

SUNY/ COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Friday, May 7, 2004
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Present

Senators: K. Velsor, C. Sawyer, E. Linger, M. Dolan, J. Conforti, M. Colaneri, C. Franco, I. Ahmed, A. Martinez, A. Barbera, M. Metlay, J. Lloyd, M. Keefe, M. Crocitto, G. Snedeker.

Ex officio: L. Cox, J. Haynie.

Visitors: P. O'Sullivan, W. Jiang, J. Achstatter, D. Moon, J. Fornaro, J. Biondo, E. Bever, N. Sacks, S. Mundy, S. Kaufmann, E. Gomez-Nieto.

Minutes of April 16

On p. 4: the company is Auvdiovox (not Audio Box).

Discussion:

On p. 2, the number reported by Dr. Butts stating that 98% of first-year students surveyed state that Old Westbury was their third choice is not correct; the correct survey number is 51%. However, that was a simple mis-statement, not an error in the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Report of the Chair by K. Velsor

There is a change in the order of the agenda for today's meeting.

The Chair thanks everyone for participation in the meetings and for the work of the Faculty Senate.

We can share a sense of success insofar as we tackled many issues that have been unresolved for many years.

For the ongoing issues of the OSSD, Dr. Cox's office has taken charge of getting a handbook out for the fall with expectations regarding students with special needs.

We have seen plans for repairing and maintaining the physical plant and upkeep of buildings in reports by both Tom DelGiudice and Mike Kinane.

We have a meeting with President Butts next week to prepare for the work of the salary equity committee.

The Chair thanks the executive committee for all the support over the past year.

A note on the exam schedule – it has come to the attention of some faculty that several are not offering the final exams on the days they are supposed to, which causes problems for both students and other faculty.

Next semester's final exams, related to 8 am classes and the timing of the semester, will continue to Dec 21st.

Discussion:

Caroline Sawyer proposed that we formally thank Kate for the work of leading the Faculty Senate over the past year. The proposal was approved with sustained applause.

Report by Academic V.P. L. Cox:

Dr. Cox also thanks Dr. Velsor for the hard work and the legacy she has left.

Congratulations to entire Faculty Senate for keeping things running.

The past year has been a whirlwind of activities. Four committees were created and we now have a release time policy.

Academic scheduling is strictly an addendum to what we already do.

Summer school – department chairs brought up increasing the salaries for summer courses to \$3000 per course for fulltime faculty vs. the \$2400-2700 paid in the past.

The last count showed registration of 8800 summer hours, while we were hoping for 9000 hours. If we make the 9000, we can go to the \$3000 pay.

If you desire to set up a course, contact the office because Academic Affairs is trying to increase the summer enrollment and summer advising schedule.

Graduation – it is so important for faculty to attend the graduation.

NCATE is still ongoing – please contact Dr. Judy Lloyd if you can be around to help meet the June 30 deadline.

Graduate school education has an impact on undergrad education. If Old Westbury goes in the direction of not having a graduate institution, we will lose revenue. Having the grad school also helps increase the image. All the College will benefit from the new grad programs in the School of Business.

Discussion:

Resolution on anonymous letters

From Steve Pryor there is a resolution attached to the minutes regarding the despicable letters regarding A.V.P. Cox.

Caroline Sawyer finds objectionable the implication that these letters are being circulated by faculty members. C. Sawyer proposes instead, “The Faculty Senate condemns the recent anonymous letters circulated about Dr. Lawrence Cox. Such reprehensible acts as sending these letters have no place in the Old Westbury Campus Community.”

Vote: 17 for; 0 opposed; and 0 abstentions for the Sawyer proposal.

Report from the Committee on Academic Policy by M. Colaneri

A resolution was distributed on the Letters of Intent for two MS degrees, one in Finance and the other in Taxation.

Discussion:

Question: Where will money come from or what will be the impact on other undergraduate programs?

Answer: Faculty Senate approved in June 2000, and this is a detailed capitulation of the proposal.

Question: How would this have impact on undergraduate enrollment in the School of Business?

Answer: Undergraduate courses are the prerequisites for the MS programs. We have a responsibility to meet needs of students who want the M.S.

Answer also by Dean O’Sullivan: Action by the School of Business is based on assessment and outside advice: only one area does not provide a critical mass of students in the graduate courses. We began to prepare in 1999-2000 and we now have the faculty in place, the technology in place, so no major new outlet for funding is required.

Vote: 13 for; 0 opposed; and 1 abstention for the resolution on the Letters of Intent for two new MS degrees.

Report on Health & Safety by Student Affairs V.P. J Haynie

Susan Mundy answers calls for emergency (ext. 3333), and, in turn, calls the Health Center who get equipment ready and respond.

Discussion of the fibrillator – the Health Center was pleased to have those machines.

Personal recommendation is to have two people on each floor of every building trained to do CPR and use the emergency equipment 24 hrs/7 days per week.

We have four doctors, but they are there a total of only 10 hrs, and nurses are on duty 72 hours. For students in the fall semester, we will put a doctor in an office in the old dorms for 20 hours, making a total of 28-30 M.D. hours per week.

For emergencies - we should inform the campus of the protocol for emergencies. The 911 teams will respond only to calls from the campus security, not from anyone else, so the first place to call is 3333.

University Senator report by M. Dolan

At the April 22-24 Plenary Meeting of the University Faculty Senate in Syracuse, much of the meeting was devoted to discussion and debate on the revised Assessment plan.

Among the concerns raised: the lack of an academic rationale for system-wide assessment; the burden on campus budgets and faculty workloads of an added layer of data collection; and the possible misuse of campus-specific data.

A revised resolution has been endorsed by Council of Community Colleges, the student assembly, and the UUP. It passed the statewide Faculty Senate with a vote of 33 to 6, with five amendments (funding, local campus implementation, reimbursement of faculty time, panel of experts or advisory GEAR (General Education Assessment Review), and a review of policies relating to distinguished faculty.

Chancellor's report – A bill endorsed by the Chancellor is pending before the state legislature, to add a 17th member to the SUNY Board of Trustees; this new Trustee would be the University Faculty Senate President. The Chancellor announced his support for a new policy to lock in for 4 years the tuition at any SUNY comprehensive college or University Center. In response to questions from the Senate floor about how tuition would be treated for transfers from community colleges or 2-year Colleges of Technology, the Chancellor said he would also support extending locked-in tuition for these transfer students.

The SUNY budget is larger than the budgets of 14 states, yet it has not kept pace with inflation.

A more reasonable and rational way to deal with downfalls in revenue would be to have tuition increases tied to the cost-of-living and inflation index so that students could have a price locked in for the 4 years. There is some major dissatisfaction by faculty with their administrators at three campuses.

The University Faculty Senate rotates the location of its tri-annual Plenary meetings among the SUNY campuses. The Winter 2004 Plenary meeting was scheduled to be hosted by the Old Westbury campus, but needed to be moved to the Oneonta campus when Old Westbury's administration refused to host the meeting. According to the University Faculty Senate President, who on behalf of statewide governance took offense at this refusal, this was the first time in SUNY's history that a campus declined to host a University Senate meeting.

Levin Institute – a new college was established by SUNY to honor Neil Levin, the governor's close friend and Director of the Port Authority, killed on September 11th. Established without consultation with university faculty, the Levin Institute as yet has no campus or curriculum but a budget of three million dollars and a newly named President, Garrick Utley. According to recently published brochures, Levin is to be a premier institute for the study of global affairs and commerce, with a focus on international business, finance, culture and language. The Chancellor is now committed to faculty involvement with curriculum development, and would like to see full-time SUNY faculty from various campuses serve as visiting professors at Levin. He mentioned that New Paltz and Stony Brook were exploring possible partnerships with Levin Institute. Old Westbury's Senator was surprised that our campus was not mentioned, given Old Westbury's programs in business, finance, and comparative humanities and language.

Awards Committee – a potential change in eligibility had been proposed that would require the distinguished professor award to go only to those who had received earlier a Chancellor's award. This was perceived as having a negative impact on junior faculty, and it has been dropped. Old Westbury's Faculty University Awards Committee had expressed its opposition to the proposed change through correspondence transmitted by its University Senator to the Awards Committee.

June 1 there is an instructional technology conference at Stony Brook.

Questions remain on having tuition increases locked in for four years. However it was agreed to support idea of locking in tuition increases for SUNY campuses and for the community colleges as well.

Old business

Sandy Kaufmann of the Retention Committee reported that 51% of Fall 2003 freshmen stated that Old Westbury had been their 3rd choice. Surveys were conducted at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.

Madeline Crocitto reported that an e-mail will be going out to faculty for OSSD, relating to preparation of the OSSD guidebook.

New business

The 96.6% approval by members of the four-year contract is the highest in union history.

There will be a picnic and general meeting 12 -3 pm on May 19.

Health & Safety conference was successful with about 75 participants.

Announcement by Esther Gomez-Nieto – recital of piano & tenor at 7:30 pm.

Announcement that Pres. Butts' report had to be cut because he has to be out of town this afternoon.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.