

The general meeting, presided by President Georges Fouron, began in the Javits Room at 3:30 PM.

#### I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved and seconded.

#### II. Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2006

The minutes of the March 2006 general meeting were approved and seconded.

#### III. Undergraduate Colleges (M. Aronoff)

Mark Aronoff reported on the state of the undergraduate colleges, now in their second full year of implementation. SBU's program has been commended with a promising practice award, one of three.

Aronoff mentioned that SBU ranked 106 in the *Best of Public Colleges*, which is not as high as our peer or peer-aspirational institutions. A discussion ensued about why students choose to attend SBU and what ultimately may cause them to leave before graduation. Availability of courses that students need to graduate was brought up as a necessity, more important than ever as applications and acceptances are on the rise. The revamped advising program should improve the situation. Students will have been advised and have their course schedule in hand before they leave freshmen orientation. These procedures should keep the number and difficulty of courses students take under better control.

Aronoff pointed out that improved advising is needed for transfer students. At present, only three advisors serve the transfer students. Joan Kuchner asked if we would create a mechanism to stop transfers from taking too many hours. She suggested that the discussion be continued in the curriculum committee, and that ideas and proposals to improve advising/retention be brought by the curriculum committee to the executive senate committee.

The number of sections of SBU 102 has increased from 70 to 112. There has been a problem getting instructors to teach SBU 102. All entering freshmen, except for Honors and LC students, are placed in undergraduate colleges. A textbook has been published by Kendall Hunt to provide more content for the USB 101 classes.

#### IV. Report on the Status of the Marine Sciences Undergraduate Program (D. Conover)

The Marine Sciences undergraduate program is now located at the Southampton campus. Four years ago, Long Island University moved to the CW Post campus, except for the Marine Sciences major. SBU agreed to take over the Marine Sciences major and students. Since last year, SBU has been under lease agreement with LIU to operate the Marine Sciences station and one academic building. The President of LIU and the SUNY chancellor signed an agreement last month for SUNY to purchase the campus. The Governor has pulled back on his veto of funds for SUNY capital projects. The campus needs renovations by Fall 2007.

There are currently 160 Marine Science area majors. This includes Marine Sciences, Marine Vertebrate Sciences, Atmosphere and Oceans, and Environmental Studies. This is an increase from 40 undergraduates three years ago. This coming year's enrollment marks the first recruited freshmen class, for which there are over 200 applicants. The maximum number of freshmen will depend on whether Southampton becomes a four-year or two-year campus.

Dean Conover stated that Marine Sciences would have a summer program, which should prove to be very popular. Four classes are offered this summer, but the dorms are not yet open.

2000 students by year 2010 are expected. Eventually, they should be able to take all their classes on the Southampton campus. About 800 beds are slated for the dorms. Many students will take advantage of the plentiful off-campus housing. Faculty will be hired specifically to teach on the Southampton Campus. President Kenny has stated that we will not operate that campus by drawing resources from the main campus.

Hugh Silverman asked if a full complement of Arts and Sciences courses would be taught at Southampton. Dean Conover said the Provost and President are planning the academic development of the campus. The program's main competitors are the University of Maine, Roger Williams College, and Rutgers University.

Joan Kuchner asked if we will be hiring a separate Dean for the Southampton Campus, and how that Dean will be integrated with currently established Deans. She asked Georges Fouron to pursue how this is being contemplated.

#### V. PTC Annual Report and Amendment Proposals (J. Davila)

The Promotion and Tenure Committee saw 22 cases this last academic year, plus additional actions.

The revised amendment to PTC Guidelines regarding changes to the file submissions deadlines was passed unanimously. Georges Fouron asked Dean Staros to send a notice to the chairs and assistant chairs, to notify them when the new deadlines will become effective. It was agreed that all would be flexible about implementing the deadlines during the upcoming year. Dean Staros agreed to copy Marine Sciences on the changes as well.

The second amendment regards formalizing all written evaluations submitted with PTC files, which would be included in a special evaluations file. There was discussion of what entails a "formal written" evaluation. This is a union-related issue. Fouron tabled the amendment until further information could be attained as to the ramifications.

#### VI. Report from the A&S Senate President (G. Fouron)

Georges Fouron reported that senate elections would soon be coming around, available on SOLAR, and reminded all to participate.

#### VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

#### VIII. New Business

Dean Staros reminded us of the Meet the Senate get-together at the University Café to be held at 5 pm on April 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Davidson, Arts & Senate Secretary