

SUNY / College at Old Westbury
Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes - September 28, 2001

Present: A. Barbera, M. Barrett, R. Colòn-Urban, M. Crocitto, M. Dolan, J. Edelson, C. Hobson, C. Keyes, H. Lewittes, J. Lloyd, A. Martinez, S. Meindl, K. Miranda, P. O'Sullivan, N. Rosenthal, W. Shenouda, G. Snedeker, M. Teloki, K. Wood, C. Wright

Visitors: R. Gonzalez, M. Keefe, R. Welton

Chair's Report (Rosenthal)

- ▶ Committee membership - the Library Committee has one vacancy. The Senate unanimously agreed to appoint the next nominee on the slate. The Chair requested nominees for an open seat on the Convocation Committee, and agreed that the Executive Board would pursue this appointment.
- ▶ R. Colòn-Urban attended a meeting of the Old Westbury Foundation. The financial audit was presented (available in the Senate office). Fund-raising activities will be broadened to include enhancement of teaching in addition to student scholarships. McMillan, the Foundation Chair, would like to showcase faculty, and Dr. Colon-Urban suggested that Senate would be the best group to suggest individuals. The Executive Board will voice this recommendation to the President. Foundation members plan to subsidize student and faculty participation in fund raising events, such as the Taste of Long Island.

Minutes of September 7th

Two corrections were made to the minutes:

- ▶ APC Report, page 1, should read, "...Committee had worked on academic grievance procedures...."
- ▶ New Business, page 3, regarding parking, "sense of the meeting to have the Executive Committee will discuss issues of parking and permanent ID cards with the President and Campus Police, and will report back."

The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Academic Vice President's Report (R. Gonzalez)

- ▶ Discretionary Salary Increase - Faculty should include appropriate documentation in their file. Academic Affairs will send a memo to that effect to all faculty, outlining the required documentation.
- ▶ Budget figures show that the campus will have \$1.1 million less than the \$4.4 M requested to implement elements of our strategic plan and that the base budget expected this year has been reduced under the "bare bones" budget passed by the state legislature. As a result, the budget created by Academic Affairs and two faculty members of the BPC cannot be implemented as it stands. The budget is being revised. However, Academic Affairs hopes to be able to increase faculty development funds, which are not included in Department budgets.
- ▶ Two common hour activities are planned for October, the naming of D190 for Count Taylor on October 23rd, and a tribute to the McIntyres in D190 on October 25th.

Assessment (K. Miranda)

All departments must submit assessment reports in April 2002. Of these, three departments (Mathematics, Psychology and International Labor Relations) will have their reports forwarded to Albany for review. Others will follow in conjunction with 5-yr reviews in CAP. The Assessment Committee is seeking additional help to evaluate assessment plans, and would like representation from Business and Teacher Education. K. Miranda is available to provide advice and materials to Departments as necessary.

Budget and Planning Committee (M. Dolan)

- ▶ Copies of Stenson's summary of the 2001-2002 Financial Plan were distributed (attached). The budget does not include funding for Mission Review or Priority Needs, that was to cover Old Westbury's Strategic Plan Initiatives. Old Westbury was one of only two colleges with lower appropriations for this year compared to last, this due to our drop in FTE. Additional funding is not likely.
- ▶ The BPC will move forward to create benchmarks and prioritize needs based on data analysis ongoing in the committee
- ▶ There have been some last-minute changes in the forthcoming Capital Plan
- ▶ In response to a question about dormitory costs, M. Dolan reported that the BPC has requested a report on dorm funding, including an identification of lines funded through dorm fees.

University Faculty Senate (M. Dolan)

- ▶ The Associate Provost reported on Provost's Initiatives, including a system-wide Strategic Plan.

Old Business

- ▶ A senator asked for a status report on responses to letters sent to the State Dormitory Authority last year regarding campus construction projects. Copies are attached to the minutes.
- ▶ A senator asked whether President Butts had responded to Senate's request for information about consultants employed on the campus. His response is forthcoming.

New Business

- ▶ The English Language Studies Department presented a resolution on facilitating ownership for Old Westbury students:

WHEREAS, Personal ownership of computers is becoming more and more desirable and necessary for college students; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that a "computer ownership gap" exists between low-income and middle-income students; and

WHEREAS, To close the "computer ownership gap" some colleges have entered into arrangements with computer companies for reduced cost laptops on installment plans for their students, thereby facilitating ownership of

computers for low-income students; and

WHEREAS, Old Westbury's commitment to social justice should embrace student ownership of educational technology, with special emphasis on the needs of low-income students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the administration explore low-cost, bulk purchase computers for students on reasonable payment plans.

- ▶ The Student Government supported the resolution, and submitted an amendment:

If the College cannot afford a bulk purchase, the administration should explore the possibility of entering into an agreement with several computer manufacturers that may offer the computers at a discounted rate for students, staff and faculty.

The resolution as amended passed unanimously [15-0-0].

- ▶ A question was raised about the status of inquiries sent last year to the Dormitory Authority, and the faculty resolution about the Capital Plan. The Secretary will investigate.

Announcements

- ▶ The SGA President Mohanlall Teloki announced that students are organizing a teach-in for sometime in the near future and asked for the names of faculty who might be interested in helping with arrangements. M. Barrett, C. Hobson and T. del Giudice volunteered.
- ▶ Welcome-Back to Old Westbury activity is planned for the October 4th Common Hour.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30