

The University Senate will hold the first meeting of the Spring Semester on Monday, February 7, 2000 at 3:30 p.m. sharp in the Stony Brook Union Auditorium.

Tentative Agenda
University Senate Meeting
February 7, 2000

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 1999 (attached)
- III. Report of Campus President (S. Kenny)
- IV. Report of Acting Provost (R. McGrath)
- V. Report of University Senate President (A. Godfrey)
- VI. Report on the General Education
- VII. Undergraduate Council Resolutions (text follows agenda)
- VIII. Old business
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjournment

I would like to encourage you to participate in the annual legislative bus ride to Albany on February 8. If you are interested please call me or Janice Rohlf to confirm your attendance. Thank you!

Aaron Godfrey
President
University Senate

Agenda Item #

1. The Undergraduate Council recommends that the deadline date for West campus undergraduates to withdraw from a course or to elect the pass/nocredit option for a course be returned to the end of the ninth week of the semester.

Rationale: Until spring 1997, this was the standard deadline date for the withdrawal and pass/no credit options. A ten-semester review of the usage of the pass/no credit option shows that the percentage of p/nc grades has more than doubled. In the fall 1994 semester, 2/0% of undergraduate course grades were p/nc grades; in the fall 1998 semester, 5.4% of the grades were p/nc.

This change in policy must be coupled with the following statement to be included in the "Minimal Instructional Responsibilities" section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, under the subheading "Assessment of Student Performance".

"Instructors are responsible for providing students with appropriate and timely notification about their academic performance in the course. When appropriate, an examination or other assessment measure should be administered, graded and returned to students before the end of the ninth week of class. This policy should be included in correspondence sent to instructors at the outset of the semester and monitored by department chairpersons."

2. The P/NC option may be elected only once for a given course.

Rationale: Some students elect the P /NC option repeatedly for the same course, hoping to improve their grade "next time." This wastes seats in high demand courses, and delays students from realistically addressing their ability to succeed in the course.

3. Full-time students (those registered for 12 or more credits per semester) may not take more than two courses per semester under the P/NC option. Part-time students (those registered for 1-11 credits) may not take more than one course per semester under the P/NC option.

Rationale: Students who are not performing well in a semester currently can elect the P/NC option in every course for which they are registered. Nothing prohibits this misuse of the P/NC option, and some students have done this repeatedly.

4. Grades of NR which have not been replaced by a final grade or by a W by the end of the ninth week of the fall semester (for spring NR grades), or the end of the ninth week of the spring semester (for fall NR grades), will be converted to one of the following grades: N/F, N/ U or N/C as appropriate. The grade of N/F will be treated as a failure for the purposes of academic standing (it will be averaged as an F when computing the G.P.A.).

Rationale: Students are responsible for either completing the required work in or withdrawing from every course for which he or she has been registered. The NR grade is an indication of a temporary state of affairs requiring prompt attention. Currently grades of NR are supposed to turn into N/C grades. There is no incentive for students to resolve this situation and in fact there may be an incentive not to make a change. Because there are no negative consequences to students' academic records, they may use the outcome of NR grading as a vehicle for maintaining full-time status. By converting NR grades to grades of N/F, U, or NC, it is expected that students will be deterred from using this loophole an opportunity to maintain good standing while making no real progress toward completion of a degree.

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Draft University Senate Meeting Minutes – December 1999

Bill Godfrey, University Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

I. Approval of Tentative Agenda: The tentative agenda was approved with the addition of a special order of Senate business (video presentation) and a slight change in the agenda order of business (item VI). Bill mentioned that there was a full agenda and in the interest of time he encouraged all present to keep their remarks brief and focused on the business at hand.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the University Senate meeting of November 1, 1999. The minutes of November 1, 1999 were approved.

VI. Bill Godfrey re-nominated Edward J. O'Connell for the open position of University Senate Secretary. Edward J. O'Connell was unanimously elected as permanent secretary.

III. Campus President's Report: President Kenny was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a written report.

Report Highlights:

I. 1999-2000 budget – Stony Brook's budget is up 4.56% including full funding of contractual salary increases. The President was pleased to report that estimates used in our local budget process, concluded several months ago, proved to be quite accurate, so no significant impact on vice presidential or provostial budgets will be required.

II. Five Year Plan Task Forces

Seven task forces have been convened, whose work will form the basis of the University's Five-Year Plan for 2000 – 2005. Open forums will be held in the spring and a final report is due in May. The entire campus is being asked to get involved in the process.

III. Minority Graduate Education Grant

Stony Brook is one of ten institutions selected for funding by the National Science Foundation for a Minority Graduate Education program entitled " Building the Future: New Models for Doctoral Education and Beyond." This award will provide \$2.5 M over the next five years to enable us to triple enrollment and graduation of minority doctoral students in Science, Math and Engineering programs. Acting Provost

McGrath is the Principal Investigator, with Dr. David Ferguson and Dr. Anthony Hurley as the Project Co-Directors.

IV. December Graduation

Winter graduation will be held on December 12 at 1 p.m. in the Main Arena of the Sports Complex.

V. Promotional Videos

Yvette St. Jacques introduces one of the two new USB recruitment and fundraising videos by Academy Award winning producer Julian Krainin (10 minute each) --- "The Magic of the Classroom." Stony Brook offices such as Undergraduate Admissions and University Advancement will soon be provided with copies of these videos for use in events and presentations.

VI. Honorary Doctorate

During the November 12 ceremonies marking the official opening of the Centers for Molecular Medicine and Biology learning Laboratories, an honorary degree was conferred upon Bruce Alberts, President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

IV. Acting Provost's Report: no formal written report provided the Senate. Provost McGrath invited Dean Armstrong to report on an award Stony Brook recently won during a Council of Graduate Schools meeting in Washington.

V. University Senate President's Report: Bill Godfrey reports that most of the Senate committees are up and running but a few require additional help. The pace of committee work should increase with the new semester. All senate members are encouraged to stay connected with their committee assignments and the governance process. Bill also reminded everyone that he is committed to keeping the Senate meetings on pace and within an hour.

VII. Undergraduate Council Resolution – "Introduction of Electronic Communication Devices in the Classroom during Examinations"

" We understand that such devices such as beepers and cellular telephones have become mainstream and integrated into many aspects of the larger culture. However, we hold that the classroom atmosphere and the unique opportunity for exchange that it provides must be supported and protected. The recent intrusion of electronic communications devices of this sort into classroom settings constitutes at best an annoying competitor to the ongoing dialogue, and so we object to their use during class meetings. We also understand that these devices can be used for purposes of academic dishonesty and so we recommend the following policy:

Electronic communication devices, including cellular phones, beepers, speakers and headphones must be secured in a closed container (and not, for example, worn on a belt or around the neck) and must be turned off (and not for example simply set on vibration mode) during any examination. This policy shall be announced before each examination.

Senate action: There was a brief discussion re: the control of the classroom setting and the resolution passed with 1 opposed.

VIII. Report on General Education (Mark Aronoff)

Acting Provost Bob McGrath invited Mark Aronoff to lead the discussion and update the senate where we were in the process... December 31,1999 deadline is upon us. Bob reminded the senate how important these University reports regarding perceptions in Albany. Stony Brook has been producing high quality reports that are being well received in Albany. The Acting Provost would like this trend to continue.

There is a SUNY Trustee mandate re: General Ed requirements – Core Curriculum

Charge: Take the SUNY mandate and compare it the current USB DEC – General Education entry requirements.

Lot's of debate about DEC K requirements. DEC K modified the American Historical Perspective – there were revisions in content and a small number of courses were eliminated.

Elaine Kaplan was very involved in the overall process as we reviewed all 1019 listed DEC courses. As a result we will be able to report to Albany that 348 courses could not be used in order to fulfill our USB DEC requirements. At this time we have until 12/31/99 to submit our report to Albany - after the President has reviewed and signed off.

The floor is now open for questions:

Hugh Silverman pointed out that the Stony Brook General Education Program Proposal reported the chronological order that Mark consulted with the various campus bodies and he pointed out that linear sequence that exists organizationally was not followed (i.e. 1) the Curriculum Committee, 2) the Undergraduate Council, 3) the Members of the College of Arts and Sciences and 4) the University Senate. plus it is important to list that the governance bodies of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the HSC are also represented on the University Senate).

Mark stated that the document will be changed to define the proper names of the various bodies and that overall the document reflects good teamwork among all departments and all campus bodies. The Senate was satisfied with this response along with some changes that would be made in the wording in the foreign language section.

IX. Report on Campus Environment Committee (John Mak)

Unfortunately due to Senate technical difficulties this report was not brought to the floor in a timely manner. However, a full report will be provided during the next Senate meeting. Apologies to John Mak.

X. Change in Scheduling (Exams)

Acting Provost Bob McGrath introduced the Registrar regarding changes that are going to be necessary in the exam schedule starting in Fall 2000. Dennis Geyer prepared a short report "Scheduling of Classes and Classrooms, Final Examination Scheduling Discussion and Proposals" for the Senate to review. Bottom line is next Fall the school calendar does not have a reading day so there is a squeeze on available seats. After much discussion regarding the available options the senate voted on an earlier start at 8 am (from 8:20 a.m.) and voted for a shorter final 2.5 hours instead of three.

The Senate strongly recommends that the President's five-year Task Force on Facilities chaired by Alan Inkles, look into this issue of adequate teaching space. In addition, the Senate recommends that any changes in class schedules be integrated with train and bus schedules along with all other Auxiliary services.

Bill do we want to include this update

Memorandum

To: Bill Scheuerman

From: Research Department

Date: December 13, 1999

Re: Summary of Trustees' Committee Meetings, 12-9-99

General Education

The Trustees, and Candace de Russy in particular, are worried. They are afraid that the Core Curriculum, which they voted on exactly one year ago this week, will not be implemented by their intended date, Fall Semester 2000. This was the subject of this often-acrimonious meeting. Provost Salins, accompanied by Barbara Dixon, Provost at Geneseo, provided an update on the implementation of the Core Curriculum.

Salins has set up an internal task force called the Provost's Advisory Council on General Education (ACGE), which will review the campus proposals for implementing the new (core) requirements at all 64 campuses. The problem is that only two of the 64 have submitted proposals – one for a waiver of the requirements, one for an extension of the deadline. In addition, Binghamton is rumored to have come close to refusing to participate. All of this has the Trustees worried. The ACGE has proposed extending the December 31st deadline to January 31st, which puts the whole effort at risk of extending well into the spring semester, possibly past the point at which many students will have pre-registered for the fall.

De Russy was very angry with Salins and Dixon. Salins, to his credit, tried to explain that if this were simply a matter of ordering the campus presidents to compile a list of required courses by administrative fiat, it could be done in a week or two. Again and again, Salins pointed out that this was a very complicated process which would takes months to finish, and he seemed uneager to push this to the point of all-out confrontation with the faculty.

De Russy was less reticent. One of her fears is that faculty members are simply "doctoring up" existing courses to fulfill the new requirements. At numerous points during the meeting, she scolded Dixon and Salins regarding the rigor of courses proposed to fulfill the Gen Ed requirements. At one point she informed Dixon that the ACGE must reject courses in sociology, women's studies or "the new literary criticism" (whatever that means) that campuses propose to meet the American history requirements. Does the term micromanage spring to mind? De Russy demanded an interim report from the ACGE by early February.

Academic Standards

The Academic Standards Committee meeting featured a continuation of Trustee de Russy's inquisition of Provost Salins. In fact, the review of the previous meeting (see above) that de Russy sought from Salins went on for 90 minutes, and covered the exact same ground as that covered in the Gen Ed Committee meeting. The last 30 minutes of Trustee de Russy's meeting concerned Teacher Education. The Rockefeller Center report on teacher education is completed, although the final version has yet to be posted on the Web.

In other new business, Provost Salins has named the SUNY Advisory Council on Teacher Education, which has been given the charge of formulating positions on such contentious issues as the new Regents

requirements, the content courses vs. pedagogy debate, the teacher shortage, and the debate over teacher accreditation and certification. Salins also gave an update on the proposal to require all faculty members to post their course readings and topics on the Web. An ad hoc committee chaired by Chris Haile is working on this proposal at the current time.

De Russy also invited Michael Baer, of the American Council on Education, to make a report on Teacher Education. Baer's very mainstream report summarized a report by his organization, which urged college presidents to make teacher education a higher priority on campus. After spending 90 minutes working over the Provost on the Core Curriculum, there was no time left for questions.