

SUNY / College at Old Westbury
Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes - October 26, 2001

Present: A. Barbera, M. Barrett, M. Marquez Bell, C. Bernard, M. Colaneri, R. Colòn-Urban, M. Crocitto, J. Edelson, A. Frisken, J. Harris, C. Hobson, M. Keefe, H. Lewittes, J. Llana, J. Lloyd,, S. Mahmoud, A. Martinez, S. Meindl, K. Miranda, N. Rosenthal, W. Shenouda, G. Snedeker, K. Wood

Visitors: R. Gonzalez, P. O'Sullivan, R. Welton, C. Wardell, R. Brown, R. Buttermilch, N. Sacks

Approval of Minutes

- ▶ Academic Vice President's Report, 5th bullet, should read: cost \$150, of which \$100 is tax-deductible. [The correct tax-deductible amount is \$108]. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Chair's Report (N. Rosenthal)

- ▶ The BPC has been reconfigured into 4 working groups, with faculty representation to all. The groups are Strategic Planning, Capital Plan, Budget and Data Collection.
- ▶ Faculty Bylaws are complete, and all faculty will receive a bound copy.
- ▶ The Executive Committee met with the Academic Vice President regarding external review of departments. Discussion of this issue will begin today and continue on December 7th.
- ▶ A memo has been sent to President Butts regarding the Senate view on DSI awards.

Questions / Comments:

- ▶ The Chair responded to a question about mandates for the BPC subcommittees. Strategic Planning will take up the apportioning of funds for new programs, Capital Planning will set priorities, Budget will set priorities for next year's budget, and Data Collection will explore allocations and expenditures in comparison with other SUNYs. The chair noted that no recommendations have yet come from the original committee, so the impact of this reorganization is unclear.
- ▶ R. Gonzalez noted that President Butts, at a cabinet meeting, expressed his intention to pursue the student computer purchase resolution

Report from the Development Office (C. Wardell)

- ▶ C. Wardell expressed her intention to work with faculty and staff to pursue external funding from the private sector. Her role will be to research funding sources, and to review and help write proposals. She commended the faculty for pursuing existing, mostly Federal, grants, and identified a number of projects on which she currently is working. She encouraged faculty to develop ideas for fundable programs, and to contact her at x3201.

Questions / Comments:

- ▶ C. Wardell's prior experience included four years at Cold Spring Harbor, where she was executive director of the Membership Association, and a year in development at a private school.

External Review of Departments (R. Gonzalez)

- ▶ External review is mandated by SUNY, and has been approved by the SUNY Faculty Senate. In the past, some programs at Old Westbury voluntarily included outside reviewers. Our reviewers will be chosen by departments, in consultation with Academic Affairs, and will have broad knowledge of curriculum and some administrative experience. They will come from CUNY or SUNY campuses and will be paid an honorarium of \$300 - \$500.
- ▶ The goal of external review is to help programs with assessment, not to create opportunities for retrenchment. Reports will go to academic departments in the context of 5-year CAP reviews. External reviewers will report by department, not by major, and the library will not be included.

Questions / Comments:

- ▶ A Senator expressed the fear that outside review will impose conformity on our curriculum, and warned that it will be our job to maintain vigilance in maintaining our educational priorities.
- ▶ It was noted that, even if reviewers' outcomes are favorable, SUNY administration may disapprove of innovative programs on the campus.
- ▶ Faculty were urged to attend the December 7th Senate meeting to continue this discussion. Senators should bring specific proposals regarding outside review to that meeting.

Masters in Accounting (M. Colaneri)

M. Colaneri reported that CAP has approved the proposal for a masters in Accounting. CAP accompanied their approval with the following statements:

- ▶ It is CAP's position that this and any newly initiated post-graduate program should have as its ultimate aim to enhance and maintain Old Westbury's focus on providing quality education within the context of its mission.
- ▶ The committee encourages the use of graduate teaching assistants in classes as long as this leads to an enrichment of the undergraduate teaching experience. However the committee is concerned that the use of TAs will encourage the campus to offer more courses with large enrollments (>50).
- ▶ The CAP Committee also feels that the MS in Accounting proposal might be made stronger if somewhere it responds specifically to the comments made by other SUNY campuses, particularly the University of Buffalo, to the Letter of Intent.

Questions / Comments

- ▶ Representatives from the Business School reminded Senate that, as of 2004, our Accounting bachelor's degree will not qualify majors for the CPA exam, and we stand to lose 200 majors.
- ▶ In response to questions regarding resources for the Masters program, Senate was informed that the establishment of graduate programs is not intended to divert resources from the

- undergraduate program. The Strategic Plan includes 5 lines for the graduate program.
- ▶ There was an extended discussion about the role of teaching / research assistants in graduate programs. The proposal calls for “a small number of graduate assistants ... to aid faculty in research and teaching activities,” and the intention is that they be funded from external funds. Several Senators expressed the view that the role of graduate students should be specified, as this is a precedent-setting issue. A majority of Senators wished to consider graduate student issues separately from approval of the Masters program.

The following motion was approved unanimously [18-0-0]: **The Senate concurs with CAP in approving the proposal for the MS in Accounting. However, graduate assistants are not approved until policy regarding their use is approved by Senate.**

Report on the Faculty Fund (J. Lloyd)

J. Lloyd presented the Treasurer's Report for the 2000/2001 academic year (attached). The balance in September 2001 was \$233 less than it was at the same time last year. Faculty were urged to contribute to the Fund, which is used to support faculty in times of bereavement and illness. A second request will be circulated.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.