

College of Arts and Sciences Senate

Minutes of April 19th, 1999 Senate Meeting

Secretary: Robert Bloomer

The Meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

I. The tentative Agenda was approved.

II. The Minutes from the CAS Senate Meeting on February 15, March 15, as well as April 19, 1999 will be subject to approval at the next CAS Senate Meeting in the Fall of 1999. The President will put all of these Minutes on the CAS Senate webpage at:

ws.cc.sunysb.edu/senatecas

III. Report of the CAS Senate President (Hugh J. Silverman)

The President drew attention to the Senate webpage given above. He noted that the attendance of Senators at Senate Meetings is noted on this page, so he reminded everyone to put their signature on the sign-up sheet that is circulated at the beginning of each Meeting. In addition to the five CAS Senate Standing Committees, there is now also an ad-hoc committee called Faculty Rights, Responsibilities, and Retirements, which has already met three times this semester. This committee is reviewing several areas, including departmental by-laws, retirements, and term contracts. Appeals and grievances will not be handled by this committee, as they are already dealt with by the Union or the Academic Judiciary Committee. Most likely in the Fall, we will begin the discussion of whether it should become a CAS Standing Committee.

There are still several slots available for At-Large Senator, so names of people who would be willing to serve are welcome. Additional names are also still needed for the Standing Committees. The election will take place as an email ballot and the results will be posted on the Senate webpage. Laurie Theobalt will receive the ballots and count them. Bob Kerber added that ballots for the University Senate election should go out by the end of the month.

IV. Report of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Paul Armstrong)

The Dean delivered his report on the state of the College of Arts and Sciences. With the help of a detailed handout, he first described progress that has been made toward attaining goals of the President's Five-Year Plan, which he considers good because it is specific. One of the goals is to improve teaching evaluation procedures including peer review. Here the PTC teaching evaluation policies have been revised to establish teaching portfolios, in consultation with PTC and CAS Chairs. The Dean then enumerated 11 further goals and the actions that have been taken to meet them.

He added a word about the advantages and disadvantages about the new single-college structure. He believes that it has been successful, as manifested by the increase in interdisciplinarity, more efficient allocation of resources to meet undergraduate needs, and the replacement of four Deans with only one. Contrary to some opinions, there are no more FTE under his payroll than was previously the case. But there are at least two negatives about the new structure. One is that there has been greater pressure on the individual academic departments to do work more autonomously than under the old structure where the divisional Dean and Assistant Dean could be more supportive of the work in departments. At the same time, it has caused a strain because some departments have simultaneously suffered budget cuts. Another negative is that there is a disproportion between the College of Arts and Sciences and the other two Colleges (College of Engineering and Center for Marine Sciences) under the Provost. There is not equality in resources, FTE, or other ways.

That being said, the Dean noted that he does have good working relations with the Provost.

Dean Armstrong also shared details of his budget request to the Provost. He has made a set of requests to improve undergraduate learning and retention, to improve the quality of academic departments, and to accommodate projected enrollment increases.

VI. Old Business: None

VII. New Business: None

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.