

Meeting called to order by President Georges Fouron at 3:32

I. Approval of Tentative Agenda – Discussion ensued regarding Agenda Item VI. (Second Discussion on Establishing an Arts and Sciences Senate “Senior Lecturer – Promotion Review Committee (H. Silverman). Dr. Fouron stated that the Union has not yet responded on this item but Dr. Silverman felt that since this item has to be presented 3 times before the Senate and this will be the second time, then the third time the proposal can come to a vote as to whether we accept the resolution or not. Dr. Goodman felt that we cannot discuss something that doesn't exist. We do not know what the final form of that paper will be. Dr. Goodman moved to have item IV. stricken from the tentative agenda. Dr. Fouron made the motion to strike item IV from the agenda. All in favor of striking agenda item: 8; 1 abstention. Dr. Kuchner felt as a courtesy to Dr. Silverman, we should discuss this when he arrives. Dr. Goodman suggested discussing the item under Old Business.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2007 – approved with changes from Dean Staros

III. Dean's report (J. Staros):

- Budget has grown until there was a 5% cut in 02/03 and a 7% cut in 03/04. Budget has been relatively constant with a few additions to date for specific items
- Student numbers have grown by almost 20% from 1999-2000. Most remarkable growth was in the last couple of years (04/05 to this fall) where it grew 12 1/2%. In just two years, Fall of 04 and Fall 06 it had grown by 1408 full-time equivalent students.
- Faculty recruitment – 16 retirements and resignations in 05/06. Twenty new faculty have been hired in 06/07
- Recruitment 07-08: 23 searches, 10 in HFA, 7 in SBS, 2 in Bio. And 4 in PSM
- Empire Innovation Program – 2 lines built in for Neuro search including the new Chair of Neurobiology and Behavior. In the process of developing three offers of the six lines that are attributed to the Computation Sciences and have ongoing interviews with a fair number of the semi-finalists (short list) for Cider and may get as many as three more lines out of that.
- Presidential 50 new lines approved; 1 Sr. Visiting appointment in Anthropology; three key junior hires; a cluster in Digital Arts and Culture which five of six will end up in Arts and Sciences. To go with the EIP lines, Dr. Kenny has agreed to match the other half. Still have an outstanding request for a line for the D'Amato Chair and a dozen other lines. No final word yet.
- In addition to the D'Amato Chair, There has been a pledge from an individual for a new Chair. This will be the Menusas Chair in Political Science. Mike Menusas is a 1989 Graduate of Stony Brook. He will be pledging \$1.5 mil. to the Chair. Mr. Menusas pledged \$100,000 for a scholarship five years ago in his mother's honor.
- Took steps to establish a general endowment for the College of Arts and Sciences
- Recruited a very high-level search for a new Chair for Neurobiology and Behavior. Dr. Lorna Roll, currently a Professor at Columbia, has accepted offer to become Chair in the Fall.
- Published first annual report of the College. Copies available.

IV. PTC Amendment: Increase in the Number of Letters for the Tenure/Promotion file (M. Schwartz)

- Proposal to change the number of letters from five to seven authorities from outside the University.
- At least five of the letters should be from scholars who are not current or former collaborators, departmental colleagues, nor members of the candidate's graduate department during the time he or she was a graduate student or recommended by the candidate
- Reasoning is that there is not enough real information with just three letters
- The letters candidates recommend are hard to evaluate in terms of whether an objective judgment can be reached
- Most letters are short and not adequate to start with
- In the last two years the PTC has found that most departments often have more than five letters. When they do have five letters they usually find four or five that are useful.

- Dr. Silverman brought up the fact that writing letters for candidates is very time-consuming. Should it be five with a minimum of four?
- PTC Committee agreed that this puts a strain on everyone. Departments are receiving a lot of no thank yous.
- Dean Staros believes that getting more than five letters is best because one negative letter out of five can be devastating. Supports PTC amendment

Motion was brought for a vote. All in Favor of the PTC Amendment: 12; none against and no abstentions.

V. Journalism News Literacy Course (H. Schneider)

- The News Literacy Course will begin next fall
- Mission of the SOJ: To train journalists of the future but also the news consumers of the future
- Designed an experimental course in News Literacy on how to use your critical thinking skills to judge the reliability and credibility of news
- SOJ has been teaching this for 2-3 semesters and has taught approximately 40 students. Now it is up to approximately 100 students
- Next Fall we will begin to teach this on a much larger scale. Hope to teach this to over 10,000 students over the next four years. One way would be to mandate this course or require it. Discussed with the Curriculum Committee and the Undergraduate Council. The Curriculum Committee decided that it might be too precipitous a step. They were not anxious to mandate this course immediately.
- In the Fall, News Literacy will satisfy one of two DEC requirements. Students can take B and get credit for News Literacy (JRN 101B) or can take it under G (JRN 103G) which is Humanities. It is the same exact course. The Curriculum Committee and Undergraduate Council both approved this. Plan is to teach 750 students this fall
- In process of announcing a Graduate Fellow Program in News Literacy. Twenty Graduate students across campus will be selected to participate in teach the course along with SOJ faculty. They will receive a \$15,000 Graduate Stipend in addition to being eligible for a tuition scholarship. Applications are now being accepted. Requirements are that they have an interest in the subject, strong communications skills and experience in teaching. They will receive 4-6 weeks of training.

VI. A&S Senate President's Report (G. Fouron)

- Still have a number of empty seats to fill for the upcoming elections
- Vacancies will be listed on the A&S Website
- Encourage your colleagues to run for seats
- A&S Senate should be a functioning body with it's eyes and ears on what is going on in the College

VII. Old Business: (Second Discussion on Establishing an Arts and Sciences Senate "Senior Lecturer – Promotion Review Committee (H. Silverman):

- Proposal which comes from a standing committee is a formal motion on the table
- There are particular justifications for why it is important to have a standing committee
- John Schmidt and the Union are strongly in favor of the issues of Sr. Lecturer/Promotion
- Operationalizing the procedures whereby how one gets promoted from lecturer to Sr. Lecturer
- It is a long and complex process to have this become part of the By-laws and Constitution (having a Standing Committee that reviews Promotions to Sr. Lecturer)
- H. Silverman read the Rationale for the Senior Lecturer-Promotion Review Committee
- N. Goodman felt that this is premature. This has gone through many transformations since he was on the joint committee of the University Senate and the Provost's Office, where it went through the Administration and possibly through the Union. We don't know what is coming out yet to make/accept procedure now when we do not know for what kind of position it is. Dr. Goodman is all in favor of what Dr. Silverman is asking to do but wait until we see what the position comes out as. The position has to be evaluated by the Administration and the University Center. Once it is done, we as the college will have the right to set up the procedure, which is built into the original proposal.

- Dr. Silverman felt this is not premature. Numerous correspondence/discussions with the provost and each of the four Deans. Provost's office has a written statement with respect to Sr. Lecturers and the statement explicitly states that there shall be a Standing Committee
- Dr. Staros stated that this statement did not say anything about a standing committee. Dr. Kuchner brought up that another document that the union has seen that indicates multiple options for the process. The FRRP Committee has taken the position that the appropriate place in the A&S Senate is that there should be a review committee in governance. It can take up to a year to create this committee. You have elections to fill the committee. We need a framework in place so that it can be activated when this has been formalized.
- Dr. Walter feels there is no basis on what to vote on. Agrees with Dr. Goodman. Would like to move to table this until we know what the argument is.
- Dr. Goodman moved to adjourn. Dr. Fouron made a motion to close discussion on old business. All in favor.
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VIII. New Business:

- CAS Dean's Office is holding the annual get together with the A&S Senate and the CAS faculty on Thursday, April 26th from 5:00-6:30 in the University Café

The session Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Laurie Theobalt
Secretary
University Senate