

Tentative Agenda
University Senate Meeting
February 4, 2002

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
- II. Approval of minutes from University Senate meeting on December 3, 2001
- III. President's Report (S. Kenny)
- IV. Provost's Report (R. McGrath)
- V. Stony Brook Day in Albany (P. Cruso)
- VI. Discussion of Campus Webpage (J. Levich)
- VII. SUNY Senate Report (B. Godfrey)
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business

University Senate Meeting
Recorded by David Hanson
December 3, 2001

The agenda was approved after amended to include as #7 an issue from the Undergraduate Council.

Minutes from 11/5 were approved after a typo was corrected.

President's Report

A written report was submitted and extended in the presentation.

University does not have the hiring freeze that has been imposed on State agencies. We have been asked to describe the consequences of a cutback this year. We have been warned to look for a 5% decrease next year in that we likely will be asked to fund contractual salary increases without new funds.

Stony Brook Manhattan, 401 Park Avenue South, was described. Faculty interested in teaching there or holding other events, including conferences, should contact David Hicks in the Provost's Office. This facility provides a great opportunity to reach out to alumnus, work on fund raising, share Stony Brook's riches with others, and develop collaborations with colleagues in New York City.

Provost's Report

A written report was submitted and extended in the presentation.

December Commencement is on 12/16.

Stony Brook Cares Campaign is near its dollar goal but participation is still low.

A new Committee on the Undergraduate Experience is being formed. The intent is to have stronger representation of the needs of undergraduates in the administrative structure. Mark Aronoff, Deputy Provost, will chair the committee. A question pointed out that someone concerned with computing for undergraduates should be on the committee. The Provost agreed.

The EOP AIM budget is being cut by 12%. The Administration has worked to assure that the number of students served will not decrease. We need to convey to the State legislature the importance of this program to restore funding next year.

The search for a CAS Dean is underway.

David Hicks is facilitating the creation of 1-credit courses to address contemporary global issues. Faculty should contact David if they are interested in contributing a seminar.

The search for a Dean associated with the MBA in Technology and Management is on hold. It is not clear whether we want to invest the resources needed to begin this program, which was approved by Albany some time ago.

Campus Environment Committee Report by John Robinson

General environmental issues are associated with the manner in which the university has been growing: Aesthetics - how does the campus look and how do we feel when we are here? What is the impact on the surrounding community? Growth appears to be like that of a shopping mall: boxes for

buildings, and parking lots replacing trees. How do we get to campus? Transportation is the model of single occupancy cars, which require the parking lots and leads to congestion on the surrounding roads.

The situation needs to be addressed with a rationale, long-term plan that embodies the university's values. Each new building should be examined in the context of a campus master plan. The plan needs to be flexible to take advantage of opportunities, but recognize that green spaces and trees have intrinsic value, and are not just empty land waiting for development.

The Director of Cornell Plantations visited campus and met with many people. Plantations is an autonomous organization that manages the open spaces of Cornell and provides some educational programs. Much of their budget is self-generating. Plantations also attract alumni support that later leads to donations to other areas of Cornell.

To develop a master plan, the Committee met with Chris Stienon of Beyer, Blinder, and Belle, an architectural planning firm. The recommendations look at buildings in a broad context and examine the Stony Brook situation in detail, but indicate a plan for very extensive development. The Committee has provided some feedback, and the revision is expected to be more consistent with their vision a master plan. A letter from Malcolm Bowman, Robert Aller, and John Robinson to Chris Stienon was submitted for the record. This letter describes 11 major concerns of the Environmental Committee.

John mentioned that Chairing the committee has been very exciting because the administration has been very cooperative. The committee extends its appreciation for this cooperation to the administration.

Report on the new Campus Web Site by Yvette St Jacques.

Go to www.stonybrook.edu/sb. Contact Jake Levich (he uses Lotus Notes email), who is the web site developer, for information and to make suggestions. The site has a new more attractive hierarchical structure, consistent formatting at each page level, a navigation bar at the top of each page, changing factoids and pictures, and changing brag pages.

Undergraduate Council Motion submitted by Robert Kerber.

With the advent of the PeopleSoft registration system, it is recommended that we return to the previous simpler 10-day add/drop system rather than the two-tiered system that we currently are using. This policy is expected to make the wait-list function in PeopleSoft work better. Special courses and situations will continue to be accommodated.

Motion was so made, seconded, and passed with 1 negative vote and 4 abstentions.

University Senate President's Report by Ben Walcott

The Executive Committee is working with President Kenny to develop a process for administrative review that is analogous to the academic reviews of departments.

The Admissions Committee is working with the Administration to establish enrollment targets and enrollment planning. We all are working to help define the nature of the university in the future.

Old Business

Peter Baigent: PeopleSoft is being used for Summer scheduling, Fall admissions, and many student records. Progress is being made.

Hugh Silverman: Asked the Provost for more information about the implications of the new reporting structure for Undergraduate Affairs, Honors College, Living/Learning Centers, and Learning Communities Program. Some more details were provided. Hugh expressed concern about whether Academic Judiciary would move with Undergraduate Affairs out of CAS or would remain in CAS. The Provost expected that it would move, but that could be reconsidered.

New Business

Arnold Wishnia: Data should be collected on the number of hours students work in jobs so faculty are aware of the burden these students have.

Peter Baigent: A national survey is being conducted on hours worked and the impact on student GPA.

Motion to adjourn passed at 5:05

The Senate meeting was held at Binghamton on January 17-18. Not a great deal happened at the meeting except the passage of a fairly useful resolution which may or may not have some impact. The resolution passed by the Senate was:

The Chancellor, working with the University Faculty Senate, governmental bodies, and other appropriate constituencies to develop a long-term rational fiscal policy to include increased state support and to address such factors as enrollment growth and inflation to ensure the quality of public higher education in New York State.

We did, however, get a look at this year's budget request for Higher Education. It could have been worse, but it is an election year. Essentially, it is a flat budget which effectively represents a reduction because of inflation and the omission of last year's increase in full-time lines added by the Legislature. SUNY Central attributes the budget reduction to contractual salary increments instead of their failure to include this factor in their budget request to the Governor.

There were reports from the various committees including:

The Student Life Committee reported on their activities which included three meetings to plan for the Retention Symposium which will be held in the spring. The chair is also on the Chancellor's Task Force for Student Activity Fees.

The University Programs and Awards Committee reports that the Conversations in the Discipline program has been restored but at a lower level (\$30,000) than had been expected. The Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities is in place with a nomination deadline of March 29, 2002. Other questions include various "parity" questions about Distinguished Professor Awards and the possibility of non-teaching professionals becoming eligible for Chancellor's Awards.

The Undergraduate Committee is sponsoring with the Student Life Committee a symposium on March 21-22 at Cortland on the best practices in collaborative academic and student affairs programs to enhance retention.

The Senate Governance Committee expressed concern that SUNY Faculty Senate action items are not being addressed on local campuses. They are continuing their work in developing a best practices document on policies and practices of campus foundations.

The Task Force on the Relationship of Campus Government Leaders (Senate Presidents) to the University Faculty Senate issued a report with a number of recommendations that include:

1. Leaders will meet together at the same time as Faculty Senate and report their deliberations to the Senate through their elected convenor.
2. Reports and actions of the University Faculty Senate will be sent to campus governance leaders.
3. University Senators be members of local senates and executive committees.

The campus governance leaders met to discuss the following issues:

1. Unfunded mandates, especially those related to general education, assessment and teacher education.
2. Administrative committees and task forces that form parallel governance structures.
3. Transferability of courses between community colleges and SUNY four-year colleges.

4. Consistency in faculty review of administrators across the system.