

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of October 22, 1996 - (approved)
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NOTE: Due to a failure in the taping process, the proceedings were not recorded on tape. The audio tapes are crucial references for the Secretary to consult when composing complete and accurate Minutes. At this Senate meeting, the Secretary was obliged to carry the portable microphone around in the Student Union Theater to the Senators for their comments and questions, and so was not able to record the discussion in writing.

Consequently, nearly all Senate discussion during this session has been irretrievably lost. Any Senator who remembers and wishes to include his/her remarks into these Minutes may submit a draft to the Secretary.

- RGH

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:00 PM in the Student Union Theater to consider the following agenda:

1. [Approval of the Minutes from April 30, 1996](#)
2. [Report of the Chair](#)
3. [Report of the Provost](#)
4. [Draft Resolution on Budgetary Implications of Resolutions \(First Reading\)](#)
5. [University Recycling Policy](#)

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes from April 30, 1996

Pending the correction of a typographical error, the Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 30, 1996, were approved.

Item 2: Report of the Chair

Professor Welch welcomed all the senators, both old and new, for the 1996/97 academic year. He announced this as the first of nine scheduled meetings, at each of which important academic issues will be discussed. He requested that the senators fill out the membership information forms and return them to the Senate Office as soon as possible.

In stressing the importance of active, well-staffed Senate standing committees, the Chair directed the Senate's attention to a sheet (distributed prior to the meeting) summarizing all the committees and their activities since the last Senate meeting. He added that the FSEC spends a great deal of time not only in counteracting the natural "entropy" of committee membership by regularly adding persons to those committees, but also in identifying major issues for their deliberation.

One example of the committees' activities was distributed in the form of the 1995/96 Annual Report of the Grading Committee. The report explained in detail its charge, its most recent activities and areas of focus, the complications arising from certain issues (such as the policy on Academic Good Standing), and the items on its agenda for 1996/97. The latter include: promoting academic integrity, monitoring the effects of the revised policy on Academic Good Standing, and re-examining extant policies and practices on grading for uniformity and consistency over time.

Nomination ballots for Senate Chair will be sent within the next few days. Due to the complicated process of validating lists necessary for identifying Geographic Full-Time faculty (GFTs), the Senate membership will temporarily be enlarged for a two-year period while reapportionment is being carried out. In addition, the ex officio membership of the Faculty Senate has been increased by the addition of the academic Deans, following a revision of the Charter which the Senate approved last Spring.

The Chair briefly discussed highlights from the recent SUNY Senate meeting. First, the SUNY system administration is carrying out an analysis of the missions of the individual campuses; Professor Welch commented that this is an important study, encompassing a variety of issues and seeking some clarification of the roles of the various SUNY units. Secondly, SUNY is developing a system of "performance indicators" to assess the adequacy of each campus in fulfilling its mission. Thirdly, admission standards for students are once again under consideration. The structure of SUNY is being critically analyzed, and compared to the California systems of higher education. The latter comprises

three different levels, each of which has its own admissions criteria; the question arises as to whether SUNY should adopt, either fully or in part, a similar model.

Professor Welch reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meets every week to discuss one or two major topics (in addition to its on-going business) in conjunction with the appropriate standing committee(s) and administrators. He cited a few examples from the list on the committee activities sheet. The proceedings are covered regularly in The Reporter, somewhat less often in The Spectrum. Minutes for all meetings will be available electronically on WINGS.

The Chair reviewed the basic philosophy of the UB Faculty Senate: The faculty have a primary responsibility for academic programs, academic standards (including those for student admissions and graduation, for faculty appointment and advancement), as well as for other University-wide issues and plans. Governance is executed through a variety of entities, starting within the academic units; the UB Faculty Senate is the most important agent of the Voting Faculty. Yet effective governance depends on extensive consultation, a full sharing of information, a willingness to accept evaluation of what we do and how we do it, mutual trust, and respect for different and differing perspectives. The Faculty Senate is primarily an advisory body, and its effectiveness rests upon informed, active involvement, on a sense of corporate responsibility.

Item 3: Report of the Provost

Provost Headrick provided an update on UB's interactions with the SUNY administration. He reported that the Board of Trustees will be meeting in Buffalo this coming week, and that President Greiner will deliver to them a presentation he has revised several times. The basic message will be threefold:

1. He will ask the State to stop taking resources out of the University and to guarantee the current level of support over the next few years.
2. He will ask for greater flexibility in recommending tuitions to different programs, and that all revenues -- including tuition, IFR fees, RF program money, etc. -- remain on our campus and be in our control, not theirs.

3. He will ask for greater flexibility in managerial matters, particularly in managing our property, with the power to lease, to build dormitories, and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures with outside groups.

The Provost added that this will be the first opportunity to make this presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Boot questioned the wisdom of wanting to go our separate way, suggesting instead that the whole may be more than the sum of its parts. Provost Headrick replied that UB has been asking only for what every other system has in terms of flexibility and power. He added that he does not see SUNY operating as a system, nor functioning in any cooperative way; instead, it is more a set of individual operations which may have some things in common, but in effect work independently.

Professor George concurred that there may be no special advantage in regarding UB as part of a whole; but on the other hand, he asked, why should the Trustees agree to President Greiner's requests? The Provost replied that they would like to see UB become a "bigger and better" university; the problem lies in convincing them that our plan is the best way to achieve this.

Professor Sloan asked about what is being done about the replacement of deans -- whether we will have acting/interim deans, when they would be replaced, and whether a national search was being conducted. Provost Headrick answered that he will appoint a dean a search committee for deans in Social Work and in Education probably within ten days; he added that plans call for two deans in the future, each of whom would be assigned a separate large unit, but who would work together on some common programs.

Professor Woodson wanted to know whether there was any opportunity for the faculty to speak with the Board of Trustees, or whether the Trustees meet only with administrators. She wondered how they could otherwise learn about the faculty's concerns if the faculty were not allowed to speak to them. Provost Headrick replied that first, individual Trustees have met with the SUNY Senate and secondly, the meetings of the Board can be attended by anyone.

Professor Metzger asked about the current state of the Academic Plan, which has lain dormant for the last year or so. The Provost said he has been working on it "in pieces", discussing it with the deans

individually and collectively. He admitted that he had not had much time to devote to it, and that it was not moving as quickly as he had hoped.

Professor Holstun, addressing the Provost's comment that the administration was "seeking additional flexibility in contracting", asked what in particular he meant. Provost Headrick cited limits on purchasing, and possibly merging the parts of the Research Foundation with the UB purchasing operations.

Item 4: Draft Resolution on Budgetary Implications of Resolutions (First Reading)

After the Chair delivered a brief explanation of the parliamentary process concerning resolutions in the Senate, Professor Nickerson, on behalf of the Budget Priorities Committee, presented the draft resolution on the "Budgetary Implications of Resolutions from the Faculty Senate". He explained that the rationale was for the Senate to consider the costs/expenditures of the implementation of any resolution or policy it recommends to the administration. The Senate must understand that a finite budget imposes limitations on the ability to accomplish many academically important projects.

Item 5: University Recycling Policy

Walter Simpson announced a State recycling policy, established by executive order to raise the present level of recycling of solid waste from 25% to a minimum level of 50% by 1997. He displayed a model of the new waste cans which will replace the older ones. The newer unit consisted of a larger container for recyclable materials, plus a smaller one (which attaches to the larger) intended for non-recyclable waste. Simpson briefly reviewed the policy, copies of which were distributed at the meeting, and suggested in addition that we encourage waste reduction by promoting double-sided copying and using electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Hoeing,

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Present:

University Officers: T. Headrick

Chair: C. Welch

Secretary: R. Hoeing

Architecture: M. Tauke

Arts & Letters: C. Bramen, M. Frisch, J. Holstun, M. Hyde, D. Fertig, M. Metzger, A. Rozak

Dental Medicine: A. Aguirre, R. Baier, G. Ferry, W. Miller

Education: J. Hoot, L. Ilon, B. Johnstone, L. Malave, T. Schroeder

Engineering & Applied Sciences: D. Benenson, C. Bloebaum, W. George, M. Ryan

Health-Related Professions: S. Kuo

Information & Library Studies: G. D'Elia

Law: L. Swartz

Management: J. Boot, L. Brown

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: B. Albin, D. Amsterdam, C. Bloomfield, H. Douglass, C. Leach, R. Perez, J. Richert, J. Schriber, M. Spaulding

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: J. Cai, P. Calkin, J. Faran, C. Fournier, M. Sachs, R. Vesley

Nursing: M. Marecki, P. Wooldridge

Pharmacy: N. , W. Conway

Social Sciences: D. Banks, W. Baumer, J. Gayle Beck, J. Charles- Luce, V. Ebert, M. Farrell, P. Hare, P. Zarembka, L. Mattei, J. Meacham

Social Work: L. Sloan

SUNY Senators: M. Jameson, D. Malone, P. Nickerson, C. Welch

University Libraries: L. Bushallow-Wilbur, W. Hepfer, M. Kramer, D. Woodson, M. Zubrow

Absent:

Architecture: G. Danford

Arts & Letters: V. Doyno, M. Gutierrez, N. Grant, M. Horne, R. Mennen

Dental Medicine: R. Hall

Engineering & Applied Sciences: J. Atkinson, R. Wetherhold

Health-Related Professions: A. Awad, P. Horvath

Law: E. Meidinger

Management: P. Perry, R. Ramesh

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: R. Heffner, B. Noble, F. Schimpfhauser, H. Schuel, C. Smith, J. Sulewski, J. Wactawski- Wende, B. Willer

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: S. Bruckenstein, H. King, S. Schack, R. Shortridge

Social Sciences: D. Henderson, D. Pollock

Excused:

Nursing: M. Rhodes

Social Sciences: C. Sellers