

FACULTY MEETING

Minutes of Meeting of May 1, 1992

I APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 3, 1992 were approved.

II PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report was distributed separately.

Questions and Comments:

A faculty member commented that the only information circulated around campus are rumors. Cooperation can only come with complete, clear and precise information.

The President was asked what the logic was in deactivating Performing Arts and Health. What are the 6.5 lines that are being cut? The President responded that she could not disclose this information; she is bound by SUNY Guidelines.

When faculty took the position that they would not participate in identifying particular lines to be cut, was that interpreted as a remission on the faculty's part? The President responded that Dr. Hall did not ask faculty to respond to particular lines. He asked a different question.

There are rumors that support services for reading and writing are going to be stopped. Are we going to shift the mission of the College? The President responded that the mission is not being rewritten and the services are not being removed. The administration is finding other ways to provide these services which Dr. Hall will address later in the meeting.

The question was raised regarding the inclusion of the Writing Center and ESOL in the College Catalog which serves as a contract for students entering the College. How can we continue to successfully fulfill this contractual obligation? The President replied that if discussions were held with Dr. Hall, faculty might have answers to some of these questions. The faculty elected not to participate in any type of discussion.

The faculty's role has to do with curriculum and the mission. Faculty have submitted and approved a long range plan which pinpointed areas of concern. Basic Education has disappeared from the organizational chart. In the Fall 1992 Class Schedule no mention was made of Basic Education or Invitation to Learning. Therefore, the curriculum has been changed without faculty consultation. Also, CAP was not consulted regarding the issue of deactivating Performing Arts.

III

QUESTIONS TO ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Hall commented that Performing Arts is not part of the budget plan. Communicative and Creative Arts was subsequently revised and renamed Performing Arts. The original degree was never registered and was withdrawn from the College by President Wingfield. The problem is that Performing Arts is not currently registered. The Program has been told informally that they could not register new majors next year; this would allow the Program to die in three years. The Program has written proposals when they have been requested. The Program would like a meeting to go over the rejection of the proposals that were sent to his office. Dr. Hall responded that Performing Arts is one of the programs that he has met the most with.

Dr. Hall sent a memo to Faculty Council and Conveners' Council requesting them to participate in a restructuring plan. No formal letter requesting advice on restructuring was sent. When the Conveners' Council asked Dr. Hall for the specifics of the proposed plan, they were told they could not have it because the recommendations had not been acted upon by the President nor had the plan to be sent to Albany been finalized. It is very difficult for people to respond to a plan when they do not know what the plan is.

Is it time to come through the CAP Committee to sift through all the programs? Dr. Hall said that he would prefer CAP to undertake a formal review of all programs every five years.

Evelyn Garrity said that after reading the SUNY Guidelines, she could not find anything that says that faculty have to be told or that they do not have to be told. Dr. Hall said that he was not asking faculty to make recommendations about dismissal.

A request was made, on behalf of the faculty, that Dr. Hall make a proposal to the Conveners' Council that would indicate an understanding of the position of the faculty. Dr. Hall agreed to write this up.

IV

FACULTY COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Stephen Kirkpatrick reported on administration hiring practices. There has been a great deal of turnover in the administration along with a high proportion of acting appointments. The following resolution (92-9) was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

Whereas the Administration has demonstrated a pattern of acting positions for new staff, and

Whereas such practices, although not technically illegal, create problems both of morale and fairness, and

Whereas by bypassing formal search procedures the College leaves itself open to charges of croniesm,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Council or its designee consult with the administration in order to develop systems so as to avoid acting positions wherever possible. Faculty Council or its designee should report to the Faculty Senate on this matter at the first Fall Senate meeting.

V

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The current slate of nominations was distributed. Additional nominees were sought and nominations for each committee were closed. A mail ballot will be sent out.

VI

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolution (92-10) was moved, seconded and unanimously approved:

I. We, the faculty of Old Westbury, along with the majority of our countrypeople, deplore the outrageous miscarriage of justice represented by the recent not guilty verdict in the Rodney King beating case in Simi County, California.

II. We also deplore the persistent and deteriorating conditions of systemic poverty, unemployment, educational neglect, and routine abuse by the criminal justice system, which blight the lives of tens of millions of our fellow citizens, and in particular the lives of people of color. It is these conditions, and the longstanding refusal of our public officials to address them in a substantive manner, that have fueled the current explosions of anger and frustration.

III. We call upon the United States Department of Justice to bring federal civil rights charges against the Los Angeles police officers involved in the beating of Rodney King. We further call upon our Representatives and Senators to implore the Justice Department and the President to pursue this course of action.

IV. As educators, we reaffirm our commitment to racial and social justice, and to an educational practice which helps our students to participate knowledgeably and creatively in the achievement of these goals.

It was agreed that this resolution would be mailed to the appropriate people.