

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
May 8, 2012

Prof. Susan Strehle (Department of English and Chair of the Faculty Senate) called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. in UU Mandela Room.

Prof. Strehle announced that candidates for Provost will be coming to campus this week and next week, and asked that everyone come to the open presentations as faculty input to this decision is very important.

1. Minutes A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting as submitted. On voice vote, the motion was approved.
2. Approval of degree candidates Prof. Strehle asked for a motion to approve the lists of degree candidates contingent on completion of requirements for respective degrees. Motion was made by Prof. Lee, seconded by Prof. McGuire. On voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
3. Obituary Notices Prof. Strehle notified the body that Prof. Joseph Butler, Professor Emeritus of Geography and Prof. Elias Schwartz, Professor Emeritus of English passed away. We recognize their contributions to the university, and as is established practice, a note of condolence has been sent to their families on behalf of the Senate.
4. Old Business
 - a. Gen Ed "G"
Clarification had been requested at the Faculty Senate meeting of November 29, 2011 of how Gen Ed "G" global interdependencies courses will be implemented. It was felt that there had to be a clear policy that you had to have at least one non-western region to qualify for a "G". UUC has written that "G" courses must focus on at least one non-western region. This will be a committee policy on how they approve courses. Prof. Strehle thanked Prof. Lander, chair of the UUC, and the entire UUC for their work.
5. Reports
 - a) Prof. Peter Knuepfer (University Faculty Senator, Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies) reported on items from the recent SUNY Faculty Senate meeting.
 - Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching -- Full-time clinical personnel will be eligible starting next year.
 - Distinguished Librarian – The current criteria is a longer period of time of service than other distinguished ranks. Approval may be coming soon to change this.
 - Campus presidents were given a new allocation model for budgeting. This will not be implemented for another year, but the campus presidents have been asked for input. It is felt that CGL's should have input also.
 - Chancellor has nine areas she wants to move forward with implementation, some of which are:
 - Strategic enrollment
 - Expansion of online learning
 - Transfer students – There is concern about how well prepared transfer students are. Campuses are required to accept courses, but what if what the student took is not up to level of the university? If this is a problem, the campus needs to prove this to System. Is SUNY doing students a disservice by saying they are prepared? We have to make sure we keep our own standards in our courses; we do not want to lower our standards if we feel students are coming in less prepared. When we are getting less-prepared students, and those students start failing courses, this will affect our retention rate and graduation rates of our students. It is felt that all university centers will experience this problem.

- Opportunity for innovative instruction technology grants to develop collaborative programs.
 - How language courses operate in SUNY – Language faculty are telling the Chancellor that languages are important but many feel that what is taught is not relevant. Languages are disappearing from campuses. SUNY is trying to see how they can consolidate between campus offerings and do most of it online.
 - SUNY is pressing for a full review of general education programs at the community colleges.
 - The Chancellor wants to work with K-12 to get students better prepared coming out of high school.
- b) Prof. Richard Lee (Chair, Faculty Senate Executive Committee), whose term as chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee is ending, addressed the body. Prof. Lee began by saying how much he appreciated all of the committee service so many faculty have been willing to contribute, especially those who have chaired standing committees. He also extended his appreciation, respect, and admiration to the members of the Campus Governance Leaders group -- Sara Reiter and Susan Strehle, who have served as Chairs of the Faculty Senate during his tenure; Pete Knuepfer and Randy McGuire, SUNY Faculty Senators; and Howard Brown, Chair of the Budget Review Committee. Everyone who has given of their time, intellect, experience, expertise, humanity, and creativity to make this university the great place that it is for faculty and students alike deserve heartfelt thanks from all of us.

Prof. Lee encouraged more faculty to get involved with Faculty Senate and its committees as it is an important and truly necessary part of academic life. He noted that continuity in governance is assured by the overlapping two year terms of the chairs of the FSEC and the Faculty Senate. Prof. Lee's replacement for the next two years will be Prof. Howard Brown. Prof. Brown and Prof. Susan Strehle both possess enormous experience and, just as importantly, plain good sense and backbone.

Prof. Lee told us that he had been fortunate to work with an outstanding group of administrators. It is his experience that on this campus the relationship between administration and faculty governance is one of mutual respect and good faith, and ones who belong to the same community of shared values.

During Prof. Lee's term as Faculty Senate Executive Committee chair, he oversaw faculty input into the first presidential search and now the provost search, which have consumed an enormous amount of time and energy. We were particularly concerned by the bad faith in our regard with which the extension of the presidential search was conducted. He referred everyone to the two letters from the Faculty Governance Leaders that can be found on the Faculty Senate website. There was a substantive concern that candidates did not have an exchange over strategic concerns prior to a recommendation being forwarded to the Chancellor. We believe, nonetheless, that the pressure we exerted may have had an impact.

We now have a new, highly-energetic president and will soon be completing the team at the top with a new provost. This leaves us in an ideal situation to confront the challenges facing academia as a whole and Binghamton University in particular. Indeed, we are big enough to have the resources and small enough to have the flexibility to make fundamental changes of which Prof. Lee sees some alternatives. The first, to do nothing, is simply inoperable. The second is to do more of what we already do and do it better. Many campuses may try to do just this, but Prof. Lee doesn't believe that to be a winning strategy for Binghamton. Not changing is simply not an option. The pressures for efficient curriculum delivery and the competition from the for-profits are just two reasons this solution is not practicable.

The real choice seems to be the following. Do we limit ourselves to re-proposing the model of the 20th century university with various technological upgrades and increased emphasis on work-force development or do we consider how 21st century realities call for a new 21st century model? Prof. Lee believes the real winners will be those campuses that consider what this last might mean in terms of institutional structure. We can only hope that we will realize that there is more than one road to the future; that each of those roads leads to a different future; and that therefore we will engage in a serious discussion of alternative policy choices for the university. We are the right size with the right history to really profit from such a process.

6. New Business

a) *Proposed Guidelines for approval of academic programs and departments through Faculty Senate*

This proposal is in response in recognition that some departments were formed, proposals were forwarded, and certifications sent to State Ed Department without faculty input. These proposed guidelines came from EPPC and were approved by FSEC.

Prof. Strehle invited Prof. Reiter (Chair of EPPC, School of Management) to provide explanation on how the EPPC arrived at these recommendations. Prof. Reiter explained that the previous guidelines only discussed new degrees and new programs and everything else was not discussed in these guidelines. Many questions had been coming up regarding certificates, minors, majors, etc. The Provost Office and the Graduate School wanted guidance and had input into these proposed guidelines. The Deans offices were asked for input on which things need to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.

Prof. Knuepfer (University Faculty Senator, Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies) clarified that the current wording is part of the charge to the EPPC and is contained in the Appendix of the Faculty Bylaws. If this body approves these proposed guidelines, they will replace the current guidelines and will become part of the Appendix of the Faculty Bylaws. After no further discussion, proposal was approved by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

b) *Proposed policy on courses offered in a very compressed time*

This came from EPPC in response to proposals discussed about two-week semester end of May. This was approved by the FSEC.

Prof. Mazur (Mathematics) fully supports the rationale for this but feels we should eliminate the sentence "less than three full weeks". This motion was not seconded with no further discussion, so his motion did not go forward.

Prof. Pueschel (Biology) asked for clarification. As it is written, three full weeks can be worth four credits...14 days can only be two credits. Is that correct? Prof. Strehle notes that yes, that is correct.

Prof. Gerhardstein (Psychology) asked for clarification of how long winter session is. Prof. Strehle notes that winter session is three weeks. This proposed policy is for periods of less than three weeks.

Prof. Lee, Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee noted that we would restrict 3 week courses to a max of 3 credits and get rid of option of 4 credits for three week courses.

Prof. Reiter (School of Management) noted that EPPC had significant discussion that it makes sense to say that one-week course would be one credit; a two-week course would be two credits,

and a three-week course would be three credits, but there is no evidence that the three-week winter session courses do not work for four credits. But EPPC did feel this issue should be looked into.

Prof. Lee (Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee) questioned Prof. Reiter on what process would we use to evaluate the winter session decision? Prof. Reiter suggested that perhaps evaluating learning outcomes of summer and winter session courses by a task force would be in order. Faculty Senate does not have the right to get information on courses from faculty. EPPC does not have this curriculum review power. Only departments can do this. It would be difficult to set up a mechanism for reviewing this.

Prof. O'Connor, Romance Languages – Aren't credit hours determined by number of contact hours? Is a regular semester four-credit course comparable to winter session of four credit hours? Prof. Reiter noted that credit is not for contact hours but includes student work hours outside of classroom hours.

After no more discussion, proposal was approved by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.

Prof. Lee (Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee) noted that this does not preclude that in the future we take a better look at the situation and have a larger scale discussion.

c) *Foreign Language Task Force recommendation*

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has approved the Foreign Language Task Force's recommendation – *"The recommendation is for a four-year phase-in plan that consists of partial implementation for three years and full implementation in the fourth year (2016)."*

Binghamton University's standards and requirements for foreign language study as part of gen ed are slightly in excess of what SUNY Trustees require. So for transfer students, the issue comes to a head. When students arrive here, are they held to our standards and if they are, do we have enough faculty and adjunct staff to offer enough courses to get them graduated? If we have to add sections, do we have the financial resources to be able to do that? The Task Force, led by Prof. Frazier (Geography) wrote a detailed report studying what we had originally and what we were beginning to find with our transfer students. The Task Force recommends that we phase in implementation for our transfer students. Rather than full implementation immediately, we phase in over four years with partial implementation for three years and full implementation in the fourth year.

Prof. Morewedge (German and Russian Studies) noted that the flexibility we would be gaining from a four-year phase-in period would give us the opportunity to advise the community colleges and students at the high school level of our requirement. It gives us time for this implementation period and is fair to students to give them the same kind of training and global outlook and aspirations that we hope for students who come to us as freshmen. Prof. Strehle noted that this gives us time to gather information about which languages students are studying, where we need additional staff, and how we will manage this.

After no discussion, recommendation was approved by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

d) *Election of 2012-2013 Faculty Senate Procedures Committee.*

Pursuant to Article III, Title B, 10.c. of the Faculty Bylaws, the Nominating Committee of the Faculty Senate presents the following slate of nominees:

Chair – Susan Strehle, English
Vice Chair – Alistair Lees, Chemistry
Secretary – Christine Reiber, Anthropology

Prof. Lee made motion to accept the slate, with Prof. Knuepfer seconding. After no other nominations and no discussion, Faculty Senate secretary Ms. Rushton cast an affirmative vote for the body.

Prof. Strehle wished to thank Prof. Lee for his service as chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the last two and a half years.

After no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

- Present: Tammara Behonick, Christopher Bishop, Mark Blumler, Anne Brady, Scott Craver, Jill Dixon, Peter Gerhardstein, Jennifer Gordon, J. David Hacker, Sonja Kim, Peter Knuepfer, Richard Lee, Alistair Lees, Harold Lewis, Michael Lewis, Dina Maramba, Marcin Mazur, Thomas McDonough, Randall McGuire, Murali Jagannathan, Rosmarie Morewedge, Thomas O'Connor, Stephen Ortiz, Carolyn Pierce, Solomon Polachek, Curt Pueschel, Christine Reiber, Erin Rushton, Pamela Sandoval, Lisa Savage, Thomas Sinclair, Pamela Smart, Gale Spencer, Jim Stark, John Starks, Susan Strehle, Gary Truce, Lijun Yin, Nan Zhou
- Excused: James Burns, Frank Cardullo, Kimberly Jaussi, Sarah Maximiek, Karl Wilson, Zili Yang, Melissa Zinkin
- Absent: Tania Alameda-Lawson, Laura Anderson, Anne Bailey, Erin Barrett, Karen Barzman, George Catalano, Eric Cotts, Kaitlyn Flately, Donette Francis, Vincent Grenier, Christof Grewer, William Haver, Kelly Kinney, David Klotzkin, Jonathan Krasno, Jean-Pierre Mileur, H. Richard Naslund, Seungbae Park, Patrick Regan, Karen Salvage, Karin Sauer, Harvey Stenger, Lisa Tessman, Wendy Wall, Kelly Wemette, Weixing Zhu