

Minutes of the GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

May 9, 2003

S-100 12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes for General Faculty Meeting February 28, 2003

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with changes to item #3, Report from the AVP. Paragraphs three and four should read:

Approval from the State Education Department for the M.S. in Accounting enables additional master's degrees without site visits if we are successful. The AV asked for cooperation. His office should be informed immediately if issues arise while the reviewers are on campus.

He chairs the Task Force Committee. There will be an open debate, considering variables such as quality of education, flexibility of credit hours on scheduling, ability of students to finish, workload, etc. Faculty will receive a list of the Task Force members and members of the subcommittees when it is available.

Fifth paragraph, first sentence, the phrase *which proves the opportunity to bring class* should be removed.

2. Report from the Chair of Faculty Senate (R. Colòn-Urban)

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the last meeting of the year and for their cooperation, especially from members of the Executive Committee. The following issues concern the faculty:

- 1) The three- or four-credit issue continues to be studied.
- 2) The Budget and Planning Committee needs to continue to work more with the faculty.
- 3) Is there a procedure about the administration response to Senate resolutions?
- 4) Follow-up on a meeting with County Executive Suozzi about the use of 300 acres.

3. Report from the President (Calvin O. Butts, III)

The President thanked everyone for a wonderful year. Challenges would not have been met without the cooperation of the faculty and the leadership in the Office of Academic Affairs and department chairs. Students have expressed how much they have learned and enjoyed their studies.

The budget has forced us to cut adjuncts. We will not abandon our commitment to new and core faculty. We need to support all of our programs; none will suffer due to graduate programs. Given the time and money invested in bringing new faculty in, we want to keep them.

The four-credit academic model will not change over the summer. The President will wait for the Task Force report, the new AVP, and the CAP report. These will help him understand more about the credit models and how they impact on faculty, staff, and students.

The President read the mission statement (attached) which has been approved by the College Cabinet and endorsed by Faculty Senate. He thanked the committee co-chairs L. Anker and M. Kinane and all who participated in its development, especially Birdie Newell.

The President, looking forward to graduation, noted Gabe Pressman is the keynote speaker. He wished everyone a good summer and thanked them for their work in improving the quality of life at Old Westbury.

In response to questions, the President noted that Nassau County Executive Suozzi is encouraging us as a College and that he expects him to return to campus. The reorganization was done to correct waste. The President was pleased that Dick Grasso, Chair of the Stock Exchange, visited our campus.

4. Report from the Academic Vice-President (Patrick O'Sullivan)

The AVP asked the faculty to approve the list of graduates. The following resolution was passed by acclamation:

Whereas the Board of Trustees has given the responsibility to the faculty to participate significantly in the initiation, development, and implementation of the educational program:

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the list of graduates compiled by the Office of Academic Affairs be approved by the faculty, subject to the final vote of the department as verified by the Office of the Registrar for each academic program.

The AVP thanked President Butts for the opportunity to work as interim AVP. He also expressed appreciation to Rita Colón-Urban and members of the College Cabinet for their high level of cooperation and to departmental chairs and faculty for educating him about their departments.

5. General Education/Assessment Report (H. Lewittes)

All departments have an assessment plan. The General Education assessment plan was accepted with minor clarifications. The second phase is data collection. The School of Business, ILR, and PES Departments are all conducting assessments; data will be collected and analyzed as scheduled. There is still some confusion when advising.

General Education data collection takes place in multi-year plans. SUNY reports the percentage of students who approach, exceed or don't meet standards. The (SUNY) Faculty Senate is opposed to standardized SUNY assessment and centralized data

collection. We are meeting the standards that we set. SUNY would like statistics; data won't be in until June. Faculty Senate will not meet and will have to revisit the issue this fall.

6. UUP Report (Candelario Franco)

Bill Scheuerman and Eileen Landy were reelected. The march for education was a huge success. Both houses of legislation and governor agreed to extend the budget \$1.1 billion for education. To make up for the deficit, there will be a \$950.00 tuition increase, rising \$8,000 - \$13,000 for out-of-state and foreign students. Those campuses without a large number of out-of-state and foreign students will suffer; UUP will work the Chancellor to develop a formula. Everyone was encouraged to contact legislators to thank them for their support and encourage them to override a Governor's budget veto should it occur.

The Benefit Trust Fund will answer questions about our new dental plan.

7. Student Life Committee (Barbara Joseph)

On behalf of the Committee, Barbara Joseph distributed a report (attached). The Committee presented student concerns about the following issues: safety, security patrols at night, faulty exit lights and emergency phones, handicapped access through doors and elevators, and the attitude of the campus police towards students. Students are not clear about the role of the judiciary committee. Students also expressed concern about transportation, maintenance and snow removal, and being ticketed for parking violations due to snow which they have volunteered to shovel. Students believe some paths and steps are not safe for the handicapped and that the office of OSSD is understaffed.

There is a lack of flexible hours for food service which should improve with the food court. There is the issue of training and sensitivity for staff and the existence of Affirmative Action Committee and Sexual Harassment Committee. Students ask for a review of the lines of communication and intervention which take place among various campus departments.

There is some conflict with extracurricular events; a full-time events coordinator is needed. Students would like more faculty involvement in student programs. Changing the campus schedule to Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday with Wednesday for meetings might be an effective way to increase the involvement of more members of the campus community.

The residential life issues of a curfew, the resident assistants' contract, student services for substance abuse on and off campus, and the zero tolerance policy were raised.

8. BPC Report (Tom DelGiudice)

Tom DelGiudice, Vice Chair, distributed a report (attached). He encouraged everyone to offer suggestions, questions, and concerns to any BPC member and to also volunteer for any of the subcommittees in their area of expertise.

He emphasized the goals of growing enrollment, building a quality image, and attaining financial equilibrium. He noted the \$3.9 million shortfall. President Butts was able to get

\$8.3 million to supplement the BAP formula. We still have control over \$10 million. The allocation for capital projects on page 4 should read 2003-2008 (not 2003-2004). The BPC has not discussed this in detail.

In response to questions about eliminated positions, Tom noted more cuts were made in administrative than academic areas. The cuts were not in BPC minutes because of the time urgency imposed by SUNY. The Senate Chair asked if the terminated individuals were able to keep their jobs if they agreed to lower salaries. The President commented that eligible individuals were offered retirement and took it.

Our utility costs are very high and we need to look for efficiencies in, for example, better supervision of personnel, yield ratios for recruitment activities, and preventative maintenance. Overtime costs were reduced 89% by rescheduling staff. We are understaffed which affects morale.

Everyone was encouraged to examine the five-year plan which is the Faculty Senate Office.

9. Results on the vote By Laws Revisions

The ballots have not been counted due to the Faculty Secretary's absence. Results will be sent in the mail.

10. Old Business

None to report.

11. New Business

The Executive Committee, with flowers, thanked outgoing Senate Chair Dr. Rita Colòn-Urban for her leadership and the assembly vigorously applauded.

Jill Edelsen announced the Child Care Center is open this July for children 18 months - 5 years of age. Old Westbury people have first preference.

Sharon O'Connor invited everyone to visit the new Teacher Education Lab in the lower level of the library. She thanked Tom DelGiudice for his assistance. She also invited participation in the campus Service Learning Initiative and to the first annual Service Learning Awards ceremony. She thanked President Butts for agreeing to be the keynote speaker.

Madeline Crocitto reminded everyone to donate to the Faculty Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.