

Arts and Sciences Senate
Draft Minutes of the 2/18/02 Meeting

The Arts and Sciences Senate met on Monday 18 February 2001 at 3:30 PM in the Javits Room.

I. The proposed agenda was amended to include item Va, an update on the budget. The agenda as amended was approved by voice vote.

II. The minutes of the 11/26/01 meeting were approved.

III. F. Gardaphe presented the report of the Promotion and Tenure Committee (PTC) for the 2000-2001 academic year. The full report will be posted on the senate web site.

The PTC reviewed 33 files.

17 were for promotion to full professor, the PTC agreed with the candidate's department in 16 cases. Of the 16 proposed promotions to tenure, 13 were approved. The PTC agreed with the candidate's department in 14 of the cases. There was one disagreement with the administration. The PTC made its first posthumous promotion.

The PTC discussed teaching and its relation to promotion. A committee of Distinguished Teaching professors will meet with the provost. This may lead to revisions of the PTC guidelines.

Senators voiced some concerns over the slow progress of some files. In some cases the files are incomplete and need to be returned to the department. Otherwise there did not seem to be an obvious culprit. Some departments are using obsolete guidelines when preparing files for the committee.

The PTC will present a recommendation to streamline the paperwork to the Senate in the near future.

The question of whether we should retain an untenured assistant professor on the committee was raised. Despite innuendo that some chairs frowned upon such service, and the general difficulty in getting volunteers, it was agreed that this was a useful experience for the member. There will be no change in policy.

IV. W. Godfrey presented the report of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (CASA). CASA dealt with about 200 cases last year; about half were approved. CASA tends to deny selective requests to drop courses.

CASA will meet with the counseling center to make sure that the students are getting the correct advice vis-a-vis appeals of academic standing.

It was noted that when a student returns to SBU after a long absence, their GPA is reset, but previously earned credits are retained.

V. R. Cerrato sought the wisdom of the Senate on a matter that had arisen in the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. They received a request from a department to institute an admissions requirement for the program.

Currently only Music has such a requirement within A&S, though such requirements are common in Engineering. In this case, the department was concerned about students failing to graduate because they could not pass certain required courses (which the students left until their senior year). The department noted that performance in some earlier classes was a good predictor of success, and proposed restricting the major to those who did well (not merely passed) those earlier classes.

Following a spirited discussion, the sense of the Senate was that this "problem" should be solved by advising students more conscientiously. Students should be encouraged to begin taking these more challenging courses earlier, so that if they could not handle the work there would still be time to change majors.

Va. The Senate discussed the budgetary situation. The College is facing a 5% cut. The Dean and Chairs proposed a plan which was rejected by the Provost. The Senate expressed concerns about the processes involved. It appeared that the process circumvented the Dean entirely, with the cost of encouraging the

Chairs to seek new faculty lines directly from the Provost.

The sense of the Senate was that the Dean and the Chairs should be allowed to set priorities within the College. A resolution to that effect was drafted by A. Tyree and F. Goldhaber, and was sent to the Provost.

VI. There was no other Old Business.

VII. There was no other New Business.

The Arts and Sciences Senate adjourned at 5:05 PM.

4 March 2002

F.M. Walter

Secretary