

Arts and Sciences Senate

Minutes from Senate Meeting

February 21st 2000

Secretary: Robert Bloomer

The Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

I. Agenda. The tentative Agenda was approved.

II. Minutes from the A&S Senate Meeting on November 15th, 1999. These Minutes were approved.

III. Report of the A&S Senate President (Hugh J. Silverman). Hugh Silverman made a preliminary announcement of the call for nominations that will go on out via e-mail for At-Large Senators and Standing Committee Member Elections for the academic year 2000-2001.

IV. Report of the A&S Senate Standing Committee on Promotion and Tenure (Everett Waters, Chair, PTC). With the help of a handout, Everett Waters reported the results of case decisions made at all of the levels (department, PTC, Dean, Provost, President) for the two previous academic years.

In 1997-1998, 14 faculty were considered for promotion to Full Professor. There were no denials at any level. This was also true for the 15 cases in 1998-1999.

In 1997-1998, 19 faculty came up for promotion and tenure. Of the 17 positive departmental decisions, all were upheld at the subsequent levels; of the two negative departmental decisions, decisions were split at each further stage. In 1998-1999, 15 Assistant Professors were considered for promotion and tenure. Of the 14 positive departmental decisions, one was denied only at the level of Dean; the one negative departmental decision was upheld by both the PTC and the Dean, whereafter the case was withdrawn before reaching the Provost and the President.

Lou Deutsch expressed concern that the PTC Guidelines are not clear about the organization of files. Everett Waters replied that Pamela Thompson has additional documents intended to assist in this process. Paul Armstrong added that he meets with new Departmental Chairs, also to clarify matters related to the PTC Guidelines. Hugh Silverman indicated that a PTC file organization list could be proposed to the Senate as an addendum to the PTC guidelines when further PTC revisions are discussed at the April meeting of the Senate.

V. Where is the College of Arts and Sciences Going? (Report and discussion with Acting Provost Robert McGrath, with the participation of Paul Armstrong, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences). Robert McGrath first addressed enrollments. His plan is to increase graduate enrollment, perhaps by as many as 120 new students, in part by increasing stipends by \$2000-3000 per year. Undergraduate enrollments will be kept at roughly 12,000 students, with only a modest increase of 350 students for next year. He then turned to some problem areas. SUNY Stony Brook has good faculty, but not competitive salaries. The CAS is not quite in the black, but should be soon with increased revenues from an enlarged student body. Since the University has a natural limit for size, we must ask what we want to be growing. Some of the wants and needs are the implementation of a committee on Asian Studies; a Creative Writing Program; more money for Life Sciences as well as for ESL; and support for a Language, Mind, and Brain group, which will provide the flexibility to see how the world is evolving. We should also be thinking about new kinds of undergraduate programs.

Paul Armstrong said that the aim of the CAS is to be the best student-research center it can possibly be. There have been cutbacks but also additions. Future priorities are to field candidates for Chair of the English Department, to establish a Creative Writing Program, to rebuild the Economics Department, and to design a Liberal Arts Business Program.

Joan Kuchner questioned the practice of bringing people into positions with no career ladder. Perhaps we need to think about career tracks for Lecturers and to consider establishing locally the title of "Senior Lecturer," with increases in salaries. Bernie Maskit added that adjunct positions are not regularized, which is not good.

Maria Drueckhammer reported on activities in the newly formed Committee on Women Faculty Issues. So far this year, it has met five times. Due to the complexity of issues to be addressed, Robert Liebermann, Chair of the committee, broke up the committee into five subcommittees to deal with five issues: 1) salary equity; 2) policies on parenting; 3) recruitment (spousal); 4) space and resource allocations; 5) teaching and service duties.

Under the heading of Growth and New Directions, Robert McGrath mentioned the idea of the Arts and Sciences Senate having its own Academic Planning Committee to address a wide variety of possible academic development areas. Hugh Silverman asked for preliminary comments on this idea and indicated that he would put it on the agenda at the next meeting of the Senate.

VI. Report of the CAS Associate Dean for Operations (Eugene Katz). Tabled

VII. Old Business. None

VIII. New Business. None

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.