

Faculty Senate
Minutes, April 15, 2014

Chair:

Ezra Zubrow

Secretary

Edward Herman (Excused)

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Baek, So Ra (Absent)

Sternberg, Ernest (Excused)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Aldstadt Jared (Absent)

Anas Alex (Absent)

Baumer William

Churchill Melvyn

Dauber Kenneth (Excused)

Duvanova Dinissa

Dyson Stephen

Lindqvist Charlotte (Excused)

Liu Zhiqiang (Excused)

Lyon Arabella (Excused)

Mardorossian Carine (Absent)

Metcalf Sara

Morgan Peter (Absent)

Neofotistos Vasiliki (Absent)

Mardorossian Carine (Absent)

Metcalfe Sara
Morgan Peter (Absent)
Neofotistos Vasiliki (Absent)
Palmer Harvey
Sikora Adam
Stapleton Kristin
Thomas Jean-Jacques (Excused)
Weinstein Bernard (Excused)
Werner Marion (Absent)
Zarembka Paul

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Davis Elaine
Hall Richard
Tabbaa Sawsun (Excused)
Tezal Mine

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Hayden Emily (Absent)
Lee Gloria (Absent)
Wang X. Christine
Yang Lynne
Perroult, Ann

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES

Alexandridis Paschalis (Absent)
Filiatrault Andre (Absent)

Human, Christine
Jankovic, Igor
Jensen, James
Mollendorf Joseph
Sadek Adel (Absent)
Thevanayagam, Sabanayagam
Wetherhold Robert

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Burkard, Robert (Excused)
Hostler, Deann (Excused)
Markatou, Marianthi (Excused)
Tomita, Machiko (Absent)

SCHOOL OF LAW

Mather

Lynn

McCluskey Martha

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Fotak Veljko
Sanders Larry
Talukdar Debu (Absent)

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dean Grace ((Absent)
Fabry Donna

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Ceacareanu Alice (Alternate--Doloresco, Fred)

SUNY SENATORS

Fam Adly

Grinde Donald

Kielar Kathleen

Nickerson Peter (Excused)

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Adelman Elizabeth (Excused)

Johnson-Cooper Gendora

Morey Ophelia

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Keefe, Robert

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Bakhai Yogesh (Absent)

Badgaiyan Rajendra (Absent)

Barth Matthew

Bass Kathryn (Absent)

Bradford Peter

Campbell Lorne (Absent)

Chaskes Michael

Fine Edward (Excused)

Fitzpatrick Lorna (Absent)

Hassett James

Hughes David (Absent)

Iyer Vijay (Absent)

Lehman Heather (Absent)

Page Brian (Absent)

Popescu Gabriela

Sadler Laurie (Excused)

Sawyer Robert (Absent)

Shucard David (Absent)

Silvestri Nicholas (Absent)

Stachowiak Michal

Stewart Scott (Excused)

Swartz Daniel

Udin Susan

Wiles Charles

Guests

Ann Marie Landel

Second guest—Illegible

1. Approval of Minutes from March 4

The Body voted to approve the minutes of the March 4 2014 Faculty Senate meeting.

2. Report of the Chair

Professor Zubrow reported on FSEC work, such as a new structure for FSEC committees, as well as charging and populating the committees.

3. President's/Provost's Report

President Tripathi was overseas (in Japan) with University business; he did not attend the meeting. Provost Zukoski informed the Body about:

- Successful visit by the Middle States Evaluation Committee; he thanked all faculty, staff and students involved.
- The creation of a subcommittee, to be chaired by Prof. Peter Biehl, to study implementation of the Core Curriculum

- His presentations in open forums with faculty in several Schools explaining the impact of Realizing UB2020 and the outgoing call for proposals for Communities of Excellence.

4. Update on campus-wide course evaluation

Prof. Peter Biehl, the Chair of the Campus-Wide Course Evaluations Committee and Ms. Krissy Contanzo, Assistant Director of Student Success presented an update on the Committee's work and recommendations.

Biehl started by stating problems with the current evaluation process that the new initiative seeks to address. Among these:

- current evaluations are not centralized; which makes the process uneven across campuses and results are not shared across schools
- different schools work from 5 different platforms, plus paper evaluations; which makes the process cumbersome
- response rates among students are now less than 30%, thus providing an incomplete picture of student satisfaction

The goal is to achieve a response rate greater than 70%. Several features of the new evaluation process serve this goal:

- provide student access to evaluations on personal mobile media so that evaluations can be completed from anywhere
- the entire evaluation is designed to take less than 10 minutes, thus making it feasible to be completed (with faculty encouragement) at the end of any one class, and thus increasing response rates
- provide equal and instantaneous access for all students;
- offers anonymity
- provides wider more flexible analysis of results

The Committee selected the **CampusLab** system, which was deemed flexible enough to accommodate classes taught by all levels of instructors; the company maintains a 24-hour hotline to address any problems that may arise during implementation.

The system will be test-run initially in selected Schools in the fall 2014 [Click here](#) for an Executive Summary and [click here](#) for the presentation slides.

Questions and Comments:

- Don Grinde, Chair of the Faculty on Tenure and Promotions Committee
Faculty contacted Grinde, with concerns that the Campus Wide Evaluation process should have been discussed through the tenure committee prior to decisions; faculty expressed the wish to have been informed of the process earlier and thus to have had a chance to provide input, given the impact of evaluation on faculty tenure and promotions
Zubrow responded that the committee had worked under time pressure.
Biehl explained that 5 chairs from across the University and associate deans, who are routinely responsible for faculty promotions were represented within the committee and thus had direct input; in addition, the committee looked at peer campuses who already have such evaluation in place.
- Adly Fam (Professor in Electrical Engineering)
Fam asked whether the evaluations will collect data about the GPA of the student respondents;
Biehl responded that research does not support positive correlation of GPA with evaluation, and in addition, for the purpose of preserving anonymity no GPA correlation will be done;
Dinnisa Duvanova (Assistant Professor Political Science) – explained that there are ways to correlate GPA information with evaluations and also protect anonymity; the question is whether you make it available to administrators;
- Jankovic –asked what happens to the data; who is storing the information?
Biehl answered that the process will use cloud-based storage;
- Michal Stachowiak – (Professor of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences)
How is attendance linked with the privilege to evaluate?
Biehl answered this issue will be covered in training session to faculty;
- Martha Mccluskey (Professor, Law School)
Recommends that the body delay approval of the evaluation process until a comparable assessment process is instituted for administrators; such synonymously anonymous feedback would increase performance and the desire for excellence; She sees this as an urgent matter;

- Grinde: suggests other ways to correlate GPA of evaluators with evaluations, which would protect anonymity; he suggest using a range grade for a particular class;
- Zubrow raises the point that for several years concerns were brought up about the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate in advancing University business; while advancements are happening, he requests action for a resolution regarding the campus-wide evaluation proposal.

William Bauman (Parliamentarian) moves to endorse the recommendation of a single course evaluation across university.

- Zubrow asks for a vote and evaluates that a majority of votes were positive; and thus the Senate recommends the proposition from the Committee.

5. Presentation on Startup NY

Presentation was done by Ms Marnie LaVigne Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Ms. Karen Utz – Project Administrative Officer. [Click here](#) for the presentation slides.

LaVigne: This is a new program approved by NY legislators to allow eligible companies to re-locate onto SUNY campuses; eight SUNY campuses have been approved overall; UB and Buffalo State are the only two campuses in WNY approved so far.

So far, 10 companies have been selected as potential candidates;

Companies are attracted by tax free 10-year benefit on the condition of creating jobs. Overall, up to 10, 000 people can be added per year; up to a total of 70,000 jobs, which also may be personal tax free.

Utz presents the process of how are business selected and the selection process

Utz thanks Michael Chaskes for his work as the Senate rep on the Startup New York committee

Comments and Questions

Zubrow directs detailed questions to Senate

Mccluskey asked whether there are policies in place to protect academic freedom and integrity; the participation of trainees/students; to ensure experiential learning; and to uphold the quality of the educational process;

Levine responded: yes, yes, yes. The policies are in place mostly because UB has rich experience in partnering with industry (nationally and internationally, therefore support and regulatory policies for this new initiative are already in place.

Stan Swartz (Distinguished Professor, Medicine) inquired about the timeline for the new initiative; and whether the plan is connected with 43 North (43North is a business competition part of New York Governor Cuomo's Buffalo Billion initiative; it operates through the support of New York Power Authority and Launch NY).

Levine: as of now the plan is to allow new entities to enter the program within seven years, through December 2020, but this period may be extended at later time. Further she said that any applicant may be using up to 3 - 4 different programs in community; and those applying to Startup NY are also being helped to join 43 North.

Zubrow thanked Levine and Utz for the presentation and Chaskes for representing FSEC in the Startup NY initiative.

6. Discussion concerning President Tripathi's response to the FS resolution on opening UBF books.

Paul Zarembka (Professor of Economics) - reiterated that in response to a FS motion that asked President Tripathi to open UBF books, even though this is not yet required by law, the President responded that it was not in his purview to do so. Next he informed the FS that last Friday, the UUP senate chapter passed a resolution in support of UB senate motion.

Zubrow noted that due to overseas business the President is unable to attend and thus offer additional details.

Mccluskey informed the FS that the new FSEC budget committee was charged to learn more about UBF and that they requested meeting with Hubbard.

Zubrow in his capacity of FSEC chair, in conversations with the Provost decided that FSEC is a more appropriate body to listen to Hubbard's presentation on UBF, to offer as much info as possible, and facilitate a fuller discussion.

Grinde suggests that it would be informative to contact head of RF, because he and Chancellor Zimpher have already expressed interest in increasing transparency;

Zubrow explained that RF is different from the UBF; RF is part of a state agency and it handles most of UB research moneys; instead UBF handles endowments and funds from private foundations, granting agencies and donors.

Zubrow raised the issue of diminishing returns; he pointed that the basic issues have been raised and in order to make UBF FOIL-able and transparent the boards of directors have to be willing to voluntarily open books, otherwise, the law prevails. In addition, state legislation is working on redefining the nature of agency; he offered that this approach will be more productive than the opinions expressed here.

Robert Whetherhold (Professor, Mechanical Engineering) - offered the opinion that carrying out a public feud in the printed media unproductive, rather he sees the problem as being not the lack of transparency but the fact that the endowment is too small for a university of UB's size.

Lynn Mather (SUNY Distinguished Professor, School of Law) offered clarification: not all UBF administered funds are private money; rather, money that was given to UB and initially entrusted to the state until just a few years ago were shifted from State to UBF; she raised the issue of the Baldy endowment, which is the largest at UB outside the Med School;

William Baumer (Professor, Philosophy) informed the FS that he served as custodian of the ~700M Baldy fund, and at the time almost all benefited the UB; that changed, since it was no longer appropriate to run the endowment through UB, and the fund was turned to UBF. Since other endowments are administered by UBF for State, there should be more openness of UBF operations to UB trustees

Whetherhold - asked whether a quorum was still in effect, and if not he suggested the discussion should be curtailed. Mccluskey: clarifies that the issue of transparency applies to the ability of FS to exert its role in governance and the need to understand how the money is spent relates to the FS mission to ensure that the money is spent according to educational priorities.

Zubrow reiterated that legally, the Board of directors determines what the procedures, allocations and agendas are.

Shicora pointed that UBF raises money to support teaching, faculty and students using the UB name, and the concern is that UBF allocates money more on Administration rather than the students and educational programs; he also acknowledges that FS cannot do much by itself, and therefore should support Albany initiatives to open the UBF books to the public.

Zubrow pointed out that the 990 report is online; and according to Ed Schneider (CEO of UBF) the total discretionary budget is less than 2% of total budget, with state lines by far the largest majority of expenditures. He went on to say that given the advanced time (almost 5PM) the remaining items on the agenda, Resolution on the Ed TPA and the Open discussion on FS activities, should be postponed until next year.

7. Old and new business

Gabriela Popescu (Professor, Biochemistry) proposed that in lieu of Open Discussion, senate members send a brief paragraph to evaluate the work of the Senate body this past year; name one best accomplishment; name one thing to be changed.

The meeting was adjourned with no further discussion.

Prepared by
Gabriela Popescu,
Acting Secretary