

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
December 15, 2015

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year was called to order by Prof. Fernando Guzman at 11:45 am.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Announcement

Prof. Guzman notified Senators about a message received from Peter Knuepfer, chair of the University Faculty Senate. On December 11, Governor Cuomo vetoed the Maintenance of Effort legislation. The key question now, however, is whether any of this will appear in the executive budget proposal next month, and whether the Legislature will make the Maintenance of Effort a priority in the next session. Prof. Guzman urged Senators that if they have not yet contacted their legislator, they are requested to please do so.

3. Approval of degree candidates

776 graduates have filed an application for degree. Motion was made and seconded to approve. List was approved by a vote of 59 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

4. Annual reports of 2014-2015 Faculty Senate committees

*Convocations* (Mr. Andrus) – This committee is comprised of 4 faculty, 2 administrators, 3 undergraduate students, and a member from GSO. The committee meets three to four times per semester to discuss applications for funding. Our funding is gotten from the President's Office (\$5,300) and the Student Association (\$5,300). We funded 19 events last year for a total of \$11,650. The Black Student Union's event was the largest event we funded last year. This semester, we have seen more applications than normal.

*EOP Advisory* (Prof. Nicole Rouhana) – This committee is comprised of 12 faculty, 4 students, and members from EOP and met three times last year. We currently have 565 EOP students. Our graduation rate is 76% which is the highest in the state. An increase in the state budget went to EOP programs so we were able to increase funding to 40 EOP students in 2015. We had 141 students enrolled in the Summer Enrichment program. A new preparatory chemistry course was piloted to help support students' success in the fall. This appeared successful. We are increasing and strengthening communications between departments and EOP. Under the leadership of Calvin Gantt, the EOP program continues to grow. The committee looks forward to input from faculty.

Prof. Fernando Guzman asked what the SUNY wide graduation rate was. Prof. Rouhana stated that ours is the highest at 76%. Prof. Rouhana will find out what the SUNY rate is and will provide to Prof. Guzman.

*EPPC* (Prof. Sara Reiter) – This committee has 12 members and meets as needed. This committee reviews curriculum changes, policy changes, routine revisions of programs, new tracks, new master's degrees, and new combinations of degrees -- everything that goes to the State. Sustainable Communities, the new WGSS major, and Advanced Social Work certificate were reviewed by EPPC last year.

*Library* – (Prof. Solomon Polachek) – Prof. Polachek noted that a strong library is essential to any university especially for a premier university. Our library is very good but there is always room for improvement. This committee met three times with interim dean Susannah

Gal to discuss seven issues -- roadmap projects, budget, fundraising, outreach, space, ARL membership, and information technology. The library committee looks forward to working with the new dean when he arrives in January.

Question from Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies – How will the deficit and funding line up for the coming year? Prof. Polachek noted that the Library began last year with a large deficit which was made up by the Provost office. The Library committee will look at ways to enhance the budget (fines, fees for use of library). Provost Nieman commented that we have taken care of the Elsevier \$600,000 expense so the Library is not responsible. Dean Curtis Kendrick has had health issues and we look forward to him starting in January. He will provide great leadership for the Libraries.

*Professionals Standards* (Prof. Robert Guay reported for Prof. Gale Spencer) – The committee addressed two cases last year regarding acrimonious and civility within departments. Memos were sent to all parties involved.

*University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee* (Prof. Sara Reiter reported for Prof. Mark Reisinger) – This committee has University-wide representatives and meets weekly on items related to general education. The committee also oversees university rubrics, scholar courses, CDCI courses, and outdoor pursuits courses. The committee last year worked on gen ed policies and requirements. Veterans asked for Y credit for basic training which was not approved.

*ACET* (Prof Donald Loewen) – ACET is a joint committee composed of faculty and appointees from administrative offices. The committee met five times last year to review issues regarding high performance academic computing and where our needs are in relation to capacity. The most significant Blackboard implementation was virtualization for the entire Blackboard environment. A working group looked at implementation of a campus media streaming server; some pilots are underway now to look at the product that most meets campus needs. ACET was involved in the search and hire process of Sharon Pitt. Classroom renovation projects are underway, particularly in the Student Wing. Implementation has started where faculty and graduate students work with CLT instructional designers to find out about tools available to help with their instruction.

Prof. Manoj Agarwal, School of Management, asked about the need for a centralized statistical person in I/T to help with programming and SPSS. Prof. Loewen answered that the committee did not review this last year but asked Prof. Agarwal to send him an email regarding this concern. Prof. Loewen encourages other faculty to do so also. Prof. Guzman noted that the Mathematics Department put in a roadmap proposal for this, and although it did not get funded, the proposal is still there.

Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences stated that printed class lists had included useful information (major, level). In Blackboard, can we see this useful information? Prof. Loewen answered that this can be found in the detailed class lists, but he is not sure if Blackboard is the place for this. He advised that ACET can review that this year.

*Committee for the University Environment* (Prof. Julian Shepherd) – CUE is a joint faculty/administration committee. Since the role of the Vice President for Administration has been changed to Vice President for Operations, CUE has been without a co-chair. This situation needs to be rectified. CUE reviews construction, environmental improvements, oversees the Nature Preserve and on-campus areas as well. Last year we continued to

deal with degeneration in the Nature Preserve due to the deer population. President Stenger has agreed that we can study this problem so an enclosure has been put up to study this. A campus climate action plan was developed in 2009 and reviewed last year. There was a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030; we have met that goal already due to efficiency in our buildings and a reduction from the heating plant (using wood chips versus purchasing coal which will cease in 2016). Another issue is the number of people commuting to campus and ideas were discussed. CUE also reviewed the proposal for use of the Nature Preserve, renovation projects for roads, and installation of the new artificial turf field.

Prof. Christopher Hanes, Economics, asked if CUE is involved in traffic patterns on campus. It is felt that perhaps a traffic light is needed where Lot M feeds into the brain. With the increased number of students, there are now huge traffic backups there. Prof. Shepherd responded that CUE could consider this, along with the Campus Safety committee.

*Evaluation Coordinating Committee* (Prof. Scott Craver) – ECC conducts regular evaluations on administrators and deans of schools. An internet-based survey is sent to faculty and other personnel in the appropriate school. Final evaluations are sent to the administrator and his/her immediate supervisor. Last year evaluations were done on Dean Srihari and Dean McCall. Sara Reiter served as chair during Dean Srihari's evaluation since Prof. Craver is in Watson School. Dean McCall's evaluation was done earlier than normally scheduled due to being directed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to conduct it. Doing this evaluation early caused a great deal of discussion on our policy and timeline (currently every five years). ECC and FSEC will be discussing feedback received from faculty on the timeline. The ECC is also currently reviewing the list of administrators to be evaluated due to many changes in administration.

## 5. New business

- a) University Service, Tenure and Promotion to associate professor, and promotion to full professor

This motion comes from the ad-hoc committee that was formed to review this issue. If approved here, this language will go to the Provost and the AUPC Interpretations and Procedures committee to craft appropriate language into the procedures.

Prof Laremont, chair of committee, said the first concern was how both assistant and associate professors were being considered for promotion with regard to service. The committee reviewed the old language and decided it was inadequate.

First it was decided to lower the service expectations for assistant professor and raise it for associate professor. But this should also take into account smaller departments/schools.

Section iii and iv discuss participation in high-time service assignments. If a professor does serve, time off should be given towards promotion or class reduction. This option should be discussed with one's dean and the Provost.

Section v. and vi discuss that the IPC needs to take into account service given and how service is measured.

Prof. Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, thanks the committee for their work. Did the committee consider something parallel for associate and full professors? Why does section iii refer to only assistant professors? This seems disproportionate. What about for women and faculty of color? Prof. Laremont agreed that this is a legitimate concern. Prof. Guzman agreed with this observation. Associate professors who already have tenure are in a much better position to agree or disagree to serve (and negotiate teaching release). We hope that this serves as an example, will see how this works for assistant professors, and in the future send a separate motion for associate professors.

Prof. Titilayo Okoror, Africana Studies, asked about the timeframe for looking at changing this language for associate professors. Prof. Laremont notes that the Senate will vote today and then this language moves to the Provost and the AUPC for incorporation into the Provost guidelines. It had been decided to address the language about assistant professors first, see what adjustments are needed, and take it up again later relative to associate professors. The department chair, dean, and Provost need to negotiate teaching release.

Prof. Benita Roth, Sociology, was a member of this ad-hoc committee. She noted that female faculty typically take longer to get tenure. This issue could be part of the charge of the diversity committee.

Prof. Joseph Graney, Geology, noted that this is a good step in the right direction. Currently the IPC is not forced to review service and there is no language that service is rewarded. This should be discussed with one's dean and the Provost on whether there should be a reward for service. Prof. Laremont said this was discussed and the committee decided not to make a policy and leave that to the discretion of the dean and the Provost.

Prof. Howard Brown, History, noted that this language is very strong and these issues are very important. Prof. Brown expressed his opposition to this and urged the Senate not to approve and to instruct the AUPC to change the language.

Prof. Laremont noted that this is advisory to the Provost. Prof. Guzman noted that there is value with changing the language in the Provost's procedures for personnel procedures. Prof. Laremont clarified that this is just advice to administration; we are not imposing language to address concerns of the faculty.

Prof. John Starks, Classics, said that one concern here is that there is not a definition of a small department. Prof. Guzman commented that we did not designate a number.

Prof. Tom Sinclair noted that as a campus climate culture, there is a difference between stating a value and supporting it with evidence. Faculty have an obligation and responsibility to be part of governance so we make sure to stay focused on goals and our mission.

After no more discussion, Prof. Guzman asks a vote. He noted that a "yes" vote means that we send the language forward to the Provost and the AUPC to craft language into the Provost's Procedures. A "no" vote means that we instruct the AUPC to change the language.

On hand vote, the motion was approved by a vote of 48 approved, 3 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

## 6. Reports

Prof. Thomas Sinclair, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, reported on the work of the Executive Committee this semester.

- The Diversity committee that was discussed at the fall planning session will be put together during the spring semester.
- Campus Governance Leaders prepared an op-ed article that has run in Pipedream today.
- There were a lot of discussions about changes in the Evaluation Coordinating Committee's procedures. Any changes will come to the Senate next semester.
- FSEC discussed the role of service for faculty that came to the Senate today.
- FSEC has sent a change request to the Bylaws Review Committee to include membership from the Pharmacy School on the Executive Committee.
- The FSEC was involved in the search for the DSON dean and the appointment of the dean of the Graduate School of Education.
- The FSEC met with President Stenger and Provost Nieman and discussed the family leave document. Binghamton is the first SUNY university center to have a written policy that is on our webpage now.
- FSEC met with several administrators – Deans Meredith, Srihari, Strehle.
- FSEC discussed the graduate student stipends and passed a resolution that was given to all Senators today.
  - Prof. Benita Roth, Sociology, asked if the FSEC met with any graduate students. Prof. Sinclair noted that we did not.
  - Prof. Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, asked if we discussed any other options for distributing this money to graduate students. How can we increase stipends to our existing graduate students? This is not ideal but given the amount of money for the program, this is the best we can do at this time. FSEC felt it is important for departments and schools to find additional funding for their existing graduate students.
- Prof. Christopher Hanes, Economics, asked if we are still planning to meet with the chairs of TAE's? Prof. Sinclair said this will take place in the spring semester.
- Prof. Guzman noted that for the parental leave policy, the work of the Harpur diversity and inclusion committee was responsible for bringing this issue to the forefront which will have an effect throughout the university. Provost Nieman complimented the efforts of Joseph Schultz, Director of Human Resources, for working with SUNY Human Resources on this.
- Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences, asked if we still plan to provide \$500 matching for continuing graduate students. Provost Nieman answered that we will be doing this.
  - Prof. Howard Brown, History, noted that it is not clear if this is a one-time matching or will be available each year until they graduate. Provost Nieman noted that this will be a continuing commitment.

Having no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Present: Manoj Agarwal, Benjamin Andrus, Rosemary Arrojo, Serdar Atav, Jeffrey Barker, Christopher Bartlette, John Baust, Cassandra Bransford, Howard Brown, Nicole Cameron, Kenneth Chiu, Junghyun Cho, Cynthia Connine, Scott Craver, Heather DeHaan, Carmen Ferradas, Mikhail Filippov, Leslie Gates, Brandon Gibb, Joseph Graney, Vincent Grenier, Robert Guay, Fernando Guzman, Colleen Hailey, Christopher Hanes, Leslie Heywood, Courtney Ignarri, Jonathan Karp, Ricardo Laremont, Dennis Lasser, Marla Mallette, Sandra Michael, Natalija Mijatovic, Jay Newberry, Donald Nieman, Titilayo Okoror, Carolyn Pierce, Florenz Plassmann, Mark Poliks, Xingye Qiao, Sara Reiter, Joshua Reno, Benita Roth, Hiroki Sayama, Thomas Sinclair, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Sandro Sticca, Masatsugu Suzuki, Lisa Tessman, Cyma VanPetten, Adrian Vasiu, Joseph Weil Bruce White, Stan Whittingham, Sara Wozniak, Bogum Yoon, Lei Yu, Stephen Zahorian, Hong Zhang

Excused: Anne Brady, David Clark, Tongshu Ma, Robert Micklus, Neil Christian Pages, Dmitry Ponomarev, Edward Shephard

Absent: Anne Bailey, Frank Cardullo, John Cheng, Sharon Holmes, Murali Jagannathan, Hyeyoung Kang, Hoe Kyeong Kim, Gretchen Mahler, Dillon Schade, David Wilson, Chaun Zhong, Shengsheng Zhou