

The University Senate meets on Monday, February 3, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in SAC 302.

Tentative Agenda  
University Senate Meeting  
February 3, 2003

- I. Approval of Tentative agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2002
- III. Report from University Senate President (B. Lindquist)
- IV. President's Report (written report provided)
- V. Provost's Report (R. McGrath)
- VI. Resolution: Tuition Increase (N. Goodman)
- VII. VP for Administration: Capital Projects on Campus (D. Mann)
- VIII. Albany Day (P. Cruso)
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business

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Minutes of the University Senate 12-02-02

Recorded by Frank W. Fowler

The University Senate was brought to order at 3:41 pm by the University Senate President, Ben Walcott.

Norman Goodman proposed a resolution “that the University Faculty Senate (and the University as a whole) applauds your efforts on its behalf and acknowledges that it is deeply in your debt, and be further resolved, that it wishes you the very best of good fortune in the next phase of your professional and personal life. May it be as productive and satisfying as the early phase.” This resolution was unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed by all present.

The agenda was approved. The minutes of the November 2002 Senate meeting were approved.

The **Senate President** made a report where he expressed the hope that there would be greater integration and coordination of the various components of the University such as engineering and the health sciences with the main campus.

The **University President's** oral report was focused primarily on news of the budget. She stated there would be a hard freeze on hiring until the Governor's budget was released on February 1. The vice presidents have already been preparing for budget cuts. Responding to these questions the President was optimistic we would get through these budgetary problems and will be in a building phase again. The President's budget report stimulated some questions. The president responded to these questions stating that no contracts would be broken, the tuition needs to be indexed and there would be no tuition increase for fall 2003. Questions were raised to clarify the

boundary conditions of the hard freeze. Contract renewals and offers intended but not made were under the hard freeze.

The president also expressed her thanks to Senate President Ben Walcott and then introduced Iva Kocijan (Director of Public Relations) and Linda Merians (Director, Corporate/Foundation Relations University Advancement) who made a short presentation describing their activities.

The **Provost** submitted a written report and made an oral presentation. He expressed his gratitude to the Senate President, Ben Walcott and thanked Brent Lindquist for assuming the duties of the President of the University Senate.

Our compliance with the State mandated assessment was discussed. Because of our periodic departmental reviews the assessments of academic majors are in compliance. The problem appears to be the general assessment. Our first proposal using a sampling technique was rejected. The Provost's office is working with other SUNY centers to address this issue. The Provost agreed with the Senate Executive Committee that an earlier Senate committee that had dealt with this issue should be reactivated.

The Provost has an advisory group working on the budget problems. Among the items mentioned were that there would be few hires, fewer smaller enrollment courses, fewer Teaching Assistant lines and less support of the research enterprise (tuition charges for supported graduate students is one possibility).

The Provost has measured optimism about our future because of the possibility of a tuition increase. He referred to a Chronicle of Education report that stated that SUNY Stony Brook has a very favorable fees plus tuition situation.

A short presentation was made on the ten-year middle states reaccreditation of the University. **William Simmons, Vice President for Advancement** (Fund raising) made a presentation on the first Comprehensive Capital Campaign. He stressed the importance of this campaign because the needs are greater than ever before but that the funds to meet these needs are decreasing. One of the greatest impediments to marketing the University is that we are a public institution. However, a comparison of our fund raising to UCLA suggest we have a lot of untapped potential. Two documents were passed out at the meeting. One concerned creation of the Townsend Center for Long Island Regional Studies and the other was a fund raising users manual. For more information on the identification and development of fund raising projects people are encouraged to contact Jenny Aldridge (Jeannette.M.Aldridge@Stonybrook.edu). Their web site is <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/sb/giving.shtml>.

Ben Walcott mentioned that representatives of the Senate Executive Committee met with the University President about the environmental initiative involving a proposed greenbelt from the University through Gyrodyne to Stony Brook Harbor. Brent Lindquist stated that they are working on a proposal for the University Senate to consider.

The Polity reorganization was discussed. A comment was made that students were barred from a meeting on the Polity reorganization. Norman Goodman stated he was advised that the meeting

in question was not subject to an open requirement since its purpose was to define the procedures that would lead to open meetings on the Polity reorganization.

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**(REVISED VERSION, JANUARY 31, 2003)**

**RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED \$1,400 TUITION INCREASE FOR SUNY**

**Whereas**, the State University of New York is an institution of **public** higher education that is supposed to provide access to all its deserving citizens,

**And whereas**, the State University of New York is a major engine of economic activity in New York and its students are substantial contributors to its economic well-being,

**And whereas**, the increase of \$1,400 proposed by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York for the next academic year is a 41% increase or the increase of \$1,200 (a 35% increase) proposed by the Governor will severely further tax our students by requiring many of them to work even more hours than they now do, which is academically unwise,

**And whereas**, the University Senate of Stony Brook University does not believe that the students of the State University of New York should bear such a major burden of dealing with the admittedly difficult budgetary problems facing New York State,

**And whereas**, the last time there was a substantial increase in tuition in 1995 that was about half the currently proposed amount, enrollment in the State University of New York declined by about 8,000 students for the three years following the increase, and we should expect no less a dramatic drop in our student enrollments as a result of this proposed tuition increase,

**And whereas**, the Governor's budget contains a 33% deferment of TAP funds to qualified students until after they graduate when those funds are necessary during the students' college years,

**Be it resolved** that the University Senate of the Stony Brook University roundly rejects the proposed level of tuition increase,

**And be it further resolved**, that recognizing the financial straits of the State of New York the University Senate of Stony Brook University would reluctantly support a modest tuition increase in the range of \$600 to \$700 for the coming year (all of which should be returned to the State University of New York) and strongly support linking future tuition increases to a relevant index such a regional version of the Higher Education Index,

**And be it further resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York revise its budget accordingly and use its political influence with the Executive and Legislative branches of State Government to scale down the proposed tuition increase as indicated above and

to maintain the full TAP award to qualified students during their college years rather than afterwards, thus exercising its fiduciary responsibility to the State University of New York.

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### Summary Report of the University Faculty Senate Meeting

The 133rd Plenary Meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on a frigid January 24th by Senate President Joe Hildreth who introduced host Senator William Gohlman and Geneseo President Christopher Dahl.

After the introductory remarks by the hosts, Joe Hildreth delivered the Senate President's report. He reported that a significant change had been made concerning General Education course approval. An advisory committee on Gen Ed has replaced the Provost Committee on Gen Ed. The process has been changed from one in which approval of most of the courses occurred in the Provost Office to one in which approval occurs at the campus level. In the case of any disagreement the course approval would be submitted to the advisory committee composed of 4 faculty senators, 4 members of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, and 4 administrators. The 4 faculty senators are:

Sandra Michael, Dept. of Biological Sciences, SUNY Binghamton  
David Carson, Dept. of History, SUNY College at Buffalo  
Melinda Karnes, School of Education, SUNY College at Fredonia  
Norman Goodman, Dept. of Sociology, SUNY at Stony Brook

Joe Hildreth then discussed the difficulties faced in full implementation of teacher education guidelines within the allotted time frame. He noted that there would be an assessment of Graduate Education conference in the fall, and that assessment of majors was ongoing. Other topics discussed included the SUNY Student Art exhibit, the study of transfer programs in Florida, California, Maryland, Arizona, and North Carolina, and Distance learning including the Chancellor's plan to enhance distance learning with a new model of inter-campus course sharing. Also mentioned was expansion of distance learning to new markets including the military and industry. An ad hoc committee has been formed to study distance learning in terms of property rights, and curriculum.

Joe then discussed SUNY wide assessment in his 90 minute long meeting with Chancellor King touching topics such as appropriate guidelines for disclosure, test development, control of curriculum, and unfunded mandate support. It must be noted that despite unanimous resistance to system-wide assessment by the Faculty Senate, Chancellor King remains in favor of such assessment. Robert Axelrod, the President of the FCCC reported on a 50 minute phone call he received from trustee DeRussy urging system-wide assessment.

Joe Hildreth reported that Chancellor King requested and urged the Faculty Senate to form a policy on misconduct in faculty research. Suggestions by the chancellor included that these campus based procedures should provide guidelines for public disclosure when guilt is determined, a report by the Campus President to the Chancellor, followed by a report by the Chancellor to the Board of Trustees.

Jim McElwaine gave the executive committee report, which included a Dec. 6 meeting shared with representatives from CUNY, topics included, budget, tenure clock, and TAP audit problems.

After a break-out to share sector concerns, the senate reconvened and were presented with a budget report by Brian Stenson. In addition to the usual break down of the budget, there was mention of a mid-year budget reduction of 2%. He reported that 1100 individuals took early retirement and the fact that a percentage of these lines will be held vacant for 2 years. The bad news is that on a cash basis, as of 3/31/03 the deficit is \$2 billion.

Ram Chugh presented a lengthy and thoughtful report by The Task Force on Rational Fiscal Policy. It was presented for endorsement and after a detailed discussion, with some suggestions for changes in text to the report and the resolution for endorsement, a decision was made to re-visit the issue on Saturday.

The afternoon session began with a System Administration Report by Provost Peter Salins. He stressed positive issues, aside from the budget, including topics such as a concern n Office of Campus Liaison, that was going to look a Health Science Centers with an eye to becoming more supportive; enrollment planning which was linked to the report on rational planning and his support for endorsement of that document; establishment of a stabilization fund as suggested by the report; enrollment increase, which was to be kept to 2% overall above last year. He discussed the role of SUNY in the post 9/11 era, looking at resources to assist in homeland security, breaking it down to the physical and infrastructure, and biological. He discussed SUNY Connect, especially making e journals available inter-campus.

Chancellor King then made his presentation to the Senate, starting with the statement that the entire state's budget would be cut, but that only SUNY had the ability to raise additional funds through a tuition increase. He suggested that the tuition increase could be used as potential pressure to consider a tax increase as an alternative. He hoped then that there would be no reduction in the operation budget. He stated that the impact of tuition increase on TAP was not clear. He then urged the senate to consider development of a policy on research misconduct or plagiarism, bringing up the issue of plagiarism that had occurred at one of the campuses. The chair of each sector then brought up concerns that he addressed. When bioterrorism, addressed as a concern by the Health Sciences Center Sector was discussed, he singled Stony Brook out as the campus that had done the most to ensure that laboratories had been documented as to agents, and security.

Wayne Locust, the Associate Vice Chancellor presented a report on enrollment, stressing the improvement made in marketing SUNY as an attractive alternative to private institutions, in addition to changes made to improve the handling of applications and enhanced communication with the applicants.

The first order of business on Saturday was the discussion of the report of the Task Force on Rational Fiscal policy. After some discussion, the Senate voted to endorse the

policy. The vote was without dissension. A vote was then taken on a resolution “that the Chancellor, working with the University Faculty Senate, the SUNY Board of Trustees, governmental bodies and other appropriate constituencies develop a long term, rational fiscal policy for SUNY which incorporated the fundamental Concepts and recommendations contained in the Rational Fiscal Policy Report.”

Each committee then presented their reports. Since there was no old business or new business the Senate adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

George T. Tortora