

Minutes of the University Senate Meeting, Oct. 4, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Brent Lindquist, Senate President at approximately 3:30 PM. The agenda was approved as were the minutes of the previous meeting with one small correction.

President Kenny's report was submitted in writing. Provost McGrath report consisted of entertaining questions by the senators starting with an answer to a question that he knew was on everyone's mind, that of the policy for collecting tuition charges on research grants. The charge would be 6 credit hours of in state tuition.

Two questions followed: 1) What was the exact mechanism, and 2) Would Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor be charged?

His answers were: 1) An implementation memo would be forthcoming and 2) Brookhaven and Cold Spring Harbor would be included.

A question concerning Stony Brook Manhattan was asked and answered with a short discourse on the approval process by the State Education Department which regulates instructional sites. Provost McGrath informed the Senate that obtaining approval of an educational site was less onerous than approval of a center, and that the paperwork was in the pipeline and approval would come shortly. The approval would allow financial aid to be awarded. A senator asked whether students would receive credit, and the answer was in the affirmative.

A senator asked about signage in the reconstruction of the Staller Center Plaza, indicating that more information concerning the plans should be posted.

Brent Lindquist then prefaced Dick Mann's introduction by delineating the questions concerning current campus issues that had arisen in a community meeting. Brent stated that there was much disinformation in the community and that if the faculty was better informed they would be in a position to relate facts as they exist. These topics were addressed in order by Dick Mann as follows:

- 1) Entrance Design: The entrance road would be redirected from its current northward curve and the complicated intersection would be simplified and controlled by a signal light. This would create a more rational traffic flow and reduce the potential for accidents. A discussion of the high speeds on Nicoll's road took place with most in favor of a reduction in the speed limit, provided that it was enforced.
- 2) Hotel Plans: Since the Wang Center has conference facilities there is less of a need for these facilities in the proposed hotel. The university is in discussion currently about a "mid-range" hotel, but it is not a "done deal." Both sides have "walk-away" clauses in the contract. A four story structure is proposed with 138 rooms and limited food availability. There will be no less than a 100 ft. buffer.
- 3) Recharge basins (also known locally as "sumps") along LIRR tracks: The 1991 disaster which resulted in the tracks being washed away was discussed. The remediation of this possible danger was discussed in some detail and involved pumping water to another recharge basin near the sewage disposal plant so that silt removal could take place enhancing drainage or "percolation" of the water into the soil. In response to a question about the inability of the handicapped, especially those who are wheelchair bound, to navigate over the pipeline in use to empty the recharge basin, Dick stated that the pipe was temporary and would be removed shortly. He pointed out that maintenance is essential and plans are in place for continuation of the silt removal process in the future utilizing contractors.
- 4) Creation of new recharge basin near the sewage plant: Government regulations have mandated nitrate reductions by 75% by January, '09. The plan is to create containment facilities which would effect nitrate reduction. A question of clarification was proposed to the effect that although discharging effluent containing nitrate into the Port Jefferson Harbor would mitigate the impact on the harbor, what would the effect of nitrate on the aquifer be? The answer was that this plan was recommended by official agencies. Another possibility would be that water from such recharge basins could be recycled by watering the lawns, especially of the athletic fields.
- 5) Tensions with the Stony Brook Fire Department: Dick opined that the original idea behind volunteer fire departments was that local people lived and worked locally and would be available in the event of fire. Since this is no longer true, with many working at a distance, there is a shortage of volunteers. Fire alarms, which previously screened by University fire marshals, now go directly to Yaphank. With the relatively high number of false alarms that occur, the volunteer department is overstressed. We have provided equipment and volunteers which seems to have the effect of reducing tensions.
- 6) Current status of eminent domain proceedings concerning the Gyrodyne property: As of today, there is legal action challenging the university's environmental impact statement. The university would still prefer negotiation but will proceed legally. A question was asked concerning who would be responsible for toxic substance remediation once the land is owned by the university and the answer was that the university would.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 PM

Recorded by G. Tortora