

College of Arts and Sciences Senate

Minutes of November 9th, 1998 Senate Meeting

Secretary: Daniel B. Monk

Meeting called to order at 3:40PM

I. The Agenda was approved

II. The Minutes of the October 12, 1998 Meeting of the CAS Senate were approved, with the following revisions:

1. Joan Kuchner, Senate Vice-President, should be spelled properly .
2. N. Goodman noted that Item IIIA should specify that the SUNY Provost had put out for an R.F.P., but that his re-examination of General Education had not yet been carried out.

III. Senate President's Report (Hugh J. Silverman):

A. Standing Committees: the Senate President reported that all five standing committees were now up and running, with the most recently completed being the Graduate Programs Committee, which would begin its work very soon.

B. Curriculum Committee: Elizabeth Stone, Chair of the CC to report on last year's accomplishments and this year's focus. During the present academic year the CC will review the status of Interdisciplinary Programs.

C. PTC: Reported that the promotion and tenure committee was 'hard at work' reviewing cases. Noted that PTC guidelines stipulate only that a member from the same department shall not vote. They do not state whether the member should be present or absent during the discussion. Question: "does the senate want to specify further what the abstention clause means?" The various options were reviewed with a handout specifying these options. He then mentioned that the PTC requested that no vote be taken on this item at this time, but indicated that a preliminary discussion could nevertheless take place.

D. Membership in the A&S Senate: The Senate Constitution stipulates that membership in University Senate constitutes membership in the A&S Senate. President stated that this is contrary to logic: membership in the A&S Senate should necessarily mean membership in the University Senate. He asked if the constitution should be revised to record the inverse? He further noted that the constitution stipulates that no changes of this sort can be voted on without it being placed on the agenda for two prior meetings of the Senate.

Responses: N. Goodman agreed that this makes sense, but stated that the change would have to also have to be made at the University Senate level as well. R. Kerber stated that he thought this was probably just a matter of aesthetics. ..

IV. Dean's Report: [Paul Armstrong, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences]

Dean Armstrong circulated a report entitled "College of Arts and Sciences Accomplishments, 1996-1998" in which he outlined achievements and budget considerations affecting the College of Arts & Sciences. Working through financial tables for the past two years, the Dean outlined an enduring budget deficit in A & S, which he has been reduced substantially by budget cuts, and principally through a reduction in the size of the faculty. He presented his 2-year plan to get allocations in line by reducing search lists, rotating freeze when positions are vacated. Following this, he reported a further[?] 3% reduction in faculty, and an anticipated surplus or balanced budget in the 2000-2001 academic year.

Responses: R. Kerber expressed concern that the budgetary figures presented by the Dean will look far worse if the economy were to turn downward, if further budget cuts could be anticipated from Albany. He asked what flexibility the Dean had built in to account for this? Dean Armstrong stated that his figures presupposed not being hurt, but also not being helped in upcoming budgets. He stated that there was reason for optimism because of the SUNY Provost's RAM formula, which would help Stony Brook. N. Goodman stated that his sources informed him that trustees might ask for an increase in the SUNY budget. Concern was expressed that more students were leading to more income for the school, but that this went to hire adjuncts, and thus a deterioration in the quality of the college. Dean Armstrong: agreed with this, and hoped that in succeeding years we will benefit more from additional students. J. Kuchner asked the Dean to explain the gap between the Dean's 25 lines on the search list and the 86 lines university-wide. Dean Armstrong stated that this year there would be 27 [not 25] lines in the A & S budget, plus 5 diversity appointments. The rest were in Health Sciences, Engineering. Hugh Silverman asked how T.A. Allocations were affected. Dean Armstrong responded that these were separate allocations and were cut for other reasons, and were down by 12. He stated that his effort was to allocate more to Ph.D. than MA's, but stated that there were still nowhere near enough. Present numbers: 544. Hugh Silverman noted that for many years we had been in a stable state of 640 T.A. lines for the whole university but since only a small portion of those were outside the CAS, the total number of TA lines has dropped significantly in the past five to ten years..

V. Annual Report: Curriculum Committee 1997-98. Elizabeth Stone presented a summary of the 97-8 accomplishments of the 23 meetings of the CC. Among these were: approval of 2 majors, approval of new courses, review of the AIM program, reorganized the Biology major. She also reported on issues of concern to the CC in the present year and future. Principally, in relation to the Interdisciplinary Majors. The committee has begun data gathering, has met with the Dean and Associate Dean Mary Rawlinson, has produced a questionnaire for students, and will meet with students. In its preliminary discussions the CC has begun to ask "why two majors", instead of a specific major for tightly focused interdisciplinary research? The Committee would also like to find a way for the faculty as a whole to be involved, and it

would like to understand the needs of the majors. She also stated that the second long-term goal was a review of the Honors College, and to formulate policy vis-à-vis film and video.

Responses: B. Kerber stated that he was impressed with the turn-around time in the committee, and offered his congratulations to what he considered to be a 'real' CC. E. Stone responded that much of its success had been achieved by taking routine administrative issues off the table.

VI. PTC Report for 1997-1998 [Mark Aronoff, Past PTC Chair reporting]

Working with a handout entitled "Summary of 1997-1998 PTC Actions" Mark Aronoff presented a table of the 33 cases in the last year. Various members of the Senate had difficulty interpreting the table, and Aronoff clarified matters.

Responses: B. Kerber asked about the standard recommendation letter to reviewers. "Why doesn't it deal with teaching?" Hugh Silverman stated that this was a subject that would be taken up at the next senate meeting. Dean Armstrong stated that his office had been preparing some revisions to the PTC guidelines concerning teaching and that he hoped these would be brought before the Senate at its next meeting.

VII. Constitutional Change: Membership on the Arts and Sciences Senate [first discussion]. See Item IIID above. Hugh Silverman reviewed the issue.

Discussion: B. Maskit asked H. Silverman to clarify wording in the Constitution. Hugh Silverman stated that if a program or department has six or more faculty, then they get a representative in the Senate. The Senate Constitution simply makes reference to A & S Senators. N. Goodman confirmed that the situation was backwards, exactly as Hugh Silverman presented. B. Kerber stated that presently the University Senate has to undertake the responsibility of carrying out election of senators. If the proposed change were to take place then the A&S Senate would have to do it. N. Goodman stated that it is not inconceivable that the University Senate would still do it. B. Maskit: stated he is generally opposed to [making changes to] things that make no difference. Hugh Silverman stated that this was in fact a practical and conceptual difference.

VIII. Old Business. No old Business

IX. New Business: No new Business

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.