

## FACULTY MEETING

### Minutes of Meeting of February 7, 1992

#### I.

##### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 6, 1991 were approved.

#### II.

##### ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Dr. Hall reported that he has shared information on the budget with Stephen Kirkpatrick (Faculty Council) and Patrick O'Sullivan (Conveners' Council). He will be meeting with the union in the next couple of weeks and will also meet with each convener, program, and director to discuss plans for the program with relation to curriculum, teaching strategies, and resources. There is uncertainty about what the reduction is going to be for Old Westbury. Old Westbury will not implement a reduction plan until more specific information is received.

Dr. Hall suggested to the Chairs of Faculty Council and Conveners' Council that it might be useful to begin to address some broad issues:

1. What is the core that defines this college?
2. If we have significant cuts, what will happen to the College in the future?

Dr. Hall stated that in the view of SUNY, Old Westbury is admired for its mission, its mission is defensible, and there is a philosophical underpinning for the College's goals. Dr. Hall invited the faculty, particularly the organized groups, to address some of these issues which will be critical issues in terms of the College's future.

- B. Approximately 1,700 of the 4,000 students at Old Westbury are listed as undeclared majors. Students should be encouraged to identify with a program. Dr. Hall encouraged programs to take responsibility for those students who have declared or expressed an interest in their program. He will be inviting and encouraging programs to develop freshmen courses and to have a coherent plan for where the program thinks that it is going. Programs should define for themselves a future within the content of the broad shared mission.
- C. Recommendations have been made on the Fall 1991 reappointment cases; all have been recommended for reappointment.
- D. Dr. Hall has made recommendations for sabbaticals. The President has not yet had a chance to review this.
- E. Faculty awards have been named. The President has supported them. Letters have gone out.

### Comments

Gloria Young Sing suggested that the people dealing with other aspects of student life be consulted in handling the problem of retention. One major problem faced by students living in the dorms is that they cannot study due to the noise. We have to support, sustain, and reinforce what goes on in the classroom. Dr. Hall agreed with Gloria. He has already begun to meet with the Director of the Counseling Center and Dr. Batty.

Naomi Rosenthal asked what proportion of the courses at the College are presently taught by adjuncts? Dr. Hall responded that we have just over 100 adjuncts. Approximately 125-150 sections are taught by adjuncts out of an estimated 500 sections. Therefore, roughly one-third of our courses are taught by adjuncts. One suggestion was that if the College is forced to make cuts, that we should try to work towards a full-time faculty. However, the problem with this is that a majority of the adjuncts are in approximately five programs; it is not across the board. Faculty would then have to be retrained in those areas currently taught by adjuncts.

### III.

#### FACULTY COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. At the December Faculty Meeting a motion was passed charging Faculty Council with investigating administrative hiring practices. Faculty Council has begun their investigation and they are presently in the verification stage. They do not have any conclusions yet.
- B. 75 ballots were received for the ByLaws amendment: 60 in favor, 15 opposed. The amendment failed since not enough ballots were received (approximately 75 to 78 positive votes were needed in order to pass). The ballots will be redistributed through conveners to be handed out at program meetings and given back to conveners.

### IV.

#### MOTION TO REPLACE PROGRAMS WITH DEPARTMENTS

Minutes from the Conveners' Council meeting which stated the pros and cons to this debate were distributed along with the agenda for today's meeting. The following motion was presented from the December Faculty Meeting: "Resolved, that the operating units of the College now designated as Programs be called Departments and that the ByLaws be so amended."

Michael Leung from Chemistry and Physics presented his side of the debate in favor of departments. One of the key problems with being called programs is that within Chemistry and Physics there are the MBRS, MARC and STEP Programs - this leads to confusion. Maureen Feder-Marcus from Comparative Humanities presented her side

of the debate in favor of programs. She is not asking that departments be prohibited, she is asking for flexibility. If Comparative Humanities was to be called a department it would obscure what they are doing.

The following amended motion (92-1) was presented: "Resolved, that the operating units of the College now designated as Programs may be designated either as Programs or as Departments, according to the will of the faculty of each, and that the Bylaws be so amended."

A discussion then ensued. One problem with allowing flexibility would be that it would create confusion outside of the College. The question was called. The amended motion will be sent out by mail ballot.

#### V. MOTION TO REPLACE CONVENERS WITH CHAIRS

Michael Leung presented his side of the debate in favor of chairs. There is a need for a better defined role for the person in charge of or managing a program/department. The title chair would lessen the confusion in dealing with students and people outside of the College. We have chairs of committees but not of programs or departments. The fear of dictatorship is not well defined. The issue of compensation is not clear.

Maureen Feder-Marcus presented her side of the debate in favor of conveners. The title of chair has not been thought through adequately. The implications of moving to chair has not been thought out. These implications can be disturbing. Is the change in title purely nominal or is something else intended? What are the implications of this change with respect to the Policies of the Board of Trustees? Some people are under the assumption that they could get paid by calling themselves chairs. Only two chairs are currently getting paid to work over the summer. This money has to come out of the summer school budget.

A discussion then ensued. The issue of confusion outside the college community was again raised. Some people felt that there should be flexibility in regard to conveners and chairs - the decision should be up to the individual program. The question of the power of chair versus convener was also brought up. Is that person accountable to the program or to the administration?

A motion was made (92-2) that this issue be referred back to the Conveners' Council and that two lists be compiled detailing the duties of both conveners and chairs. The question was called. The motion passed 34 to 7.



## VI.

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

There are two vacancies on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Continuing members on the Committee are Martha Livingston (BS), Said Mahmoud (CS) and Fred Millan (PY). The following nominations were received from the floor: Debra Randorf, Janice Speisman and Lan Zhao. Ballots were distributed at the meeting and collected. The results are as follows:

Debra Randorf (Lib)	26
Lan Zhao (M)	19
Janice Speisman (TE)	11

Debra and Lan will serve on the Committee for a term of two years.