

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of November 4, 2003

(unapproved)

The Faculty Senate (FS) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, at the Center for Tomorrow to consider the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of October 14, 2003
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the President/Provost
4. Report of the Budget Priorities Committee - S. Hamlen, chair
5. Report of the Assoc. Vice President for University Libraries - B. von Wahlde
6. Report on the SUNY Senate meeting in Oswego & a discussion of value-added assessment - W. Baumer
7. Old/New business
8. Adjournment

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of October 14, 2003

The minutes were approved as distributed

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Chair Nickerson's report was distributed with the agenda for this meeting. It included:

- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) has not yet had a chance to meet with incoming president Simpson. We'll continue trying to set up an FSEC meeting, plus we'll invite him to attend our February 3rd FS meeting, which will be our first assembly after Dr. Simpson takes office on January 1st.
- The Graduate School Executive Committee met with Vice Provost Grant and discussed governance roles (meaning, purpose, and authority) of the Graduate School.
- There may be some changes in the Schomburg Fellowship program, which currently provides SUNY funding to encourage diversity in graduate programs. UB now pays total

tuition but is not able to support health insurance (unlike state-supported graduate students).

- Vice President Black has established an advisory committee to deal with issues related to NYS sweatshop legislation. The group has met and drafted legislation that deals with sports equipment and apparel purchased with state funds.
- UB Council chair Jeremy Jacobs indicated at a recent Council meeting that they would like to have more authority for academic issues and also on matters of the physical plant.
- Several FS committees have met and discussed agenda items for the coming year.
 - o The Committee on Research & Creative Activity met with Vice President Turkkan to consider interdisciplinary research.
 - o The Library Committee has discussed matters that were raised at a recent FSEC meeting.
 - o The Budget Priorities Committee approved the statement on UB's budget that will be presented later in the meeting.
 - o The Teaching & Learning Committee acts as an advisory committee to the Center for Teaching & Learning Resources, which will be sponsoring workshops and conferences throughout the year.
 - o The Computer Services Committee met with Carole Ann Fabian, the new director of the Educational Technology Center (ETC).

Item 3: Report of the President/Provost

None

Item 4: Report of the FS Budget Priorities Committee - Susan Hamlen, chair

Professor Hamlen said that the poor economy forced New York State to reduce expenditures, which led to cutting base budgets of all state agencies, including SUNY. UB was particularly impacted because our state operating budget is higher than campuses that don't have a health sciences center. Our state tax support was reduced by \$32 million, but we were able to generate revenue through tuition and fee increases. UB's \$950 undergraduate tuition increase was the first tuition increase in seven years. Some additional

funding came from a SUNY reallocation. The end result is that the UB state operating budget for 2003/04 is the same as the final allocation in fiscal year 2002/03, \$283 million.

Although expenses have increased, that has mostly been offset by tuition and fees from higher admission yields and increased retention. Additional revenue has also come from an increase in sponsored research activity and expanded summer programs. The Provost's Office was able to absorb all of the increased costs except for approximately 25 percent of increased scholarship amounts. No academic unit received a base budget cut, and faculty hiring was not affected.

The Provost's budget model has established predictability for units. Although the Provost's Office will try to shield units from budget cuts as much as possible, the next fiscal year is likely to see a further reduction in state funding. Units will still be able to keep portions of the money that they raise by increasing enrollment or grant support.

Chair Nickerson asked whether any new revenue enhancements are being planned. Professor Hamlen said the summer program will continue to expand.

Professor McDevitt asked about the athletics budget and whether money could be saved by dropping out of Division I-A. Professor Hamlen said that a study had been done on that a few years ago. Professor Adams-Volpe, chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Board, said that the athletic budget is now around \$13-14 million. Less than \$4 million of that is state funded, so dropping out of I-A wouldn't save much money overall. It might actually cost money in terms of reduced admissions.

Professor Zambon asked about the status of the rational tuition policy that had been discussed last year. Chair Nickerson said that it's still being discussed in Albany; the issue is still alive but remains unresolved.

Professor Schack said that the SUNY Senate should withdraw its support for the rational tuition resolution, because a rational approach can't happen in a state that has an irrational budget policy. Besides, if SUNY tuition had gone up \$100-\$150 each year for the past seven

years, students would have been paying more in the past and still be paying as much as they are now.

Item 5: Report of the Associate Vice President for University Libraries - Barbara von Wahlde

Associate Vice President von Wahlde said that the Libraries want to communicate with faculty, so she is pleased for the opportunity to discuss a few issues with the Faculty Senate. A handout packet included a list with the names of subject librarians who serve as liaisons with departments, and faculty are encouraged to contact them about any library-related questions or concerns. She and Associate Director of Libraries Steve Roberts try to meet personally with all deans at least biennially to learn about new programs and to discuss new library services and products.

The Libraries also communicate by working with the FS Information & Library Resources Committee. Faculty who are interested in library-related matters should consider volunteering to serve on that committee. In some cases, departmental library committees offer opportunities for involvement.

Science Direct is the online-journal package that has made most journals published by Elsevier Scientific accessible for the past three years. A SUNY-brokered deal with Elsevier was a great bargain when it added access to 375 journals that we didn't subscribe to, but now Elsevier is asking for a substantial cost increase to renew the package subscription. The UB Libraries expect to be able to renew the package through 2004 by doing some internal reallocations and then will seek to negotiate a multi-year deal for 2005+.

Associate Director Roberts reported that the storage facility that's been talked about for the past dozen or so years is finally going to become a reality. A deal has been made with the Hart corporation to build a new facility, which will be called the Collections Conservation Center (CCC), near the Holiday Inn on Niagara Falls Boulevard. It will be approximately 15,000 square feet in size and specially constructed to house over 1.2 million volumes of low-use books and periodicals, i.e., around one-third of the Libraries' current holdings. Construction should begin next spring, and the building will be ready for occupancy by

December 2004. Filling its 30-ft. high system of storage bins will take several years; it will free up much needed space in the already-overcrowded book and periodical collections.

Professor Boot asked how long it will take for items to be retrieved from storage. Mr. Roberts indicated that all materials will be searchable in the BISON catalog and will be made available within 24 hours of being requested. A reading room will be available on the premises, but books will be sent to faculty offices, and periodical articles will be scanned and sent as e-mail attachments.

Professor Bisantz said she's used other library Web sites that could be browsed in call number sequence and asked if that will be available here. Mr. Roberts indicated that call number searching is possible in the current BISON Catalog; it will also be a feature in a new Web-based catalog that's being developed.

Professor Salvi asked whether there are plans to digitize more library resources. Mr. Roberts said that large numbers of books and journals are already available commercially and more are in the works as vendors race to market various packages and products. Most of it is quite expensive, however, so libraries must consider how to maximize their acquisition budget. Ms. von Wahlde said that the Library of Congress and several library consortia are also involved in digitizing historical materials.

Professor Schack asked how low-use materials will be identified and whether faculty would be consulted. Mr. Roberts said that low-use books are easily identified from circulation records, and there are reshelving statistics to help identify low-use journals. Subject specialist librarians will be consulting with appropriate faculty when there are doubts about whether titles should be moved to storage. If different circumstances arise, materials will be relocated to a campus library.

Ms. von Wahlde said that the University Libraries, along with the School of Informatics and the Office of the CIO, are co-sponsoring a conference on November 11th at the Center for Tomorrow. "Publishing the Future: Scholarly Communication in an Information Age" is open to the academic community, and faculty are encouraged to attend to hear nationally

recognized leaders in scholarly communication discuss traditional and emerging issues that affect how scholarly research findings is made available.

Item 6: Report on the SUNY Senate meeting in Oswego and a discussion of value-added assessment - William H. Baumer

Professor Baumer said that University Faculty Senate (UFS) president Joe Hildreth reported on UFS activities that are underway. The UFS will request the NYS Legislature to adopt a rational fiscal policy for SUNY, and to include the UFS president as a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Interestingly, there is currently a student representative on the Board, but no faculty representation. Also worth noting, the student was the only Trustee who attended the Oswego meeting.

The main topic at the meeting was value-added assessment, also known as system-wide assessment, which the Board of Trustees is trying to impose via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was introduced without warning last June. That MOU was rejected by the UFS at the Oswego meeting, and we should support their resolution, which says:

Be it resolved that the University Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the Board of Trustees suspend implementation of its June 17 Resolution on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes in order to engage in a substantial dialog among representatives of the Provost's Office, the Board of Trustees, and faculty governance regarding University-wide campus-based assessment;

Be it further resolved that the University Faculty Senate cannot support the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on Value-Added Assessment dated September 26, 2003 but does support an ongoing discussion which will produce a mutually acceptable process of University-wide campus-based assessment;

Be it further resolved that the University Faculty Senate reaffirms its long-standing commitment to University-wide campus-based assessment, and will urge campuses to continue to implement their GEAR-approved General Education assessment plans; and

Be it further resolved that in the best interests of the education of our students, and the State University of New York, the University Faculty Senate invites the Board of Trustees and SUNY System Administration to continue to discuss the assessment of foundational skills in General Education. This may include externally referenced measures of the campus's choice that provides for campus responsibility and System Administration oversight.

Professor Baumer said that system-wide assessment may seem like a good idea at first, the vast diversity of campuses and students on SUNY campuses makes it unworkable because "one size doesn't fit all." System-wide assessment is viewed as problematic, expensive, and of dubious benefits.

CUNY schools are doing system-wide assessment, and some of their faculty claim that tests are driving content and curriculum. The tests haven't provided much useful information, although administering and scoring them costs around \$1 million a year.

Professor Wooldridge asked who would be responsible to selecting a test instrument if system-wide assessment were to be implemented. Professor Baumer said the UFS Provost's Office was responsible for drafting the MOU, but a specific test instrument has never been named. Rather, a two-year pilot phase is anticipated in which details could be worked out.

This is the first reading. The second reading and vote will occur at the December meeting.

Item 7: Old/New business

None

Item 8: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 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 - B. Ott (P)

Arts & Sciences - S. Bruckenstein (A), J. Buscaglia (A), J. Campbell (A), M. Chen (P), M.

Churchill (P), M. Cowen (P), D. Eddins (P), T. Gregg (A), R. Hoeing (P), E. Hull (A), M.

Lichter (A), J. Ludwig (P), N. Matthews (A), P. McDevitt (P), J. Mendoza (P), A. Monteiro

(A), J. Pappas (A), A. Petrou (A), R. Salvi (P), S. Schack (P), C. Smith (A), K. Takeuchi (P),

J-C Thill (A), T. Thurston (A), D. Wackerroth (P), V. Watrous (P), M. Wolderberg (A), R.

Woodard (A)

Dental Medicine - P. Bradford (A), M. Donley (A), P. Tempro (A), J. Zambon (P)

Education - K. Bilica (A), J. Hoot (A), X. Liu (P), L. Malave (P)

Engineering & Applied Sciences - A. Bisantz (P), S. Braynov (A), S. Chen (P), J. Jensen (P),

R. Mayne (A), R. Nagi (P), A. Reinhorn (A), S. Thevanayagam (A)

Informatics - F. Tutzauer (P)

Institutional General - O. Mixon (A)

Law - I. Marcus (A), R. Reis (A), L. Swartz (P)

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

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences - D. Amsterdam (E), F. Baddoura (A), J. Canty (A), C.

Cohan (A), M. Dryjski (E), J. Evans (A), W. Fiden (A), B. Flynn (A), J. Gibbs (A), H. Hameer

(A), J. Hassett (A), C. Hershey (A), J. Leddy (P), F. Loghmanee (A), G. Logue (A), F. Morin

(A), B. Murray (A), N. Nielsen (A), J. Novak (A), J. Sellick (P), R. Stephan (A), J. Yeh (A)

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

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

Public Health & Health Professions - C. Crespo (E), G. Farkas (A), S. Nochajski (P)

Social Work - S. Green (A), B. Rittner (P)

SUNY Senators - J. Adams-Volpe (P), W. Baumer (P), M. Kramer (E), P. Nickerson (P)

University Libraries - S. Bartl (P), CA Fabian (P), J. Hopkins (P), C. Tysick (P)

Guests - D. Budniewski (Reporter), B. Burke (EDAAA), L. Labinski (Prof. Staff Senate), S. Roberts (Univ. Libraries), B. von Wahlde (Univ. Libraries)