

The University Senate meets on Monday, December 2nd at 3:30 p.m. in SAC 302.

Tentative Agenda  
University Senate Meeting  
December 2, 2002

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
  - II. Approval of minutes from University Senate meeting on November 4, 2002
  - III. President of the Senate Report (B.Walcott)
  - IV. President's Report (S. Kenny)
  - V. Provost's Report (R. McGrath)
  - VI. Report from VP for Advancement (W. Simmons)
  - VII. Report from Campus Environment (J. Robinson)
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
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Minutes of the University Senate 11-04-02

Recorded by Frank W. Fowler

The University Senate was brought to order at 3:39 pm by the University Senate President, Ben Walcott. Printed documents available were Issues and Priorities for the Campus Environment from the Campus Environment Committee, a Campus Report submitted by President Kenny, and a Provost Report submitted by Provost McGrath.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 2002 October Senate meeting were approved.

**Senate President's Report:**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Non-tenure Track Faculty and the Administrative Review Committee are in place and working.

The Senate President emphasized the importance of shared governance for both building a strong sense of community and its importance in effective management.

Among the future problems facing the University are the budget and keeping the lines of communication open with respect to campus issues such as the environment.

Walcott said that the campus belonged to everyone and that there should be broad consultation on its development.

**The University President's Report:**

The election needs to be over before movement on important issues such as the budget can occur. The dedications of the stadium and the Wang center were mentioned as positive events. A director for the Wang Center has been appointed and we are currently looking for food vendors. The Wang Center should be fully functional by February.

A big question about the budget is a tuition increase. How big will it be, when will it occur, and how much will the University be able to keep? On fees she stated that they are low and should be expended on items for which they were collected. Tuition should be raised not fees. There maybe a cap on the capital budget.

The possible purchase of the Gyrodyne property was discussed. The President said that an application to the Brookhaven Zoning Authority for rezoning the Gyrodyne property has been submitted by the owners. A question was raised regarding the possible uses of the Wang Center. The President's current opinion is that it is a facility for everyone. Among its possible uses it can be a conference center and an area for

receptions and parties particularly with events associated with the adjacent Staller center. Located in the Wang center will be a dining facility, bookstore, chapel for marriages and the special events office. The new Sunwood has been opened. It will serve as the University President's living quarters and a facility for fund raising events as well as faculty retreats.

A question period began concerning issues such as the use of the Sunwood beach, the offensive signs at Sunwood and the Wang Center, who will be responsible for the art displays in the Wang Center (probably the Art Department), and the retirement incentive (how many dollars will be saved and will we be able to replace people). The answer to the last question was that 111 people opted for early retirement. It is not clear who will pay for the early retirement initiative and we will not replace the retirees. In answer to a question concerning how we can promote the acquisition of Flower Fields the President responded that we will make an offer but that we need three appraisals first.

### **The Provost's Report-**

Recent events were the dedication of the Center for Molecular and Environmental Science (one of only six in nation), open house for prospective students (4500) and the annual student faculty retreat which focused on the middle states self-study with the student experience at Stony Brook. The December 22 commencement is becoming more important, approaching the spring commencement. The Provost has written to the Stony Brook Foundation to work on a plan to make it easier for new faculty to find housing. An upcoming problem is the budget. On the positive side is that no one knows anything and there may be a tuition increase to help SUNY. It is important that we work to get a larger piece of the SUNY pie. The college program for all 1st year students was recently considered at the Undergraduate Program Directors retreat. The overall plan is for undergraduates to have interactions with the faculty in other than classroom situations. One college will be in place this fall followed by two more. The good news is that the colleges are developing rapidly expanding a previously successful program to all students. The bad news is that they are developing rapidly opening the possibility for mistakes. It is anticipated that each college will have a \$100K budget. One question raised the concern that the colleges were career rather than discipline oriented.

The Provost was excited about the Leaky appointment because Leaky wants work closely with the University to develop a symposium focused on important world issues such as conservation, bio-diversification and global climate change.

**Richard Mann, Vice President for Administration**, distributed a document and made a presentation on Campus capital spending. Among the highlights of this presentation are the following:

The construction fund still has possession of the stadium.

A second student complex with a \$28-29M bond issue is underway.

Although the Center of Wireless Technology as of now has no funds they are looking into connecting it to a possible purchase of Gyrodyne.

They hope to take advantage of energy efficiency improvement funds to upgrade utilities on campus.

The construction fund is seeding projects for the next capital plan.

A number of infrastructure problems and solutions were presented.

There will be no more parking lots on campus. In the future, parking structures will be considered. The plan is to have all parking pay for itself.

A draft plan of campus development will be sent to the Senate Environmental Committee.

**Chair of the Senate Environment Committee John Robinson** made an excellent oral presentation summarizing on the previously distributed written document on "Issues and Priorities for the Campus Environment". He urged all of us to look at the Cornell Plantations Plan at [www.plantations.cornell.edu](http://www.plantations.cornell.edu)

**State Assembly Member Steve Englebright** made a presentation focusing on some campus environmental issues.

He emphasized the importance of establishing something at Stony Brook analogous to Cornell Plantations. This could play an extremely important role in fund raising. Alumni respond positively to a beautiful environment.

He then stated the importance of the Gyrodyne acquisition. The future of the University depends upon it. The problem is how Gyrodyne can be made part of the University. He suggested an environmental rationale for its purchase. Stony Brook Harbor is unique on Long Island because the State of New York owns the harbor bottom (ca. 1000 acres). There is a possible connection of the University to the harbor that is its namesake. Starting with the Ashley Schiff forest there is a direct connection to the large south woodland (west of South Campus). This forest abuts Gyrodyne property. To the north of Gyrodyne are properties that were recently acquired as part of a Suffolk County Farmlands purchase. Continuing north to the harbor are properties owned by the Nature Conservancy followed by land recently set up as the Simmons preserve. The missing link in this Green Belt leading from the University to Stony Brook Harbor is the Gyrodyne property. He suggested the Environmental Protection Fund and the Environmental Bond Act as potential sources for funds to make this potential Green Belt and Partnership Park a reality. Steve suggested that the implementation of this plan should start with the University Senate.

This proposal was sketched on blackboard. (see road map below for reference, the designators are the secretary's based upon the Englebright presentation) There was general agreement that a more accurate map would be useful.

Discussion of the above possibility led to a resolution initially introduced by Joan Kuchner and elaborated by Hugh Silverman. The following resolution was seconded and passed by University Senate:  
The University Senate Executive Committee is requested to bring to the University Senate at its next regular meeting a concrete resolution which will endorse the Englebright idea that the University make as part of its purchase package the combining of the Flowerfield/Gyrodyne properties with the already environmentally preserved properties to its north (all the way to the Stony Brook Harbor which is owned by the State rather than the Town). This would allow the University to seek Environmental Protection funding from the State to help offset costs of purchasing this property by the University.

In response to a question about the polity decertification, **Norman Goodman** commented that a committee of 10 students, 2 faculty and 2 staff members has been assembled to propose a model(s) for a new student government structure, which can be subsequently be voted on by the undergraduate student body during the late spring 2--3 semester.

**Ram Srivastav** made an oral and handed out a written report about the SUNY University Faculty Senate Plenary Session at Purchase last month.

At about 5:30 pm a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.