

University Senate Minutes

February 2, 2004

At 3:33 p.m. the University Senate President, Brent Lindquist, called the meeting to order. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the last meeting were approved. It was announced that the constitution and bylaws were approved by vote of 47-0-2.

The University President submitted a written report to the University Senate.

G. Tortora gave a report on the recent SUNY wide senate meeting in Oneonta. The following items were among the topics discussed: This year's budget allocation did not work well for the University Centers, new formula is needed. There was general agreement that a CUNY type general assessment is not desirable for SUNY. Posting grades using SUNY ID numbers, even if truncated, is not acceptable. In response to inquiries, the Provost will inform the faculty what can and cannot be done with respect to informing students of their performance in class. Faculty rights in the electronic age was another issue of discussion. System wide assessment resulted in a heated debate. Faculty academic dishonesty; is it a union or governance issue? Two resolutions were passed: One concerned the type of University resources that should be devoted to governance and the other concerned the Senate President participating in campus-wide administrative committees concerned with academic policies, planning and operation. This Senate President should also be the faculty representative in campus-wide ceremonies. Brent Lindquist noted that the Stony Brook campus already exceeds the conditions mentioned in these resolutions.

Norman Goodman gave a short report on the recent SUNY board of trustee's meeting on the Stony Brook campus. Highlights of this report are the following: Admiral Crain of the Maritime Academy gave an efficiency study on the SUNY system. This is to be followed by a written report. A College of Nanotechnology has been established on the Albany campus of SUNY. Concern was expressed that this College did not receive significant review and its establishment may have an unfavorable impact on the Albany campus as well as the SUNY system. The Neil Levin Institute has been established in Manhattan. Funding of this Institute is from private funds and a special allocation of funds from the Governor of New York. Concern was expressed that this College did not receive significant review before it was established.

Provost R. McGrath presented a written report. He also stated that he shared Norman Goodman's concerns regarding the above issues. The Provost noted that the Levin Institute is with us and that he is on the curriculum committee. This Institute could play to our advantage but nothing is well defined at the present time. Garrick Utley is President of this Institute.

The Provost highlighted many of the items in his written report.

In response to questions the Provost stated that next year's budget appears to be the same as last year. The problem is the tuition increase. Overall, this increase offset the taxpayer decrease. The problem is that the budget of University Centers has a smaller percentage from tuition compared to the SUNY system and most of our graduate students receive tuition waivers. As a consequence, Stony Brook disproportionately suffered with respect to its budget allocation.

In response to another question regarding progress on Gyrodyne Brent Lindquist responded that Gyrodyne will present their subdivision plan to the Smithtown planning board in an apparent move to strengthen their negotiating position.

Angeliki Field-Pollatou (GSO) made a presentation on their past activities and plans. A recent accomplishment was to open the university café (www.universitycafe.org). All of the comments indicated this is a great place and an excellent opportunity for faculty and students to meet in an informal setting. One of their other activities was a professional survey on the quality of graduate student life. The major problem that came out of this survey was housing. The GSO needs a new Constitution. Since other governance units have just gone through this process Brent agreed to put the GSO into contact with some of the key people who have recently written constitutions.

Pat Cruso made an enthusiastic case for participation in the Stony Brook Day in Albany and distributed a brochure. They would like about 600 volunteers. Currently, about 200 have committed to this adventure. Comments suggested this was a very rewarding experience in participatory democracy. It is an excellent opportunity to engage in conversations with graduate and undergraduate students. A comment was made that this event should try to get onto the academic schedule. One can register for this event on line at www.stonybrook.edu/albany.

Petar Djuric made a presentation on the final Middle States Report. They received many comments on earlier drafts of this document and they tried to incorporate specific suggestions into the report. Petar stated that they were advised to just identify problems and not give solutions. Since a common theme of many comments was that the report did not provide possible solutions to problems they added the following important section to the report:

Establish a structure for ensuring continuous improvement of the student experience.

- Create a standing committee on the student experience, reporting to the President, which will refine the recommendations of the Middle States Self-Study into a set of concrete implementable actions for the President's consideration, aligned with the institutional strategic plan.
- Charge specific administrative offices with implementing each recommendation within a designated time-frame.

- Evaluate progress annually and report it to the university community.
- Develop new recommendations on the regular strategic planning cycle.

In response to a question it was stated that the University President would appoint the committee.
Some announcements were made from the Senate:

- Nominations for Senate committees will be requested.
- Nominations for Undergraduate Awards are due this week.
- Nominations for the Faculty Service Award will be requested.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

The Senate adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Recorded by F. Fowler.