

MINUTES OF THE FULL FACULTY AND
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 2, 2010

Prof. Sara Reiter (School of Management and Chair of the Faculty Senate) called the Full Faculty meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. in UU Mandela Room. She welcomed Interim President C. Peter Magrath and turned the meeting over to him.

Interim President Magrath addressed the Faculty Senate, saying he was glad to be here at the Faculty Senate meeting. He believes that at a major research-intensive university with strong faculty like BU has, we can work effectively and best when there is strong dialogue and structured consultation between faculty and administration.. He is very happy that this is the way BU works.

Interim President Magrath stated we have a strong strategic plan and budget process that works well. This process includes faculty involvement and works effectively because of strong budget review in the Faculty Senate.

Interim President Magrath then went on to discuss retrenchment and stated that we are OK in our current fiscal current year 2010-11 and have even been able to hire faculty this year. With regard to the next couple of years, 2011-12 and 2012-13, there will be no retrenchment. Beyond that, he believes he cannot speculate. He is optimistic and thinks we will be OK in the next couple of years, as we have planned and worked very carefully through our budget process. We are fortunate to have strong fiscal administrative leadership which has helped us. The core purpose of the university is what the faculty do with students (learning, research). Vice President VanVoorst and his team have been very effective in preserving our core academic strength. Our recent voluntary separation plan and the state retirement plan have helped. Interim President Magrath said we work in a tough fiscal world as far as higher education is concerned. But, this university is in good shape in the context of a tough environment. There have been budget reductions in the past couple of years and we have handled and worked hard to preserve our academic core. We have had a 20% reduction in the Division of Administration, 18% in Student Affairs, etc. and a reduction in Academic Affairs of under 5%. We have experienced \$9M in cuts in the past couple of years, a deficit that we can clear in the next three years or so. In the next year, we will have a \$4 million cut vs. a \$6 million cut in the previous year.

Interim President Magrath noted that we need more resources to do the work of this university. He strongly support's Chancellor Zimpher's efforts in the empowerment program to free the university centers from a full range of state regulations that limit our ability to be flexible and to generate additional resources for our entrepreneurial work, admissions flexibility, etc. This empowerment program went a long way, but did not pass through the legislature. Interim President Magrath said he is doing all he can to support it and that BU needs to continue working on the entrepreneurial side of what we do. We can do a lot more and be much better and stronger. Being free from restrictions is very important.

We still need to recognize, though, that we have problems and challenges. We are a first class university with strong first class faculty, outstanding students, and good outreach, research, and service. We can never give up on our quality, which is the most valuable thing we have. Interim President Magrath favors getting larger but not at the expense of our quality.

At this time, Interim President Magrath opened the meeting for questions.

Prof. Susan Strehle (Dept. of English) noted that we heard Interim President Magrath say that we wanted to get larger. In English, there are 800 majors taught largely by adjuncts and lecturers. She was interested to know how we are going to control enrollment over the next three years without the ability to increase faculty especially within Harpur College. Faculty does not have control over undergraduate admissions. Do we have a plan to keep admission under control over the next two to three years? Interim President Magrath replied yes, we do have a plan and are sensitive to the quality of our programs. We do not want to take in more students than we can handle.

At this time, Interim President Magrath addressed the foreign language issue. He said language is a part of SUNY and we will continue to teach languages at BU. Prof. Strehle agreed and noted that humanities are a crucial part of a liberal arts education. Interim President Magrath noted that humanities are fundamental here and will continue to be fundamental.

Prof. Rosmarie Morewedge (Dept. of German and Russian) was delighted to hear Interim President Magrath talk about the quality of this institution and for his support for humanities, especially languages and global education. Prof. Morewedge asks where we stand in terms of the plan for a law school. Interim President Magrath replied that the law school proposal is at the SUNY level, being considered by Central Administration. He said we do not expect an answer for six to nine months. Law schools are relatively inexpensive to run once they are running, but we first need a facility and to hire a dean and faculty, etc. which costs a significant amount of money. If we get approval, our next step is to decide what is realistically possible and how it fits with our other priorities.

Prof. Frank Cardullo (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering) noted that when the move to Division I was proposed, the Faculty Senate did not concur with the administration's decision. There were a lot of reasons the faculty opposed that move. We were told it would be a financial and recruiting advantage. Prof. Cardullo read a quote from Interim President Magrath that he favored continuation in Division I and was interested in Interim President Magrath's view of why he thinks Division I will be beneficial in the short and long term. Interim President Magrath responded that the quote was correct, he does favor Division I. He believes that a Division I program when it is done properly and is linked into a university's academic purpose is an enhancement for a major university. He also noted that he is taking steps to be sure athletics is linked to our academics even more than was the case six to seven months ago. He believes athletics can enhance the reputation of a university and having effective athletic programs is an enormous benefit in our community relationships. It is important and critical that it is done the right way. Prof. Cardullo noted that Interim President Magrath's answer could be interpreted for either Division I or Division III and asked if he thought there was a substantial benefit over Division I or Division III. Interim President Magrath stated, yes, he does feel that we are a Division I university in general and that athletics has to be part of that.

After no more questions, the full faculty meeting was adjourned.

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year was called to order by Prof. Reiter at 12:15 p.m.

1. Minutes A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 meeting as submitted. On voice vote, the motion was approved.
2. Obituary Notices Prof. Reiter read a list of former faculty who had recently passed away: Prof. Eugene Vasilew (English) and Prof. James "Dick" Beerbower (Geological Sciences). As is established practice, a note of condolence has been sent to each family on behalf of the Senate. A moment of silence was observed.
3. Reports
 - a) Chair Sara Reiter spoke of the letter that was sent to faculty recently regarding general education transfer issues which are of great concern. We have formed a task force from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to look into the issue. The task force is gathering information, which includes a survey that will be going out to faculty in the next week or so. After that, recommendations from the task force will go to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and then on to the Faculty Senate.

- b) Prof. Peter Knuepfer (Geological Sciences and University Faculty Senator) reported on the recent University Faculty Senate meeting. Prof. Knuepfer is a University Faculty Senator representing Binghamton and also serves on the University Faculty Senate executive committee as representative from the University centers. There were discussions at both levels about the suspension of programs at SUNY Albany in languages, theatre, and classics. After much discussion, the University Faculty Senate passed resolution #156-02-1 "Resolution on the Suspension of Programs at the University of Albany" due to the importance of languages in SUNY.

Prof. Knuepfer noted that there was a discussion with Monica Rimai, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer regarding the budget. The day before this discussion, SUNY passed an additional \$23M cut (\$1.5M additional to this campus). This totals \$600M in cuts to SUNY over the past three years. Prof. Knuepfer thanked both former President DeFleur and current Interim President Magrath and Vice President VanVoorst for keeping us on track.

Prof. Knuepfer went on to discuss where the transfer initiative stands from a System point of view. SUNY feels that the issue of mobility for students transferring from 2 to 4 year institutions has essentially been solved. Faculty groups have been meeting to look at what courses ought to be transferable from 2 to 4 year schools in each major. These faculty groups are trying to have general descriptions that are consistent campus to campus. System will be setting up a committee that will further pursue any issues that arise at individual campuses. David Lavalley, SUNY Provost, made a point that the mechanisms for smooth transfer have been accomplished by faculty groups working together.

4. New Business

- a) Annual reports of 2009-2010 Faculty Senate standing committees and others (attached to agenda). A motion was made to receive the reports. On voice vote, the motion carried.
- b) University Faculty Senate passed the below resolutions on October 21, 2010. BU Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved these resolutions on October 26, 2010 and passed them on to the Faculty Senate.

Resolution 156-01-1 "Resolution on Consultation with Governance" res of BU and Albany. After no discussion, a vote was taken to endorse the resolution and carried, 55 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Resolution 156-02-1 "Resolution on the Suspension of Programs at the University of Albany"

Prof. Reiter asked for any discussion on this resolution. Prof. Tom O'Connor (Romance Languages) asked Prof. Knuepfer and Prof. McGuire about the context of this resolution especially with regard to general education (gen ed) as a mandate and what the consequences are that University Faculty Senate discussed in regards to this resolution. Prof. Knuepfer noted that what was announced by President Philip of the University at Albany was to suspend the admission of students at both undergrad and graduate level to the forenamed programs. The expectation was that over the next two years, the current undergrad students would be allowed to complete their degrees. By that point, Albany felt that they would not need the tenured faculty in those programs. As far as offering language instruction at the gen ed level, assuming that Albany decides to have foreign language as part of their gen ed program, this will be done with adjunct instructors, not regular faculty. President Philip asked his Provost to put together budget advisory ad hoc committees. The Albany faculty felt that faculty senate procedures were side-swiped by that process. These committees recommended to President Philip that he do targeted cuts rather than across-the-board cuts. Prof. Knuepfer noted that the motivation behind developing this resolution was to place it in front of Chancellor Zimpher and President Philip to show that there is a broader concern when particular programs

are targeted. If a university is going to call itself a comprehensive university, it cannot be cutting out whole programs.

After no other discussion, a vote was taken to endorse the resolution and it carried, 46 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

After no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Present: Josephine Allen, Kimberly Avery, Anne Bailey, Bat-Ami Bar On, Christopher Bishop, Herbert Bix, Anne Brady, Karen Bromley, Frank Cardullo, George Catalano, Andy Cavagnetto, Jill Dixon, Mark Fowler, Leslie Gates, Ross Geoghegan, Peter Gerhardstein, Ariana Gerstein, J. David Hacker, Scott Henkel, Norah Henry, Douglas Holmes, Sharon Holmes, Neha Khanna, Kelly Kinney, Peter Knuepfer, Ricardo Laremont, Richard Lee, Alistair Lees, Michael Lewis, C. Peter Magrath, Sarah Maximiek, Marcin Mazur, Randall McGuire, Jean-Pierre Mileur, Luiza Moreira, Rosmarie Morewedge, Nagendra Nagarur, Thomas O'Connor, Carolyn Pierce, Solomon Polachek, Curt Pueschel, Daniel Rabinowitz, Sara Reiter, Erin Rushton, Karen Salvage, Thomas Sinclair, Timothy Singler, Pamela Smart, Gale Spencer, Jim Stark, Susan Strehle, John Tagg, Lisa Tessman, Gary Truce, Leigh Ann Wheeler, Karl Wilson, Lijun Yin, Nan Zhou, Weixing Zhu

Excused: H. Richard Naslund, Srinivasa Venugopalan

Absent: Laura Anderson, Lubna Chaudry, Monika Furch, Christof Grewer, Albrecht Inhoff, Kimberly Jaussi, Jonathan Karp, Sonja Kim, David Klotzkin, Kenneth Kurtz, R. Kevin Lacey, Dale Madison, Michael McDonald, Karin Sauer, Paul Schleuse