

Tentative Agenda
Arts & Sciences Senate
October 18, 2004

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
- II. Approval of minutes from September 20, 2004
- III. Update on Senate Membership
- IV. Report of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (N. Hollingsworth)
- V. Other Old Business
- VI. Other New Business

Arts and Sciences Senate -- Minutes of the 9/22/2004 Meeting

The Arts and Sciences Senate met on Monday, 22 September 2004 in the Javits Room. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Arts & Sciences Senate, Fred Walter, at 3:30 PM. Seventeen members of the Senate were in attendance.

I. Welcome

Fred Walter, the newly elected Senate President, introduced himself, and other members of the Senate introduced themselves.

II. Appointment of Recorder

Cynthia Davidson volunteered to be recorder for this session.

III. Approval of Tentative Agenda

The tentative agenda was approved and seconded unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2004

Approval was unanimous.

V. Nominations of Senate Officers

Fred Walter explained the necessity of electing a Vice President and a Secretary of the Arts and Sciences Senate. (These positions had not been filled during the last election.) He explained that the Vice President was a two-year commitment and the Secretary was a one-year commitment, that both positions attended Executive Senate meetings as well as regular meetings, and briefly outlined the duties of the Secretarial position. He mentioned that the President of the Arts and Sciences Senate is Vice President of the University Senate.

Fred Walter then nominated Bob Cerrato, chairman of the curriculum committee, for Vice President. Joan Kuchner seconded the nomination. Bob Cerrato did not accept the nomination.

Fred Walter nominated Cynthia Davidson for the position of Secretary. She accepted, the nomination was seconded by Bob Kerber, and she was elected unanimously.

Fred spoke of several senatorial vacancies in departments and also in the senator-at-large category. Discussion ensued about ways that members could encourage participation.

VI. Report of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Bob Cerrato)

Bob Cerrato explained that the annual report of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee was attached to the agenda that had been e-mailed to senators. He reported that the committee had met 25 times last year and that the committee members were listed in the annual report. The committee has been working under guidelines for general education courses that must be submitted for approval to SUNY Albany. He reported with some concern that by last May, less than 1/2 of the courses submitted had been approved. Of 172 general ed courses submitted, only 78 had been approved. He said that waiting 10 months for approval of courses was not a viable situation, noting that the courses had not been disapproved, but were in a state of limbo. These courses get passed to the advisory committee for general education. Most of the courses are currently being taught at SBU but not for DEC credit. Bob explained that SBU approves courses for DEC credit, but SUNY Albany then must approve it for the SUNY general education requirement. (SBU has merged these courses with the DEC requirements so that both needs are met.)

Fred Gardaphe mentioned that the courses that have been most affected by this situation are American History courses. Bob Cerrato explained that some of these courses that had been used to fulfill the general ed history requirement had last year been rejected by Albany. As a result, we had planned to decouple the SUNY history requirement from the SBU DEC K requirement. DEC K returned to being American Pluralism. A Skills 4 requirement was approved last December, but we have not heard from Systems Administration if it would fulfill the history requirement. Fred Gardaphe explained that some of the DEC K courses were changed to DEC G, and that some students signed up for one DEC and got a different one. These individual cases had been straightened out with Donna DiDonato (Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Affairs), but it is an ongoing difficulty.

Bob Cerrato reported there was now a “specialization” available for undergraduate majors. PeopleSoft (SOLAR) allowed a facility for declaring a specialization in degree to be declared. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee had created guidelines on how the specialization would exist.

Additional items in the report were mentioned: constitutional changes were now allowed by two non-voting ex-officio members. In the departments, European Studies and Asian American Studies majors had been approved.

Finally, Bob Cerrato mentioned that the Undergraduate College-based new versions of SBU 101 that had been approved by the University Senate last semester had never been brought to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or the Arts and Sciences Senate for discussion and approval. Bob Kerber asked what how the outcome of the course actually affects the students’ record. Some discussion of this ensued. The SBU 101 is not a degree requirement; freshmen are required to sign up for it, but transfer students are not. It is S/U and does not affect the GPA. Fred Walter asked if every student shouldn’t be required to take the course (including transfers) since its purpose was to acclimate students to Stony Brook, but it was mentioned that limited resources presently made this impossible. Bob Cerrato stated that none of the course proposals for SBU 101 had been approved by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Fred Walter suggested that the proposals for SBU 102 do need to go through the curriculum committee. Joan Kuchner asked if there was a model for SBU courses. It can presently be whatever the professor wants. Bob Cerrato said he had seen a course proposal for the Communications College, but that when suggestions for change were made, the proposal was taken to the Engineering College and approved there instead. Since then, no course proposals for SBU courses have been approved by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Joan Kuchner had a question about the current policy for crosslisting of undergraduate courses. Bob Cerrato said that departments were informed when changes were made in the bulletin or SOLAR to crosslisting, and if there was reason to believe the department had not informed the

affected faculty, the committee would send them the information. Joan said she felt that the current system was not working effectively. Further discussion ensued including mention of a proposed change to the terminology used by PeopleSoft (co-scheduling rather than crosslisting).

The report of the committee was accepted and seconded. Fred Walter thanked Bob Cerrato for four years of excellent service to the committee.

VII. Old Business (Fred Walter)

Fred Walter reported on the state of the Arts and Faculty Senate. He remarked on the number of absences and vacant positions. Of 27 departments and programs, 12 have not responded to the call for Senate representation. He then proceeded to explain the organization of the Senate with a diagram. He read a statement from the constitution that stipulated nomination for at-large Senators should be by petition of at least 10 faculty members from 3 departments, and remarked at how far we are from the level of competition since it is now impossible to fill these slots with volunteers. So basically, we have started the year with 1/3 of the Senate missing, and he suggested we need to start a dialogue on why this is occurring. Tom Muench asked about the role of professional employees in the A & S Senate and if the PEG Board members have to be in the A & S Senate (answer affirmative). Fred Gardaphe discussed his experiences with the Promotion and Tenure Committee and the role of community service in promotion and tenure. He also mentioned that his course had ballooned from 40 to 250 students in the last year and that such changes sometimes affected the role community service could play in a faculty member's schedule. He mentioned that his department had three members representing it in the A & S Senate despite increased class size. Fred Walter reported that the Standing Committees are in better shape, all having Chairs, but that there are vacancies in some: 1 in the Curriculum Committee, 1 in Promotion and Tenure. He asked how we could increase a sense of urgency to participate in the faculty and how to better contact them. He said Chairs of Departments and Programs could play a better role, but that it was sometimes necessary to go beyond the Chairs. It was suggested a letter be drafted to all A & S faculty and affiliates (such as Marine Sciences). Joan Kuchner questioned our reliance on technology for contact and suggested it may have played a role in the low voting turnout for the recent election. The role of *Currents* and other newsletter/newspapers as well as the online Announcements was discussed. Fred Walter said that a goal of the Senate this semester should be to come to a consensus of what the role of the Senate is in the university. He mentioned that the Arts & Sciences Senate includes Marine Sciences, Library, may possibly include the College of Business, and possibly Fine and Performing Arts College if it is created. He stated that the committees of the Arts & Sciences Senate are separate from the University Senate. (All department representatives of the Arts & Sciences Senate are also members of the University Senate.) A discussion ensued about the need to simplify academic and service-related issues and establish consistency in these on campus. An example of this was given that Engineering has its own Academic Judiciary and this can be confusing to students, when there is another Academy Judiciary that serves all of Arts and Sciences. Walter ended his report by stating that this is a time to ask questions about the role of the Senate and if we are simply to rubber-stamp reports or have a more pro-active role in determining policy. Some general discussion among members ensued about the lack of A & S Senate involvement in "big" issues such as the Manhattan Campus, the appointment of a new Dean to the Performing and Fine Arts College that was initiated without involvement from the fine arts and performing faculty, and admissions policies, and the sense that junior faculty did not have a sense of community (social and intellectual) on the SBU campus.

Tom Muench asked how we could get more information about the developments for the Fine Arts College and its new administration. Hugh Silverman suggested that the Executive Committee of the Senate do explorations in this area. It has been suggested that the President of the University wishes to attach Fine Arts more to the Manhattan Campus.

VIII. Other New Business (Fred Walter)

Bob Kerber suggested that we contact the interim Dean of the Business College to share ideas about the Senate's relationship with the College of Business.

Joan Kuchner said that she had been talking to Dean Conover in Marine Sciences, and mentioned that we are in the process of trying to acquire Southampton College's undergraduate marine science program.

Hugh Silverman suggested that we all try to go to the New Faculty Convocation and make contact with the new junior faculty members.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Transcribed by Cynthia Davidson
Secretary

