

Arts and Sciences Senate
September 25, 2006

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Fouron at 3:30.

I. Approval of agenda: approved

II. Approval of minutes from April 24th 2006: approved.

III. President's Report (G. Fouron):

Dr. Fouron welcomed everyone back. There are still many vacancies on the A&S Senate, especially for At-Large Senators. We need to fill them. Faculty do have issues and the senators are here to address the issues. Please encourage your colleagues to become active in the Senate. Complaints have no merit unless we listen to them and take action. Be proactive and become involved.

Election of Vice President and President elect Cynthia Davidson was approved by the A&S Executive Committee. All in favor: Unanimous.

IV. Curriculum Committee Report (N. Tomes):

The Curriculum Committee is still preparing their Annual report. After the report has been approved by the committee, we will be happy to come back to answer any questions concerning the report. The CC is one of the best functioning Senate Committees that Dr. Tomes has ever been on—the level of attendance and the seriousness that the members take the work of the committee is very impressive. The Journalism Major/Minor was the topic of seven meetings this spring. The Curriculum Committee has been working on courses along with the Health Sciences. There are unresolved issues, mainly hearing back from Albany on courses that were submitted. They are waiting for approval of requirements. The SUNY website has not been updated in a year or so.

N. Goodman: The Provost's Office in Buffalo had a 3% cut in staffing. They are in the process of reallocating responsibilities. Perhaps Bill Godfrey can look into this at the next meeting in Buffalo in October.

Dr. Tomes brought up the vacant seats on the Curriculum Committee. She was the only one elected this past spring. We are down three members. We have asked two previous members if they were willing to fill in on committee for one year until the next elections. We still need one HFA member.

K. Gillespie: For the '06 winter session, the Provost's Office had asked the committee to review all syllabi, which the committee had done. It was a very time consuming job, but also very good in that it did contribute to the success of the winter session. This year the committee has asked the Departmental chairs to confirm that the course syllabi meet the course requirements. These were just submitted and are being reviewed. The winter session courses will then be posted.

V. Report of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences (Dean Staros):

This is Dr. Staros 5th year as Dean. The budget rolled out for the college before there was a SUNY budget and what the college received was absolutely flat. What is clear is the way in which President Kenny is planning to deal with the increase in the budget. Rather than allocating just base money to the separate units, which was taken away a few years ago, she is going to be providing allocations for specific programs. One of the things that we have lost over the last few years is some faculty/staff positions. The mechanism for getting these back might be an increase in base but what has happened at both the state and University level is that we are seeing special initiatives for new hires. The State has a new initiative called the Empire Innovation Initiative with 6 million suny-wide targeted toward research. This is to be allocated proportional to federal funding. Stony Brook will be receiving 1.7 million out of the 6 million allocation.

Proposals were written and submitted to the Provost. The College should benefit with between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in new line money.

Inauguration for the college's first ever endowed chair happened recently. The fundraising for the Alphonse D'Amato Endowed Chair was done by the Center for Italian Studies. A major donor gave \$200,000 and the rest was given by individual donors for a total of 1.5 million. It was suggested that one of those star hires be attached to the endowed chair. In addition to the Alphonse D'Amato endowed chair, Dean Staros has two meetings lined up with perspective donors capable of writing checks at this level.

The situation of the College is better. Enrollment for fall was at an all-time high but also at a low-time for unmet demand. The ten-day mark was 13,000 full-time on just the west campus with a total of 22,500 students including part-timers. College estimates are 12,000 full-time graduate and undergraduate students. The Provost gave authority to spend more money on Adjuncts.

Dr. Fouron inquired about whether there were any statistics on minority students and Dr. Staros said that the university is doing much better in terms of minority students than in any other category.

One of the themes (which is a draft) of the Strategic five-year plan was empowering the chairs. Dr. Staros has been working with Administration in terms of fiscal limitation. The President's Office is helping in putting a mechanism in place where the chairs/departments can make money they could use flexibly (and save) such as rolling over summer session money.

Last year was the first New Faculty Symposium where new faculty members were invited to give talks and attend a reception. We will be throwing another New Faculty Symposium in early November and we hope to make this an annual event.

Dr. Fouron asked if the University is considering salary equity as one of its priorities. Dr. Kenny did not mention this—only the new hires.

Dr. Staros mentioned a big initiative in 2002 where the Provost had approximately 2 million in equity increases. Dr. Fouron did not hear of any recommendations that came from the committee because he spoke with some of the members and they had never met. According to Dr. Staros, all recommendations were followed per Dr. Lieberman (Chair of committee at that time).

Dr. Fouron had several colleagues approach him about this topic and as A&S Senate President, they asked him to bring the issue to the table. Dr. Staros is working on the discretionary/merit increases now. There is a small amount of money for this and it is done mostly on merit and some on equity issues.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn: Adjourned 4:35

Submitted by: Laurie Theobalt, Secretary
University Senate