

FACULTY MEETING

Minutes of Meeting of March 6, 1992

I

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 7, 1992 were approved.

II

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. This past Tuesday about 16 members of the campus community spent the day in Albany for SUNY Day. The major message our representatives delivered to legislators was the restoration of some portion of the budget. Two likely options noted were a tuition increase or a tax. Some legislators believe the education budget was cut too severely. The legislators that they met with had a positive attitude toward Old Westbury, but they are in a real bind when it comes to money. It still looks like they are talking about a five percent reduction, which means that they will continue to look at reorganization and retrenchment. We have not received any percentage reduction yet. Until the President sees such a number, our college will not reduce.
- B. The President addressed the fact that there are rumors going around campus that the administration is considering combining academic departments. No plans for combining departments are currently underway.
- C. There have also been rumors about the rehabilitation of buildings on campus. The President receives a lot of requests for lodging of conference leaders. Two buildings have been looked at: the house on the property next to the President's house and the BOCES Veterinary House. The President said that there is a need to renovate these buildings and that they will continue to repair them as the budget permits. Roof repairs have begun on the house next to the President's. The BOCES building has been cleaned up and painted, and a stove has been installed. This building will take a long time to get into shape, however, they are not spending \$80,000 to rehabilitate. However, the restrooms will have to be usable before the Summer because a Girl Scout camp will be using the facility.
- D. We are continuing to address the recommendations made by Middle States. Dr. Lewis has formulated the Advisory Retention Committee.
- E. During Spring break the residence halls and cafeteria will be shutting down. The rest of the campus will be open.

Questions:

1. The question was raised as to whether the President is anticipating a semi-permanent resident in the BOCES building when it has been rehabilitated. The President responded no.
2. There are a number of faculty who teach at night. Is it possible that this building might be available for them to stay over. The President said that she is open to discussion for whomever makes a request.
3. The question was raised as to what kind of tax the legislature was considering. The President responded that Mr. Sullivan did not say, probably a surcharge. The President does not think that this will go anywhere. The tuition increase that they are thinking of is \$500/year or \$250/semester.
4. Is the legislature discussing a differential tuition increase? The President responded that at the moment this is a dead issue.

With regard to TIAA-CREF, the legislature has approved the restoration of the rate people were getting before, however, this has not yet been approved by the Governor. They are not sure whether it would be fully or partially retroactive if it is passed by the Governor.

III

FACULTY COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

- A. Faculty Council was hoping at this point to have a policy and procedure on sexual harassment. The Personal Safety Committee and the Committee on Faculty Personnel Matters had virtually completed this document. However, the recent Supreme Court decision has caused a delay. They hope to have something by the April meeting.
- B. The following are the results of the recent ballot sent to faculty regarding Bylaws amendments:

Change to a Faculty Senate and adoption procedures

95	in favor
16	opposed
1	abstention

Departments or Programs

96	in favor
15	opposed
1	abstention

In April committee nominations will be conducted in the usual manner, but instead of nominations for Faculty Council there will be nominations for five at-large members for the Faculty Senate. There will also be nominations for the Nominations and Elections Committee. Faculty will receive a notice regarding this issue.

Each program should elect a senator before the end of the semester.

IV

RPT REPORT

Naomi Rosenthal reported on the Fall 1991 decisions. There were 24 cases: 14 reappointments, 1 tenure and 9 promotions to full professor.

With regard to the reappointment cases, RPT recommended the following:

- 2 - 3 year reappointments
- 10 - 2 year reappointments
- 3 - 1 year reappointment to tenure

RPT concurred with the programs in 13 of the 14 cases. In the other case the program recommended a one year reappointment whereas RPT recommended a two year reappointment.

The administration concurred in all but two cases. Where RPT recommended three year reappointments the administration granted reappointment for two years.

In the tenure cases, there was concurrence by the programs, RPT and the administration for the granting of tenure.

The promotion cases were heard in the Fall by RPT. The Committee will be processing these cases during the course of the Spring semester. Programs, RPT and the administration are not in accord with the criteria for three year reappointments. The RPT Committee has discussed this issue with Dr. Hall. They have also discussed issues related to advising and promotion unrelated to tenure. They hope to issue joint memos between the RPT and the Academic Vice President in the near future regarding these two issues.

V

BUILDING A CARING COMMUNITY

At the last Faculty Council meeting Don Kelly and Claire Meirowitz talked about an ongoing campaign oriented around Earth Day (April 22). The issue of how faculty teach their students to be a part of the community and to care about the community was discussed. One point that was made in Faculty Council was if we are going to do this it had to be a two way street - faculty need to get in a dialogue with students to understand how to work with them better.

Stephen Kirkpatrick asked if faculty wanted to discuss any experiences or ideas. Laura Anker suggested that on Earth Day faculty's efforts expand beyond the physical clean-up and take the time to talk to their classes about the environment. We should also educate ourselves and our students about the mission of the College. April 22nd should be

used as a day for honest self-evaluation. Jon Collett suggested the following:

1. There is an opportunity now around mid-terms to conduct self-evaluation in classes - these could be used to make some changes. A whole bank of questions have been generated to tailor to specific classes.
2. We need to celebrate our diversity in some formal way (i.e. multicultural committee). Perhaps the Affirmative Action Committee could focus on this.

Charles Turner suggested that the Theater could address these issues as well.

Conveners will be talking about this at their meeting on Tuesday. Any faculty who are interested in volunteering should talk to Don or Claire.

Lisa Whitten announced that an International Day is being planned for April 15th. Kristine Doll is organizing this event. The Faculty Development Committee is talking about playing some part.

It was suggested that a short document on the mission and history of the College be available for distribution to students.

It was also suggested that contributions of books, toys, clothing, etc. could be done.

VI

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion took place about the possibility of Faculty Council creating a committee to consult on reorganization. Faculty felt that whatever groups participated in this type of discussion should be representative of, and sanctioned by, the Faculty. It was noted that some conveners/chairs felt that if any discussion was to take place on this issue it should be done by the Conveners' Council where every department/program is represented.

The following resolution (92-3) was seconded and passed: Faculty Council rescind its intention to create a committee to consult on reorganization.

Faculty should decide as a whole how and when to participate in such issues. Dr. Hall said that he had not heard of such a committee being formed by Faculty Council until it was raised at today's meeting. This was not discussed at a regular meeting of the Faculty Council. The following motion (92-4) was introduced: All issues of reorganization be directed through the Conveners' Council. The motion was seconded. Dr. Hall said that he was also not present at the Conveners' Council where they discussed reorganization. It was also

reported that there was not unanimity among Conveners that they even wanted to discuss this issue. The intention of the motion is that if any group was to deal with this issue it should be the Conveners' Council. The following was added to the motion as a friendly amendment: The charge to the Conveners' Council is that they are to propose a faculty position on reorganization and other issues arising during the budget crisis and to present it to the Faculty at a special faculty meeting, if necessary. The question was called. The motion, along with the friendly amendment, was passed unanimously.

VII

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Bahadur Tejani announced that Karl Grossman will be giving a lecture at 4:30 p.m. today in the President's house.
- B. Lisa Whitten reported on the surveys that were passed out at the December Faculty Meeting. There will be a "Brown Bag Lunch" Series. Naintara Vaid will make a presentation on Tuesday.
- C. Martha Livingston, on behalf of the Faculty Development Committee, announced that there will be two faculty days (April 8 and 9). Notices were distributed at the meeting.
- D. Martha is also coordinating a book drive at Old Westbury. The drop off points will be: Room S243 in the Science building, the Library in Campus Center and Pat McKeegan's office (B129) in Academic Village.
- E. Martha has been in touch with the head of UUP. There has recently been a major cut back in mental health and substance abuse coverage.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.