

SUNY / College at Old Westbury
Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2002

Present: N. Rosenthal, R. Colòn-Urban, J. Lloyd, K. Wood, M. Barrett, J. Llana, W. Shenouda, J. Edelson, M. Colaneri, C. Franco, I. Ahmed, A. Martinez, M. Teloki, A. Barbera, A. Frisken, M. Metlay, M. Keizer, C. Hobson, M. Crocitto, J. Harris, H. Lewittes, G. Snedeker, S. O'Connor

Visitors: R. Gonzalez, R. Welton, R. Brown, N. Sacks, C. Wardell, M. Feder-Marcus

1. Approval of March 1st Minutes

- a. There were several corrections to the attendance list: H. Lewittes and M. Crocitto were misspelled; President Butts and L. Davis were present.
- b. In item 3a, Humanities and Languages should be added to the departments participating in the new African-American Studies minor.
- c. L. Davis requested that the minutes be amended to reflect his position on the 6 bulleted statements on page 1 of M. Dolan's BPC report. He had stated at the meeting that he characterized these statements as inaccurate, misleading and taken out of context.

The minutes were accepted unanimously as amended.

2. Chair's Report (N. Rosenthal)

- a. The chair issued a formal apology to Denton Watson regarding inappropriate comments she made during the last meeting. She has learned that the Convocation Committee is a presidential committee, and that faculty representatives are not required to report to Senate. D. Watson was present and accepted the apology.
- b. A letter from Bill Scheuerman, thanking faculty for supporting the UUP resolution on Trustee de Russey was read (attached). The effect of her remarks has been to expedite the development of our Black Studies minor. Newsday will feature further discussion of the issue.
- c. A delegation visited L. Davis to discuss progress of the BPC committee. Since that visit, the Budget Planning subcommittee has been given some budget information. However, there has been no progress on the Capital Planning subcommittee, which L. Davis does not view as his responsibility. Future participation on the BPC will be taken up at the April 5th Senate meeting.
- d. Two faculty members have been identified for the student Life Committee (B. Joseph and W. Knack) but four more are needed. Nominees are invited to contact the faculty Senate office to volunteer. C. Wright has requested a faculty presence at student judicial hearings, which meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm. Faculty may contact C. Wright for information.
- e. There was a College Council meeting last Monday, at which the president sought members' help in raising funds.

3. Report from the Development Office (R. Brown)

- a. A schematic diagram of the development process was distributed (attached). The process

- remains at the first two stages because of past failures to lay groundwork.
- b. The Foundation Board, which consists of 19 members, mostly civic leaders recruited by Dr. Butts, has returned to its role of fund-raising. New policies have been put in place to oversee spending.
- c. The office is moving on three fronts
 - i. Foundation Board leadership will be expanding
 - ii. Alumni affairs: there is now a program in place to solicit donations from alumni, to organize reunions, and to create and distribute newsletters
 - iii. Corporate/Foundation funding opportunities are being pursued by C. Wardell
- d. Sources of private funding are being pursued to renovate the stables.
- e. There are plans to seek a 3-year grant to re-initiate a Continuing Education program.
- f. The Office is planning a retreat in May, when targeted goals for the office will be put in place.

4. Questions/Comments

- a. There were several questions about student scholarships. These are managed by the Development Office, and P. Chin will be asked to report. Scholarship opportunities are mailed to students twice a year. M. Barrett requested information about a student who was denied her scholarship, and will pursue the specifics with R. Brown.
- b. In response to a question about specific amounts raised, R. Brown gave the following approximate annual figures: \$20k from Leeds, \$2k from alumni, \$28k net from the International Awards Luncheon, \$20k matching from the State, \$2.5k from corporate sponsors of Clark Center activities (Scuba Network and L.I. Baseball Academy).
- c. R. Brown responded to a question about fund-raising specifically for the library by saying that a "friends of the College" approach was better than more narrowly focused activities.
- d. In a discussion about funding sources, Senators expressed concerns about choosing socially responsible corporate sponsors. R. Brown indicated that he would review potential sponsors. M. Barrett suggested that corporations on the CREF Social Choice list would be acceptable, and might be more interested in sponsoring Old Westbury than other corporations. She also suggested the Working Assets web page for a list of corporations cleared by human rights organizations.

5. General Education Resolution on Structure (H. Lewittes)

H. Lewittes presented background on proposed structure of the General Education committee for inclusion in the Faculty Bylaws as a standing committee. She noted that the proposal to formalize the present structure came from committee members, was working well and has created strength on campus and in Albany. The proposal attempts to resolve controversies surrounding the role of chairs, involvement of the AVP office, and elections.

6. Comments / Questions

- a. The proposed structure is more consistent with bylaws descriptions of college-wide committees, which usually have more than an academic focus. This committee is purely academic and should have elected members. Lewittes commented that not including it as a standing committee undermines faculty participation and strength. She urged faculty to accept this structure as anomalous, but appropriate for governance.

- b. The proposal does not identify which 6 of the 8 ex-officio members shall vote. The procedure should be documented.
- c. A suggestion to remove the one-term limit was accepted as a friendly amendment. Selection of the chair is critical, and must be acceptable to administration as well as to faculty. If Gen Ed is a standing committee, selection of the chair would not involve administration. R. Gonzalez noted that SUNY holds the President responsible for General Education.

Because of questions about the implications of identifying General Education as a college-wide, rather than a standing committee, the Senate voted to table the discussion [18-1-2].

7. Resolution of the Faculty Fund (R. Colòn-Urban)

There have been no problems surrounding the use of faculty funds. A resolution to dispense with the resolution on such expenditures passed [15-0-2].

8. Resolution on Graduation Date (M. Metlay)

A friendly amendment to remove the first "Whereas" was accepted. The resolution regarding change of graduation date from Sunday to Friday now reads:

Whereas, There has been no formal discussion of this change with either Senate or the Faculty at large;

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

A final decision with regard to the change of day be delayed until a full discussion of the pros and cons of such a change takes place in the Senate.

9. Questions / Comments

- a. Many graduates bring families and have receptions after graduation. This is easier to do on the weekend,
- b. The proposed change of date saves the campus money in overtime costs.
- c. The times (December graduation Friday at 12 noon and May graduation Friday at 4:00 PM) were selected to avoid conflicts with observance of the Sabbath. Several faculty noted that 4:00 was not early enough to achieve this goal. The end of ceremony must leave 3 hrs for travel.

The resolution as amended was accepted [19-0-1].

10. Resolution on TAP funding (M. Teloki)

M. Teloki spoke for the resolution, noting that many TAP recipients are the first in their families to attend college, and need all possible funding. The amount requested in the proposal is to restore funds cut from the previous year.

The resolution was approved [19-0-0].

11. BPC discussion

11. BPC Discussion

The Senate held a brief discussion about the BPC in anticipation of a fuller debate at the next meeting.

- a. M. Feder-Marcus expressed her concern about process. Although the Senate empowered M. Dolan to work with L. Davis on the structure of the budget planning subcommittee, administration made unilateral changes. A new subcommittee has been formed, with 9 administrators and 3 faculty. Materials, including budget numbers, committee charge and activities for 2001/2002 were shared with chairs, but not with the BPC committee. The Senate Executive Committee has sent a delegation to speak to L. Davis and has not issued an official report.
- b. J. Lloyd responded that the delegation included two faculty members of the BPC, that she had reported about the outcome of the meeting to M. Dolan, and that the delegation had been told by L. Davis that the budget planning subcommittee was created by merging the Strategic Planning and Budget Plan working groups. The latter was disputed by M. Feder-Marcus, who noted that the merged committee had been in place since January, and M. Dolan had been charged to resolve problems with its structure and membership.
- c. M. Barrett noted that there have been procedural and bylaws violations
- d. Senate will decide whether to continue participation on the BPC at the next Senate meeting.

12. UUP Report (C. Franco)

UUP has established a political action plan for restoration of funding to SUNY. Faculty were urged to participate in Lobby Day, during the legislative session, on March 20th. A bus will leave campus at 9:00 AM.

13. SGA Report (M. Teloki)

- a. The multicultural festival will be held on May 1st. Suggested activities should be forwarded to M. Teloki.
- b. SGA elections will be conducted during the second week in April. Faculty were asked to encourage students to participate.
- c. The Humanities and Languages department is sponsoring a play on April 5th at 7:30 PM in Maguire Theatre. The play is a Repertorio Espanol production of Federico Garcia Lorca's La Casa de Bernarda Alba. Tickets are \$13 for faculty and public and \$8 for students. Call Marilyn at x3110 for tickets. Translation headphones are available for no charge.

14. Announcements

- a. The Day Care center will be erected temporarily in the performing arts wing of the campus center. It is expected to be functioning in Fall 2002.
- b. Two founding members of the Old Westbury faculty recently passed away: Barbara Lawrence and John Sevier.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.