

BPC REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

December 6, 2002

Submitted by Thomas DelGiudice

I apologize for not being available, but I am participating in the first round of teleconference interviews for the next Vice President of Academic Affairs. Given the importance of this duty I hope you will accept this brief report in lieu of my presence. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or I will address them in a future meeting.

I have recently been asked by Dr. Butts to serve as Vice Chair of the BPC and have accepted. In this capacity I will help set the committee's agenda, communicate with the faculty as needed and requested, meet with the Chief Financial Officer Len Davis in helping to make the BPC more productive and a facilitator for setting and meeting the College's goals. Our faculty representatives on the BPC now include Dr. Judy Walsh from Humanities and Languages.

The BPC met in September and October, our regular meeting in November was postponed as a number of the faculty including myself were out of town at conferences and couldn't attend. We will meet again before December 20th.

At our earlier meetings we discussed the college's budget situation and the ongoing discussions our campus representatives are having with SUNY Central. Since our operating expenses for this year exceeded our total revenues by approximately 1.7 million for this year our first task was to bring expenses in line with revenues. Division VPs met with affected parties and created proposals for bringing the college into balance by the spring semester. Dr. O'Sullivan had a series of meetings with individual Chairs and members of the BPC faculty regarding Academic Affairs.

I will be reporting on the specifics of the College's budget in the very near future. Patrick O'Sullivan or Len Davis can brief the Senate with respect to their meetings in Albany. I will be available to meet with individual faculty, chairs, departments, faculty committees and the Senate as needed or requested.

Recent statewide budget circumstances notwithstanding there seems to be a commitment from Albany to assist us in our transition to building enrollments, getting our Masters programs going and supporting the College over the next five years. However their idea of supporting us is to gradually wean us off the subsidy they are providing the College above the state allocated BAP allocation over the next five years. Presently our state BAP allocation is approximately 19.7 million and the subsidy is 3.3 million for this year. Because our BAP revenues are tied to enrollments it is imperative we build enrollments, enhance our name recognition and image and provide a curriculum that is both attractive to today's students and well rounded and rigorous so as to prepare our students as citizens and as new entrants into the labor market.

The vision for the College over the next five years will be the subject of BPC meetings throughout the winter and spring. On the vision on the academic side should be an ongoing discussion among relevant faculty committees, the Faculty Senate and its executive committee, the Vice President, and department chairs. The BPC will be reaching out and actively communicating with various constituencies beginning early in the spring semester.

RECENT EVENTS

In an effort to deal with the state's fiscal deficit Albany sent word the Wednesday before Thanksgiving that all state institutions were to cut the revenues received from the state budget by 5% and that the cut needed to be communicated to Albany by the following Tuesday.

An emergency meeting was called over the Thanksgiving weekend for early Monday morning. Dr. Butts requested that I notify the BPC faculty and the Faculty Senate Chair. I sent emails out over the weekend, but because of the short notice not all faculty could make the meeting. The meeting was attended by myself, Dr. Robert Hoyte and Dr. Rita Colon Urban. All division heads were asked to revisit their working budgets and find whatever they could to bring us in line with the 5% cut.

The result of the day's labor was a \$212,300 cut to our College's budget. The details of the cuts to Academic Affairs were communicated by Dr. O'Sullivan at the Chairs meeting. The cut represents real pain for the College, but it was, I believe, fairly distributed within Academic Affairs and across the College. The percentage distribution of cuts are as follows:

	% of the Emergency Cut	% of the College's Expenditure*
Academic Affairs	41%	49%
Non Academic Affairs	59%	51%

Finally let me say, at the risk of being accused of being naïve or worse, that despite the problems of the state budget it is my opinion that we finally have some of the elements needed to make the College something in which we can have a growing pride. Is it a critical mass? That remains to be seen.

But we

- do have new facilities that will provide us an opportunity to overcome some plant and image obstacles I confess I often doubted we would ever overcome;
- have a capital plan, thanks in large part to our colleague Maureen Dolan's diligence, that when it kicks off will make a real difference to the Academic Village;
- have a real possibility of another academic building being built in the next several years;
- are emerging from the dark ages in terms of the technology we have available;
- have some administrators at key positions who have the required competencies, and as I have witnessed, work very hard, and importantly there is growing comfort level and confidence with the issues facing Old Westbury such that we can get down to shaping the next five years in a systematic manner.

And while some may accuse me of wishful thinking I doubt there are many on the faculty who are confronted as much as I am with the daily operational problems of the College. In the various duties I have undertaken over the past few years I am very cognizant of the critical challenges we need to confront. Building more efficient systems with a shrinking staff, providing strong and balanced liberal arts offerings while also executing on important Master degree programs in education and accounting, finding the equilibrium for all our programs and being satisfied with it, so that we can grow the college without cannibalizing each other. As the College grows so to will our programs. These are a few of the issues that require discussion and I hope we will have it.