

Senate Minutes
May 1, 2006

Brent Lindquist Called the meeting to order at 3:32.

I. Approval of tentative agenda - The agenda was changed to include a Report from the Vice President of Administration, Richard Mann on the traffic safety on campus.

II. Approval of minutes from April 3, 2006.

III. President's Report – See Report

IV. Report from VP of Administration – Richard Mann

I am accompanied today by Terence Harrigan and Mark Woodruff. There have been some serious accidents on campus which resulted in one death. President Kenny has asked our office to review all safety issues on campus.

Terence Harrigan: We have hired a traffic consultant from Wiley Engineering to look at campus traffic and safety. We have repainted the crosswalks and added pedestrian signage. We have re-activated the light at the HSC. In a few weeks, we will begin building a round-about on Campus Drive. We have placed speed traps in certain areas to slow down traffic; there will be much more of an effort by Campus Police to monitor speeding. We have surveyed different groups (students, staff, faculty) on the areas on campus needing improvement. The major areas that most people surveyed have identified are: Toll Road in front of the Student Union, campus drive intersection with Circle Road, Tabler intersection with Engineering Drive and North Drive.

Richard Mann: We are thinking of closing the stretch of Toll road from just east of the Student Union to just west of the Graduate Chemistry Building and literally making it a pedestrian Mall. This stretch is very dangerous, many students cross here and we are worried about students not paying attention to traffic.

T. Harrigan: Wiley had suggested speed bumps and blinking or flashing lights to warn motorists of an upcoming traffic light which would slow down traffic. There is also a proposal to put overhead pedestrian signs as well as additional stop signs.

Beverly Horowitz: The signage for directions to locations on campus is not always easy to see, especially at night. Are there any recommendations to get better signage that is more visible? The signs are very small.

T. Harrigan: They suggested that we use a diamond coated stop sign that is more visible in headlights.

B. Horowitz: I mean signage that show you where certain buildings/roads are located.

R. Mann: That's a good point. We'll have to look into that.

HSC Problems: There is not enough parking at the hospital and people are getting a lot of tickets for illegal parking. Pedestrian crosswalks are non-existent.

R. Mann: We are discussing different areas for parking lots and one is building a 300-500 car surface lot in front of the hospital and also looking into a 1500 car parking garage on what is now behind the hospital.

V. Provost's Report – R. McGrath

There are a number of accomplishments and awards (see Provost's Report). The month of April celebrates URECA accomplishments. Over the past 5-years, the number of participants has steadily increased. This year saw a record number of posters (~160 undergraduate poster projects, up from 73 posters in 2002).

As of today, applicants for enrollment for the fall are up 18% from last year. Stony Brook has more than Buffalo, which is the first time this has happened in the history of enrollment at Stony Brook.

Two people that I spoke with last week expressed chagrin when they saw the Stony Brook entry in the New York Times Higher Education of Public Universities lead table of graduation rates. Stony Brook came in at 100. Some people concluded that they "sky was falling". The "sky is not falling"...in fact the ceiling is going up. Good news is that there are almost 4,000 Universities and Colleges in the United States. Our numbers were actually poor in the 6-year graduation rate (50 something %) and that is not very good. In fact the 6-year graduation rates since 1995 are 54%, 57%, 56%, 58% and 59%. Our first and second year retention rates are closer to 100%. The numbers in the last five years were 85%, 85%, 87%, 87% and 87%. There are many reasons why they are going up. We put in place a number of things designed to keep the undergraduate success rate up. One of them is the undergraduate colleges and second we simply spent money. We have more and more thoughtful advising so that

students stay on track. We have other special programs. We have a campus that looks better and is more inviting etc.

Brent Lindquist (introduction to topic VI): The tradition as far as I know is that University courses have to be taught at the university. Mary Scranton ran a proposal through the Undergraduate Council for an exception to this policy. The Undergraduate Council is recommending this policy and I have asked Mary Scranton to introduce the resolution

VI. Proposal by MSRC for courses to be taught at Smithtown HS at the college level: Mary Scranton

This proposal came to us as a result of the Southampton transfer process last fall as we were starting to implement our first class of Marine Sciences majors from Southampton. Several people from Smithtown H.S. contacted us and asked us if there was a way we could sponsor two marine science courses that they have taught for the past 20 years under the aegis of Southampton. Apparently Southampton did this with a lot of other schools. Smithtown is the only school so far that has come to us. Smithtown has been teaching these two marine sciences courses, giving the students college credit for them. The proposal to the Undergraduate Council is detailed (history, etc.). There are a number of New York State schools that are doing this kind of sponsorship. We have had a number of debates with within the Marine Sciences faculty and various members of the Senate about the best way to proceed.

Stony Brook currently offers college level classes (GEO 121) at Brentwood and Sayville High School. There is no AP marine sciences course that is equivalent so if the students wants to take the college level course in High school, they can't. Tuition of \$100 per course will be charged. The course would be administered under the University's Young Scholars Program. The content and instruction of the course will be the responsibility of the Dean-and-Director of the Marine Sciences Research Center. If possible the Instructor of Record would meet with the adjuncts the previous May or June to review Course syllabus and grading policy. The high-school instructor would be appointed as an unpaid, adjunct instructor of the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook University

Brent Lindquist (summarizing the senate vote on the resolution): Motion in favor of proposal: 35; Against: 1; abstain: 1

VII. Recommendation on Campus no-smoking policy – Bill Dethlefs

The Environmental Committee is recommending to the University Senate Executive Committee a campus no-smoking policy. Effective Fall 2006 smoking will be limited to pre-designated areas on campus. These areas are yet to be determined. Suffolk County has a policy in effect prohibiting smoking within 50 feet of building entrances. SUNY upstate Medical Center implemented a smoke-free campus last year. They use a pro-active approach. Our time frame would be three-years. We have to work with the unions on campus plus we have to implement programs to help smokers quit. Along with the development of wellness programs the continuing tolerance of any smoking behaviors can no longer be justified.

Dr. Lindquist thought it would be a good idea to have the Graduate Student Organization and the Undergraduate Student Organization involved in this early on. Norman Goodman brought up civil rights and felt that the issue of health trumps civil rights.

Dr. Brent Lindquist mentioned that this was his last meeting as President of the University Senate and thanked everyone for their support and that he was sorry that he leaves with, as yet, no successor identified

Meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Theobalt
Secretary
University Senate