

University Senate
Minutes of May 2, 2005 Meeting

I. Approval of Tentative Agenda

President of the Senate Brent Lindquist called the Meeting to order at 3:37 PM. The agenda was amended to allow item VI presentation before item V.

II. Minutes of April 4, 2005

Approved

III. President's Report

The president's written report was discussed by Provost Robert McGrath. He made special note of the first conference of the Stony Brook World Environmental Forum to be held in the Charles B. Wang Center, convened by Visiting Professor Richard Leakey on May 6-8.

IV. Provost's Report

Provost McGrath introduced the topic of the reorganization of the Undergraduate Business program, and then turned the discussion over to Joe McDonald for presentation of the details. Dr. McDonald described in detail the changes made in the undergraduate business curriculum and the rationale for the changes. Briefly the new curriculum would consist of 61- 67 credits for 21 courses, 2/3 of which would be presented by the business department and 1/3 by other departments. A detailed breakdown indicated that there would be 4 general management courses, followed by concentration in one of four functional areas. This would account for 46 of 67 credits. Each student would be required to take a minor. He summarized by stating that there were 2 fundamental changes: specialization and elimination of outside courses. The rationale that was presented for these changes included 1) The graduates were competing with other universities and that Stony Brook had to organize in a way that made our students attractive, and 2)The program had to demonstrate control of the curriculum to the accrediting agency.

A period of questions followed concerning issues such as the 1) the graduate program, 2) how smoothly the minors requirement could be handled 3) the need for more resources for advisement.

VI. Results of Campus Climate Survey

This item was moved up in the agenda since it had been postponed previously. C. Peabody presented the rationale for the Campus Climate Survey and described the results in detail. She noted that surveys were being conducted all over the country, and that there was a need to know what the actual data was concerning the various minorities. There were 12,500 surveys distributed with 2833 returns (23%) of which 71% were female and 29% male. This was an exhaustive study with results too detailed for presentation in these minutes. Copies are available from C. Peabody.

V. Resolution from the Undergraduate Council: Freshman Seminar 102 to be Mandatory.

Bill Collins presented the curriculum and the history behind the development of the course, stating that the resolution was a culmination of 2 years of discussion and observation. He noted the following that in recognition of the fact that it is important for freshman to have small seminars and that of the community of Undergraduate Colleges was established to that end, and that 1/3 of freshmen have taken 102 that it was important to pass this resolution.

The resolution was presented in writing. A discussion concerning S/U grading followed. An amendment was made to revisit the issue after 3 years experience with the course and the grading system. The amendment was passed without dissent as was the resolution.

The time being late, items VII, VIII, and IX were postponed until the next Senate meeting.

Submitted by:

George T. Tortora