Horvath
Heather Kearns

Jim Lenker
Sue Nochajski

Donna Fabry

LAW:

Christine Bartholomew
Martha McCluskey

PHARMACY:

Alice Ceacareanu
Fred Doloresco

MANAGEMENT:

Veljiko Fotak
Jun Ru
Larry Sanders

SOCIAL WORK:

Robert Keefe (absent)
Kathleen Kost

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

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

SUNY SENATORS:

Henry Durand (excused)
Adly Fam
Kathleen Kielar
Rober Van Wicklin

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Glendora Johnson-Cooper
Ophelia Morey
Margie Wells

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Richard Gronostajski

GUESTS:

Elaine Cusker, Academic Affairs
Krista Hanypsiak, Honors College
Kira Lowe, Enrollment Management
Alex Reid, English
John Wood, International Education
Maria Chavan, Undergraduate Education
Gail Willsky, Biochemistry
David Hill, Reporter
Diane Christian, English
Paul Luce, Psychology
Dagobert Soergel, Library and Information Science
Andy Stott, English
Peter Biehl, Anthropology
Kara Saunders, Registrar
Natalie Simpson, Op Mgt & Strategy
Teresa Miller, Provost's Office

NURSING:

Grace Dean

Meeting began at 3:03pm

1. Approval of the minutes from 10/07/14
 - The body voted to approve the minutes from the April, 15, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.
2. Approval of new Parliamentarian
 - Richard Gronostajski, School of Medicine, was nominated and approved as the new Parliamentarian.
3. Report of the Chair
 - SUNY will be charging a \$14 million tax for systems administration to each campus based on their revenues. As a result Stony Brook and UB will bear most of the cost.
 - FSEC accepted the Decanal Review committee report and will present it to the Faculty Senate after the Provost and President have had to a chance to review the report and offer comments.
 - During the October Faculty Senate meeting the chair thought that there would be enough time and proper procedures to conduct a vote of the proposed changes to the undergraduate General Education curriculum at the December 2nd meeting; however, under review it was determined that you have to have a formal bill/resolution read before a discussion. In order to keep the December 2nd timeline a second meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for November 18th to allow for amendments to the proposal and more comments.
4. Change of Faculty Senate meeting times.
 - Paul Zarembka, Economics, motioned to move the Faculty Senate meeting times from 3p-4:30p to 3:30p-5p in order to allow senators from downtown and south campus more time to make the commute.
 - Cindi Tysick, FS Secretary, argued that this move would hamper the ability for junior faculty to participate in Faculty Senate due to child care issue. A majority of local child care providers close at 5:30p and if the senate meetings were ever to go over by just a few minutes senators with children would be in jeopardy of paying a hefty fine; thus, choosing not to volunteer to become a senator and participate in governance.
 - Motion was defeated by a vote of 24-no/15-yes
5. Change to Undergraduate General Education
 - Ezra read a resolution written by Faculty Senator Peter Horvath to implement a new Undergraduate General Education Program (attach/link here).
 - Ezra pointed out that this proposal was a result of the work of hundreds of faculty over a two year period, with the Faculty Senate appointing members to many of the subcommittees that were developed during the process.
 - Diane Christian, Chair of the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee, commented that members of her committee found the proposal to be pedagogically sound, innovative, and a comprehensive approach to undergraduate general education. She was in awe of it and

asked the Faculty Senate to embrace it. The proposal has the proper administrative resources and oversight lacking in the current model. She felt we'd be crazy not to embrace it!

- Gabriela Popescu, Chair of the Tenure, Promotions & Privileges committee, raised the point that we don't have enough information to determine who this new program will impact faculty promotion and tenure.
- James Jensen, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, does not have a formal report yet from his group but the committee has met repeatedly with Dean Stott and are in support of the proposal.
- Ken Dauber, English, felt that the senators really needed to read the document because it seems to take the "general" out of General Education.
- A senator brought up the lack of academic rigor and the resources outlined as an adjunctification of faculty with major hiring going to non-tenure track, permanent faculty. The same senator also called for an improvement to what we already have and adding the First Year Experience to it. A Major and 2 thematic Minors sets us back as a university of merit.
- Peter Horvath, Nutrition, noted that we already require students to complete 7 out of the 10 SUNY GER and will continue to do so with the new program. As for academic rigor-it is a mistake to think that faculty on the proposed oversight committee will not have the ability and knowledge to assure the rigors of the program. We will not silos but more collaborations as courses are created. This allows students to be exposed to more disciplines. Global diversity is an issue in the new program that should be discussed but we aren't watering the curriculum down. As for adjunctification, we should encourage full faculty to deliver as much of the content as we can but acknowledge that adjunct from departments may be called to teach some of these courses.
- Paul Zarembka called the luncheons with Dean Stott as "eye opening" and asked, are we letting students leave UB without any course in U.S. diversity or pluralism? If so it would not be difficult to correct, just add one course in American Pluralism under the Global Cluster.
- Dean Stott welcomed amendments to the proposal and pointed out that he was currently working with Henry Durand in regards to the diversity components of the new program. The General Education committee wanted to reinforce domestic diversity learning. He pointed out that American Pluralism as a course has been eroded over time with only 24% of students taking it, the rest receive various exemptions. This course is not SUNY GER compliant as it is currently taught. He never said courses should be retired, rather they should be placed within departments that will own them.
- Teresa Miller, VPEI spoke about domestic diversity as it is represented in the new program. Rather than put in one area, Global Clusters she saw it as being infused throughout the new curriculum. Diversity learning will/could be woven into courses like scientific inquiry, foreign language

study, and communicative literacy. The vision is not a single point for diversity learning, rather across the curriculum. It's iterative, covering systems of oppression and power.

- A senator felt the requirement for departments to teach a Freshman seminar under the First Year Experience course was unrealistic given his department's size. That type of course could only be taught by adjuncts so can they opt out of this requirement.
- Peter Horvath said a lot of departments are concerned about having faculty to teach the first year seminar but doesn't think this is a requirement. How that will be implemented is another question.
- Dean Stott pointed out that it is not a mandate, imply an opportunity to use resources if your department approves.
- James Holstun, English, asked if the resolution discussed SUNY GER and also asked about the hope that the program had that 50% + of the courses would be taught by ladder faculty with a size cap of 24 students.
- Peter Horvath-The report does talk about the SUNY GER and mapping and referred senators to the document's appendix. There is a hope (stressed) that tenured faculty will teach these first year seminars and the cap has been set to 26 students.
- Peter Biehl, Anthropology Chair and Chair of the General Education Reform Resources Committee, has created a resources cost model that is very robust so any changes we make to the proposal we can plug into the model and get an updated resources report. As soon as this proposal is approved we can begin creating new courses, and we have two years from course proposal to a course starting.
- Ezra understood that if you take the present cost of General Education plus the additional funds the Provost has committed that you will have a zero sum.
- Peter Biehl, not quite but close. He also clarified that the resource request is not for adjuncts but for clinical faculty.
- Ken Dauber asked where the Provost suddenly came up with \$3million per year?
- Dean Stott said there was a zero fund transfer. Units do not pay for anything. \$14.7 million spend now and redeploying the funds and the funds the Provost pulls are from a central pool. Non-tenure faculty are hired on a term appointment of 2-3 years. We already have this type of faculty on our campus and they are fantastic. This plan has 20 fewer adjuncts; therefore, if we vote no we will be perpetuating adjuntification. We want more faculty to teach these courses.
- Ken Dauber, any reason why current adjuncts couldn't be hired as term faculty?
- Dean Stott, they could but that would be up to the departments.
- Jim Lenker, Rehabilitation Sciences, is concerned that the budget model has the potential for courses to be spread across various departments and create a competition amongst all of us. Students could end up taking a greater percentage of their courses in their department/major and get less

exposure to students from other majors. It might be harder for departments to get clinical faculty to teach just a few courses. After 2 years there will be substantial penalties to schools and departments. We will be creating a bigger pool of courses.

- Michael Cowen, Mathematics, had a procedural request for footnotes to be integrated into the proposal. There are so many and they distract from the readability of the document. He questioned why we are pushing to move so fast to pass this thing.
 - Gabriela Popescu thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and comments.
6. Ezra noted the time, thanked for their “gentlemanly behavior” during the comment period and asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made and meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted 11/17/2014 by Cynthia Tysick, Secretary.