

**MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 27, 2010**

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year was called to order by Prof. Sara Reiter (School of Management and Chair, Faculty Senate) at 11:55 a.m. in UU Mandela Room.

1. **Minutes.** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting as submitted. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

2. **Announcements/Questions.** a) Presentation by Dr. Liz Droz, Dean of Students, on dealing with disruptive student situations. Prof. Reiter explained that there have been many inquiries about what is being done in light of the tragedy that occurred on campus at the end of last semester. Dr. Droz introduced Matthew Rossie, Investigator with the University Policy, who often accompanies her to such presentations. She explained that a committee was created to deal with students who have come to the attention of the police and others. Often they are asked about obstructive behavior in the classroom setting. The faculty right to ask an individual to leave a class is emphasized. The committee can intervene on behalf of faculty members if necessary. Other issues considered are inappropriate behavior in on line courses, disturbing content in written papers, email, etc. Mr. Rossie added that sometimes there is confusion about what happens after the initial call and subsequent response. Dr. Droz also referred to another newly formed committee, the Workplace Violence Prevention Advisory Committee that conducts site visits and workplace assessment.

Prof. Ross Geoghegan (Mathematical Sciences) said that often disruptive behavior takes place in the classrooms of graduate teaching assistants and suggested that safety information be made available at orientation for new graduate assistants. Dr. Droz agreed and said that plans are underway. There also has been contact with the Graduate Student Organization. In addition, there is discussion about expanding course syllabus to include statements about safety and proper behavior. Mr. Rossie said that safety of individuals should be considered when planning office space and furniture placement.

b) Obituary Notices. Prof. Reiter read a list of former faculty who had recently passed away: Prof. Norman T. Burns (English) and Prof. Walter Filley (Political Science). As is established practice, a note of condolence was sent to each family on behalf of the Senate. A moment of silence was observed.

c) Clarification of guidelines for general education 'C' courses. Prof. Reiter explained that the phrase 'with instructor feedback' was added to the revisions process.

d) Summer school student grading. Prof. Reiter reported that last summer grades were not available until the end of all summer school courses. It is not clear that this will be the case this summer but faculty should be aware to post grades on Blackboard to enable students to receive them in a timely manner.

e) FOILability (Freedom of Information Law) of SOOTs (Student Opinion of Teaching). Prof. Reiter reminded faculty that these instruments can be released upon FOIL request and in fact, spring 2009 results were released to the Student Association last fall upon FOIL request.

f) Results of recent elections. Prof. Reiter reported that due to an audit by the SUNY University Faculty Senator Office, Binghamton gained an additional senator. Peter Knuepfer and Randall McGuire won the recent election as Binghamton's representatives, Knuepfer for a three year term and McGuire for a two year term beginning July 1, 2010. The terms are staggered for this time only for continuity. The election for alternates is ongoing. In addition, she reminded the body about the upcoming open forum on the presidential search, Wednesday, April 28, 4 p.m., UU Old Union Hall.

3. **Reports.** a) Prof. Peter Knuepfer (Geological Sciences and Chair, Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee) reported that the budget process is ongoing at the state level so final budgetary

reductions are not known although there will be at least a \$150 million reduction to SUNY. Prior to the current fiscal year, there had been an increase in state funds but not enough to cover the mandated and contractual increases. Binghamton's reduction for 2010-11 would be about \$8.8 million. Vice President for Administration James VanVoorst concurred saying that the total reduction is made up of three components - \$4.3 million in the executive budget, \$2 million additional in the executive budget for contract actions, and \$2.4 million hold back to individual departments. Prof. Knuepfer added that over the past few years the university has taken measures to deal with budget issues by using one time money, minimizing cuts to academic affairs, and decreasing hiring. The University's Voluntary Separation Program could net a savings of close to \$2 million.

b) Prof. Sandra Michael (Biological Sciences and University Faculty Senator) reported on the recent University Faculty Senate plenary session. Faculty will be asked to volunteer to participate in the chancellor's new SUNY strategic plan. Interim Provost David Lavalley spoke about the transfer and mobility issue and a plan to reorganize how System Administration assesses individual campuses. The University Faculty Senate passed two resolutions about the makeup of presidential searches and the public higher education empowerment and innovation act.

Prof. Rosmarie Morewedge (German and Russian Studies) asked Prof. Michael about the proposed regions in the state in relation to the assessment process. Prof. Michael replied that assessment remains the same at each campus, the proposed geographic regions are an administrative reorganization at the System level.

4. Old Business. a) report of SOOTs task force (attached to agenda). Prof. Reiter gave background information saying that at the May 5, 2009 Senate meeting a motion was passed charging the FSEC with forming a task force to examine practices at other institutions, implications of making results public, consideration of broader issues, etc. Prof. Andrew Scholtz (Classics) chaired the task force. Prof. Reiter summarized the eight recommendations of the task force. The FSEC has unanimously approved the report and forwarded it to the Senate with the suggestion that the eight recommendations listed be approved. If they are approved by the Senate, the FSEC recommends that a faculty advisory committee be created to be involved in the implementation of the release of SOOT data. The committee would report to the FSEC.

Prof. Michael said that in discussion in the FSEC, Prof. Wayne Jones requested that the SOOT form continue to be made available electronically as well since he receives a high rate of return. Prof. Scholtz said the committee discussed the issue and members felt that the response rate was poor when paper surveys were not used. Members felt that as a whole the exercise would be statistically stronger for the university assuming that in general return rates are not good when the electronic option is used.

Prof. Randall McGuire (Anthropology) said that he has had experience in establishing public opinion polling and a basic rule is that self-selected samples should not be used. He added that the electronic forms produce a self-selected sample by directing students to go elsewhere to fill out the form. Prof. Scholtz agreed with Prof. McGuire's comments and said the committee did address this issue.

Prof. J. David Hacker (History) asked if the task force had addressed making SOOTs mandatory. Prof. Reiter said that her understanding is that not making them mandatory is a long-standing policy. The task force was not charged to consider this issue. Prof. Scholtz reported that the issue was considered but no judgment was made. He added that there was a lack of consensus about the instrument itself and other issues not mentioned. The report listed issues of consensus only.

Prof. Morewedge spoke in favor of recommendation 7, saying that there should be optional questions in order for faculty to have more information on issues that are important to them individually.

Prof. Susan Strehle (English) praised the committee for its work in framing recommendations that are non-controversial while moving the issues forward. She urged support for the proposal.

Prof. Ross Geoghegan (Mathematical Sciences) questioned what the Senate was being asked to do since no motion was listed in the agenda. Prof. Knuepfer moved to table the matter until clarification could be made. By a show of hands, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Present: Herbert Bix, Katharine Bouman, Louis Braiotta, Zu-Yan Chen, Heather DeHaan, Randy Friedman, Susannah Gal, Ross Geoghegan, J. David Hacker, Norah Henry, Douglas Holmes, Sharon Holmes, Kelly Kinney, Peter Knuepfer, Karen Kozlowski, Richard Lee, Michael Lewis, Patrick Madden, Sarah Maximiek, Marcin Mazur, Roy McGrann, Randall McGuire, Sandra Michael, Rosmarie Morewedge, Nagendra Nagarur, Haim Ofek, Ravi Palat, Qinru Qiu, Sara Reiter, Paul Schleuse, Thomas Sinclair, Gale Spencer, Susan Strehle, Gary Truce, Srinivasa Venugopalan, M. Stanley Whittingham, Kevin Wright, Lisa Yun, Kimberly Avery, Daniel Rabinowitz

Excused: A. Serdar Atav, Karen Bromley, Andy Cavagnetto, John Fillo, Mark Fowler, Scott Henkel, Wayne Jones, R. Kevin Lacey, Leann Lesperance, Luiza Moreira, Mary Ann Swain, Susan Lewis

Absent: Josephine Allen, Karen Barzman, Benjamin Brewster, David Davies, Lois DeFleur, Shelley Dionne, Ariana Gerstein, Joseph Graney, Albrecht Inhoff, Angelique Jenks-Brown, Jonathan Karp, Clifford Kern, Kenneth Kurtz, Ricardo Laremont, J. Koji Lum, Michael McDonald, Steven Scalet, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Jim Stark, Steven Tammariello