

SUNY/ COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Friday, September 10, 2004
12:30-2:47 pm

Present

Senators: C. Sawyer, E. Linger, R.J. Edelson, M. Dolan, C. Franco, I. Ahmed, A. Martinez, Gavin Roman, A. Barbera, A. Frisken, M. Metlay, D. Quarless, C. Hobson, M. Keefe, C. Cocca, H. Lewittes, G. Snedeker, C. Ottenheimer

Ex Officio: L. Cox, K. Velsor

Visitors: M. Marquez Bell, A. Ebrahimi, E. Gomez-Nieto, R. Gonzalez, N. Heade, S. Kaufmann, S. Kirkpatrick, W. Lupardo, P. O'Sullivan, J. Peyer, N. Sacks, W. Shenouda, G. Tippy, R. Welton, K. Williams

I. Minutes

Corrections: p. 1) Jill Edelson's name was missing from the list of senators present; p. 2) The voting results for the resolution condemning anonymous letters should read "unanimously approved," because there was no opposition. Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed.

II. Report from the Chair of the Faculty Senate by Caroline Sawyer

First order of business was moved by C. Sawyer and seconded by H. Lewittes to extend voting rights to Professional Staff. The motion passed with one "nay" registered.

Five-year report and Mission Review II

Three Executive Committee meetings were held over the summer to respond to the July request from the Chancellor's office for faculty leaders to prepare a report for the five-year review of President Butts, as a letter sent to Faculty indicated. There were severe time restraints, despite getting a one-week extension from the Chancellor's office, because many faculty members were away. The document drafted is 17 pages long and is confidential. The executive committee evaluated according to the guideline criteria of Leadership, Senior administration, Consultation, Professional Development, and Fundraising. The Executive committee solicited input for the report from all faculty and received eleven letters. However, there will be more opportunity for faculty input in this review at later stages, including in early October, when Steven Fortch, an outside evaluator, will be soliciting additional input from faculty, professional staff and students.

Overview of the report

Criticisms in the executive committee's report included a lack of consultation, a feeling that faculty were systematically excluded from campus decision making, that there were major gaps between reality and what is being drafted in the current Middle States Review II. For example, a recent draft reports that "our faculty received the highest level of professional development funding in the SUNY system." However, if we take out the research and funding for the natural sciences, it must be acknowledged that professional development funding for other faculty falls below the state average. The executive committee also expressed concern that the money raised (reported in 2003 as \$340,000) is quite a small amount compared to our needs. Faculty efforts to obtain external funding have been undermined. On facilities and conditions, the capital plan to repair facilities has not been implemented. Working conditions hurt morale, because in the Academic Village physical conditions not only are "poor" but they also are deteriorating.

HVAC-related resolution on Academic Village

The executive committee has drafted a resolution petition regarding the lack of air conditioning over the summer in the Academic Village where classes were taught, offices

were staffed and buildings were maintained in heat and humid conditions. The resolution will be circulated for discussion and the vote will take place next meeting.

Governance detail

The Chair made a plea for meetings to start on time in order to get through the agenda on time.

Merger of departments

Over the summer the Department of Humanities and Languages was merged with English Language Studies without consultation with faculty governance.

Spring schedule

The proposed new Spring 2005 schedule has come out somewhat abruptly with changed class and Common Hour schedules, in some cases after departments have already planned their Spring teaching schedules.

Denial of reappointment

Reappointment of a faculty member was unanimously recommended by the department and the ARPT committee for a (second) two-year appointment, but was denied by the Academic Vice President and the President. There is enormous concern regarding who has decision-making powers over Faculty appointments.

Mission review II – Three drafts have been seen but the Faculty Senate Chair has declined to participate in the statement of Mission Two until the Senate is told how the faculty is being involved in governance.

Discussion

Question: How many letters were received for the five-year review of President Butts' stewardship?

Answer: Eleven, about 1/10th of the total faculty, although individual comments were explicitly requested. All letters received were included in the overall report, but the timing was the worst possible for reaching the faculty.

Maureen Dolan raised a point of information: The letter from the SUNY Vice Chancellor was sent to the faculty governance leadership, and the leadership followed the guidelines of the Chancellor's office.

III. Report by Academic Vice President L. Cox:

Dr. Said Mahmoud passed away a couple weeks ago. Dr. A. Ebrahimi spoke about the shock of his death to everyone in the department. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, September 15, during Common Hour in the Student Union, at 10-11am.

The Graduate School is off to a great start with 20 students. We will have two more programs in the School of Business in the near future. Dean O'Sullivan reported that the twenty students were selected from a larger pool of applicants. Six of the 20 already have MBAs, 1 is a CPA, and other students came in with other advanced training, so it is a high-level group.

We are losing our team coordinator, Judy Lloyd, for the preparations for NCATE (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education). K. Velsor responded that the accreditation process is still in motion.

Nine new academic faculty and several professional members were hired, and others promoted.

Ruben Gonzalez introduced: Carol Quirke of American Studies; Patrick Kadet of Biology; Lili Hai and Kathleen O'Connor Bater of Humanities and Languages; three new faculty in the School of Business - Ken Winkleman, Zhihong Shi, and Christine Schweikert in a fulltime temporary position; Lee Blackstone in Sociology; Eileen Renner in Teacher Education. We now have Bonnie Binder, a fulltime advisor in Teacher Education; Joanne Spadaro, a new Librarian; and Jean Peyer as Director of Sponsored Programs.

The promotion of Steve Kirkpatrick to New Director of the Library was enthusiastically applauded by all.

Gilbert Tibby, Director of the Counseling Center, and Mary Marquez-Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services were also introduced.

We are still in the midst of Mission Review II, which involves a three-stage process. First stage lasted from March to recently and involved gathering data for nine sections (49 questions). The Faculty was represented by Faculty Senate Chair Kate Velsor at that time. The work included faculty, staff and students for the mission review with roughly 100 people involved, including K. Velsor, R. Mukherji, R. Colon-Urban, E. Bever, and A. Barbera.

The second stage involves sharing the document in discussions to get feedback from others on campus to prepare revisions, edits, and to incorporate comments.

The third step – and this is supposed to be done by October 1 – is to send the draft report to SUNY, who will then send a team of interlocutors to check on the validity of what is in the report.

The processes of both the SUNY Mission review and the NCATE accreditation require campus-wide involvement.

Discussion: Observation on the Mission Review process - In 1998-99 we had Mission Review One, the first time it was established by SUNY for all campuses as a joint governance and administrative process.

Dr. Cox responded that the process has changed with interlocutor teams going out this time to meet with all sectors of the campus, not just faculty.

It was pointed out that there is a feeling of a problem on the issue of faculty governance.

IV. Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

V. Election for Executive Committee positions

Vice Chair – Maureen Dolan was nominated and the nomination was seconded. She accepts. 18 votes in favor (unanimous).

Secretary-Treasurer – Runi Mukerji was nominated and the nomination was seconded (she is willing to serve). 18 votes in favor (unanimous).

At-large representative to the executive committee – Anthony Barbera was nominated and the nomination was seconded; he is willing to serve. 17 in favor, one abstention.

It was pointed out that the person elected as at-large faculty senator to the executive committee cannot also represent a department.

VI. Report from the Vice President for Enrollment by Mary Marquez-Bell

Next meeting there will be a more thorough report, but enrollment is going well this semester and we have reached 99% of our goal with 3226 now enrolled. We had reached 100% prior to financial cancellations, so that may be turned around.

The college reached 114% of the goal for first-time-to-college with 388 students registered. We had 395 prior to cancellations, so that number also may change.

The 594 new transfer students puts us at 85% of our goal.

The number of returning students is now at 100% of our goal.

2800 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) students have given us 102% of our goal.

We are 106% above the projected goal in graduate programs.

VII. Report from UUP President Candelario Franco

SUNY's budget has been a struggle over the past 7 years. We are at a flat budget, which means cuts. The Chancellor is trying to get another \$50 million from SUNY, but Governor Pataki vetoed the budget

and is trying to spread the 50 million over three years. The legislature may be able to override the veto; it will be a challenge for us to win.

The new contract includes professional development grants and applications are available at the UUP website (UUP.org) for 2003-04 and 2004-05 40%; 2006-07 will have an additional 30%; 15 % is being reserved for part-time faculty. Look at the UUP website.

VIII. Old bus: none

IX. New business:

A. Background to two resolutions that will be circulated with today's minutes:

- 1) Chris Hobson motivated a resolution about English language Department and the resolution came from the Humanities and Languages Department meeting held this morning. The reaction was positive regarding the merging of the departments, but protested a gross injustice in the treatment of a faculty member was abruptly dismissed without prior warning. She was not given any notice of problems in her performance, nor given suggestions on how to improve as a means to a fair and impartial judgment. Dr. Jane Weiss had been evaluated by a department committee, and unanimous proposals were sent from the ARPT committee and the department in favor of a (second) 2-yr reappointment. The Academic Vice President decided against reappointment, and the decision was ratified by President Butts in a letter the faculty member received last week. There are two issues, one the ignoring of faculty governance and faculty recommendations on anything short of budget and mission review, and the other is the especially important issue of the selection of our colleagues. The departmental vote was 18 to 0 (unanimous) for the resolution that will be circulated; the department wishes to have the Faculty Senate vote on the resolution at the next meeting.

Discussion by Anthony Barbera on the procedures of reappointment.

- 2) Resolution on the situation of the air-conditioning was circulated ("HVAC"). Tom DelGiudice raised the point that the narrative does not include all the relevant information.

Point of information – the narrative is factual and the committee will consult with T. DelGiudice for additional information.

B. Discussion and questions on C. Sawyer's report on the 5-year report on the President's stewardship of the campus.

Question: How does it represent the input of the faculty members' letters?

Answer: Sawyer read again the procedure as stated in the Chancellor's request and pointed out that the guidelines from the Chancellor's office for the review of campus stewardship were sent to all faculty of academic rank. All letters or comments were included, but there was a great limitation in 1) what the Faculty Senate executive committee could do given the lack of time, especially in late July and early August when many faculty were away; and 2) the inability to make public the details of the committee's deliberations and report.

Discussion: We should be sure that all factual information is correct.

Answer: The committee researched factual information, all that could be done given the absence of the entire faculty over the summer months, and the short time available.

Question by student representative on what role the faculty senate expects the student representation to have in the Faculty Senate.

Answer: We will hold off that response to another meeting, given the time constraints today.

Question: Because SUNY says the review process is confidential, assuming that means within the SUNY system as a whole, but does that bind us to keep our report confidential from the faculty who are being represented in the report?

Discussion: The Exec committee report is confident but will consult with the vice-Chancellor's office as to when the report may be appropriately shared with the faculty. There also may

have been other letters submitted independently by members of the faculty in response to the request from the Chancellor's office.

Suggestion by Carolyn Cocca to put on the next agenda the question of how we as a faculty can participate in the review process.

C. Discussion of the new proposed schedule for classes in Spring 2005

1) New motion: Mandy Frisken read a resolution from American Studies, seconded by the Student Government representative, on the new proposed Spring schedule. This resolution also will be circulated with minutes.

Discussion: We should look through the old minutes for the discussion on the proposed schedule changes, which also discussed at the Chairs' meetings.

We need discussion but the announcement and implementation were projected in a precipitous way.

Points of information: 1) Would folks from administration tell us why and how faculty can incorporate what we have already decided in our department meetings about the Spring schedule before having the schedule? What is the time deadline?

Answer: the schedule needs to be BACK from the printer before the Spring registration begins.

Answer from Dr. Cox: To clarify a question received, the 2-credit hour courses are not required for everyone; that option was a decision by the Chairs, the former SGA President and a representative committee, as an option to help students complete the math requirement by breaking it into two components. So this is an amendment to the schedule. The Common Hour is now scheduled at a regular time, in accordance with the views of a campus-wide committee, not by the administration, to best accommodate the needs of students.

2) Motion to extend meeting ten minutes passed unanimously.

Discussion: Sciences cannot have labs in the new schedule because the Common Hours are scheduled in the middle of the labs. Also, there is a question about the need for a Common Hour: Do students attend the Common Hour programs?

Some departments have not yet met, so the proposed schedule has not been discussed in all departments.

3) Motion to extend the meeting five more minutes passed unanimously.

L. Cox pointed out that the faculty needs to make a decision about what schedule would work best.

There is a consensus that the schedule change needs to be postponed. We need a long agenda item to bring back a new schedule with all the details worked out in time for the administration to use it by Fall 2005.

Given the positive response by Dr. Cox, M. Frisken withdrew her department's motion.

X. Good of the Order

Motion to approve the proposed dates of the Faculty Senate meetings was seconded and unanimously approved.

Announcement: Monday, Sept 13 at 10:30 am, there will be a Sept 11 memorial service; the plaque has been reinstalled.

Announcement: Also on Sept 13 at 6:30 pm, a memorial service will be held for the late student, SGA President Jermaine Camp, who was in the PES program.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 2:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eloise Linger, (outgoing) Secretary-Treasurer and (outgoing) Senator from PES