

Tentative Agenda  
University Senate Meeting  
April 6, 2000

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
  - II. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2000 (attached)
  - III. Report from the President
  - IV. Report of Acting Provost (R. McGrath)
  - V. Report on New Construction (G. Matthews)
  - VI. Report of University Senate President (B. Godfrey)
  - VII. Old Business
  - VIII. New Business
  - IX. Adjournment
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**University Senate**  
**Draft – Minutes of the March 6, 2000 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Godfrey, President of the Senate at 3:35 p.m. Bill opened the meeting by making comment on the very successful Stony Brook Day that was spent in Albany. The University made a favorable impression on over 40 Legislators and the Stony Brook student body represented themselves very well throughout the day's lobbying efforts. The day ended with a reception at "The WELL" with the new SUNY Chancellor, Robert King. Bill reminded the Senate of the importance of such lobbying efforts because as everyone knows, "The Governor proposes but the legislature disposes"...

Bill advised the Senate that all Senate committees are up and running, he then ended his opening remarks by referring to an upcoming conference on Academic Freedom that will be held at the SUNY Albany Campus on March 31 – April 1, 2000.

**II & I. Agenda and Minutes.** With the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the February 7, 2000 meeting were reviewed, and with notation of a change in language regarding fellowships to recruit new doctoral students, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. No dissention was recorded.

**III. Report by President Kenny.** The President was not available for the meeting but did submit a written report. Highlights follow.

- 1. The President's Campus Report provided out final enrollment numbers (18,238 students for Spring 2000).
- 2. New Summer camp venture being launched. The Summer Camp will offer its campers athletic and recreational experiences and also provide them exciting scholastic development via science, technology and computer instruction. Registration has already begun for the Summer Camp, which will run two, four, six, or eight-week programs from June 26 to August 18. Discounts will be available for faculty and staff children and grandchildren.
- 3. PAWS Athletic Scholarship Program is underway and doing very well. Mrs. Nancy Williamson, formerly of Time, Inc., recently donated \$100,000 to Stony Brook's Division of Athletics for the support of woman's athletics scholarships.

4. Grammy Award Nominations ... two members of Stony Brook's performance faculty and one alumna were nominated for Grammy Awards.
5. Presidential Lecture Series. The third of this year's events in the annual President's Lecture Series Celebrating Diversity, "Into the Mind of King; an Historical Re-imaging", will be held on March 29. Stony Brook is pleased to welcome back alumnus and National Book Award Winner Charles Johnson.

**IV. Report by Acting Provost Bob McGrath.** The acting Provost submitted a written report and there were no questions. The Provost Lecture Series was given a plug ... many different speakers will be visiting the campus over the next two months. Included in the line-up will be the President of the AFL-CIO John J. Sweeney who will be here on April 25<sup>th</sup> speaking about "The Working Class and Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

**V. Report from Polity:** Andrez Carberry, President of Polity

Mr. Carberry thanks the Senate for opening communication channels with Polity. He stated that he is working hard to build up student membership and participation on all Senate committees. Polity would like to have a list of all Senate committees and where students are needed to serve.

An issue of concern for Polity involves the proposed doubling of the Athletic fee from \$60 / semester to \$120 / semester. Mr. Carberry stated that there was no real communication on this issue, no contact and no explanation. Mr. Carberry is asking the Senate for support.

B. Kerber was recognized and provided a point of information by stating the Senate does not have direct input into this matter; however, the Student Life Committee could make a resolution. that would be the place to start.

Bill McAdoo brought up the issue of the USB Dorm room policy of "8 and out" rule and how Polity views this policy. Mr. Carberry mentioned that this is a big problem for students especially for those of color. Reports are circulating that it now takes 5-7 years to graduate...classes are overloaded, space is tight, faculty problems etc. for many students their last memory of USB is one of being kicked-out.

B. Kerber added that this policy had a very broad discussion over 2 years. The committee had 3-4 resident undergraduates on the committee that made the decision re: a limited resource that must be rationed until more space becomes available.

B. McGrath pointed out that the last of the major Dorm renovations will be completed in 4/01 which will add another 500 beds into the mix. In addition, plans are being developed that involve the creation of 500 additional garden apartment types of housing. Come 9/01 we should have an additional 1000 beds to meet the growing demand.

There was much debate and discussion regarding the increased athletic fee and the 8 semester and out policy.

- SUNY Statistics: BA degrees taking 5 years = 51%
- USB is at 53%
- Double majors are taking 5 years

- Engineering curriculum is 5 years
- Problems in the community re: open housing
- Recruitment concerns – graduates leaving with a bad experience

two motions developed from the floor.

**First motion : that the 8 semester and out policy be re-visited and that a recommendation to change to 5 years does not seem unreasonable.**

Motion seconded.

All in favor

One abstention

**Second motion: to have the Student Life committee send a resolution to re-visit the athletic fee hike and send a message to the Athletic Department to revisit this issue with student consultation and input.**

All in favor: 17

Abstention: 7

**VI. Old Business:** none

**VII. New Business:** George Tortora attended the SUNY Senate and he asked the Senate for an opinion re: does the Board of Trustees General Education request for a course reading list violate Academic Freedom. Some Departments were concerned about the implications and other Departments were not bothered at all. Then again some Academic Departments are more equal than others. Our President decided not to send the reading list. A motion was passed stating that the University Senate supports the Administration in their decision not to provide the reading list.

All in favor: 30

Abstentions: 4

The final bit of new business “comment” came from the way-back re: last month’s meeting where several student Senators expressed the feeling that the agenda items regarding the Undergraduate Council Resolutions as presented by Co-Chair was a railroad job.

**President Godfrey replied:** so noted.

The University Senate meeting of the March 6, 2000 meeting was called to adjournment at 4:37 p.m.

With an ending kind word of thanks to a good sport, Dennis Geyer, for handling the Senate minutes for me last month - respectfully submitted,

Edward John O’Connell III

Senate Secretary

- sidebar: February 7<sup>th</sup> minute change: page 2, IV. Acting Provost report:

4<sup>th</sup> sentence ... it was announced that .... *“fellowships have been made available to increase stipends to recruit new doctoral students.”*