

Minutes, Senate Meeting, 10/10/05

The meeting was brought to order at 3:35 PM.

President Kenny was not in attendance, her office forwarded a written report. Senate President Lindquist asked for information on the Goldstein Academic Center, funded under the Capital Campaign. The President's report indicated that construction on the project had begun. Peter Baigent (Student Affairs) indicated that the construction was in fact interior rehab. of space in the Pritchard Gym.

Bob McGrath presented one major item in his report. He noted that the basic goal of SBU for the Mission Review II Memorandum of Understanding with SUNY Central is for SBU to position itself among the top half of AAU universities. Currently SBU ranks in the top half in some categories but falls short in others. To close this gap, SBU requires finances to support 200 to 300 additional faculty.

In response to a question from the floor, McGrath noted that Chancellor Ryan and local legislative members were on Campus at the Wang Center on Friday Oct 7 to canvas campus needs as part of Chancellor Ryan's push for more legislative funding for the SUNY system.

In response to a comment from the floor, McGrath agreed that an energy audit at SBU was indeed timely. He suggested that President Kenny had probably asked the Office of the VP for administration for such, and opined that there may be a role for the Senate Environment Committee to be involved in same.

McGrath introduced Howard Schneider, who was to brief the Senate on the preliminary outline of a Journalism Program at SBU. Howard briefly introduced himself and how he was contacted by President Kenny to investigate the creation of a Journalism Program at SBU. Howard developed a brief for the program over the spring semester and presented it to the administration in the summer. The Provost's office then initiated a Task Force, co-chaired by Howard and Mark Aronoff, of nine members to work with Howard on drafting a plan for formal proposal (to governance and the administration). In his presentation Howard outlined the essential features of his vision for the program.

He began by noting there are currently only limited journalism programs in the SUNY system, none accredited. He outlined three goals for the program:

- 1) it will result in an UG degree in journalism (NOT communication) and will cover journalism in broadcast, online and print media.
- 2) it will offer a 5 year program in Health and Science journalism.
- 3) it will train news consumers.

Goals 1 and 2 are for the major, goal 3 will include service courses for the university.

The major will involve two required internships, one with on-campus media, the second with external journalism of scientific institutes.

Commensurate with the program, the minor in journalism will be expanded.

The program, if approved, would have a target date for beginning Sept '06. Announcement of intention has already been made to SUNY for SUNY campus' comments. In anticipation of successful approval of a program, the Provost's office has made authorization for a search for

one faculty line, to be initially hired for the journalism minor program (until such time the full program is authorized).

The program is to begin with faculty consisting of Howard plus three full time faculty, and filled out with adjuncts. Howard projects 40-50 majors by year two of the program, with 120 to 150 by year five.

There were numerous questions and comments from the floor, not all recorded. Those recorded were:

How will resources be found and justified for this program in competition with other areas/programs requiring funding?

McGrath noted that he is committed to increasing out of state UG enrollment to 30%. Doing so will require the existence of programs that will attract out of state students. The journalism program, as envisioned by Howard, would be one such attraction. Thus the Provost's office is willing to commit funds "up front" to get such a potentially attractive program going.

In response to a question about CUNY's recent announcement of its own, new, well funded, journalism program, Howard noted that the CUNY program was a graduate program, and not, therefore, in competition.

In response to a question as to whether the journalism program would be "a program or a department", Howard noted that the long-term form of the program has not been decided. {Possibilities ranging from "program" to "school" have been discussed.} Howard added that he is committed to running the program, whatever its form, for "the next couple of years".

In response to a question as to whether he was aware of funding opportunities for Journalism programs, Howard noted that he was already been contacted by, and is in discussion with, the Stony Brook Foundation. He is also personally aware of many foundations that offer grant application possibilities.

Submitted
Brent Lindquist
Senate President
10/10/05