Minutes Faculty Meeting September 14, 2001

Attendance: 81

1. Minutes

The minutes of the May 4th faculty meeting were accepted with a correction to the last item: Two, rather than one student, were victims of racial incidents near Penn State, and they were not Penn State students.

2. Chair's Report (Dr. Colon-Urban)

- All Bylaws revisions were passed, although the number of votes was disappointingly low.
- There was complete agreement between recommendations of the ARPT b. Committee and those of the Administration.
- The UUP report was inadvertently left off today's agenda, and will be included c. after the Budget and Planning Committee Report.

3. Academic Vice President Report (Dr. Bonnett)

- Dr. Bonnett urged all to avoid divisiveness in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy and suggested that faculty hold a teach-in to air views and emotions.
- Enrollment for the Fall semester is at 103% of target FTE. b.
- The campus has moved ahead on several fronts: a General Education booklet has C. been printed, plans for graduate programs are moving forward, the TLC played a role in new faculty orientation, new degrees in Social Studies, Biochemistry and Visual Arts are in progress, all faculty have received laptop computers, the Performing Arts department is being reconstituted withe the help of a consultant, plans for an Honors Program are soon to be distributed, and the Freshman Studies Program is running.
- The budget situation will be especially challenging this year in light of the d. economic downturn and the events of September 11th.

4. President's Report (Dr. Butts)

- Dr. Butts announced that he has been involved in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. He urged faculty to carry on, and not to be arrested by fear. He expressed his hope that academic debates on the attack will proceed on campus in an atmosphere of tolerance.
- Enrollments have met the Strategic Plan target. We accepted 50% of first-timeb. to-college applicants, and retention has improved. We also have improved relations with local community colleges.
- Dr. Butts thanked N. Rosenthal and R. Colon-Urban for their work on the Middle c. States report, and thanked M. Seybold and T. DelGiudice for technology improvements.

- d. Several staffing changes are in effect: Bill Kimmins is now the assistant to the President for administration. Maintenance has ben improving under his leadership. Len Davis is the new fiscal manager, and Craig Wright is now acting vice president for student affairs. A search will be conducted for this position. There is a new Foundation Board.
- e. The student Union is scheduled for completion in May 2002, and dormitory construction will resume this fall, with an anticipated completion date of August 2002 for two of the dormintories.
- f. The land use legislation is now superceded by new legislation that allows the campus to develop a day care center and the equestrian center, and to set aside 350 acres to remain forever wild. SUNY opposes the legislation, preferring to keep development plans out of the legislature. The President is committed to protecting water and open spaces, and to avoid over development, but feels that the 350 acre set-aside is excessive.

5. New staff

New faculty and library staff were introduced.

6. Technology Issues (T. DelGiudice)

There are a number of technology changes this year. Smart classrooms are already in place. Faculty must pick up swipe cards from campus police in order to access smart classrooms. C. Keyes is facilitating individual faculty web sites - contact him at KeyesC@oldwestbury.edu for further information. Policies and procedures in this area are being developed, and will be communicated by mail. Faculty were asked to be patient and flexible as these changes occur.

7. Faculty Fund (J. Lloyd)

Faculty were encouraged to contribute to the faculty fund, which is used to express support for members of the community in difficult circumstances. A memo with suggested levels for contribution will be mailed this week.

8. Common Hour (T. Johnson)

There is \$12,000 earmarked for common hour activities for the 2001/2002 academic year. There is a tentative schedule, but volunteers are needed to help organize events. Also needed are additional details for proposals that have already been submitted. Several names were suggested: Teoh, Whitten, Gil.

9. Report from the Budget and Planning Committee (M. Dolan)

Two subgroups of the BPC have been formed: Capital Planning and Strategic Planning. The Capital plan is finalized, and will be made available for faculty review. We expect to receive only a portion of the \$100 million identified in the needs assessment. Highest priority will be given to health and safety improvements.

10. UUP Report (C. Franco)

UUP is conducting a letter writing campaign regarding the dire budget situation. Form letters can be found on the web site (www.uupinfo.org) or by contacting the UUP office.

11. Resolution on naming Performing Arts (PA) Department

O. Hicks presented the rationale for naming the revived PA Department after Professor Emeritus Makanda Ken McIntyre. She added the names of two sponsors, B. Serrano and P. O'Sullivan, to the resolution. Letters of support from former president J. Maguire, and PA faculty member R. Harper were read, and several faculty members spoke in favor of the motion. Mr. Karl McIntyre thanked the faculty for considering this resolution to honor his father.

A vote was taken and the resolution passed unanimously.

Letters of support are on file in the Faculty Senate office.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm