

Fall 2003—Academic Senate Meetings: Agendas & Minutes

November 7

October 10

Agenda: Academic Senate Meeting

November 7, 2003

Lecture Center 102

1. Reading and approval of minutes (October 10, 2003)
2. Announcements
3. Report of President of the College.
Questions and action items from the floor.
4. Report of the Presiding Officer of the Academic Senate.
Questions and action items from the floor.
5. Action items from Academic Senate Officers.
6. Action items from Academic Senate Committees.
Questions and action items from the floor.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. New Business.
9. Optional reading of reports of Officers and Committees of the
College Faculty.
10. Adjournment

Minutes: SUNY New Paltz Academic Senate Meeting

October 10, 2003

Attendance: Janice Anderson (Communication and Media) Steven Bradford (Art) Peter Brown (Foreign Languages) Kurt Daw (School of Fine and Performing Arts) Alan Dunefsky (Athletics) Mark Dziuba (Music) Glenn Geher (Psychology) Jan Hammond (Educational Administration) Majid Hosseini (Math) Mark Lazek (Library) Glenn McNitt (Political Science) Michael Muffs (Educational Administration) Kelli Parmley (Institutional Research) Jerry Persaud (Black Studies) Steven Poskanzer (President) Nancy Schniedewind (Educational Studies) Frank Trezza (Theatre Arts) Henry Urbanski (Foreign Languages) Shelly Wright (President's Office)

Meeting called to order by Barbara Hardgrave at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes from the April 11, 2003 meeting were approved as distributed.

No announcements.

President's Report:

- The SUNY Board of Trustees has appointed two New Paltz Faculty Members to the elite rank of Distinguished Professor. Only seven such appointments were made SUNY-wide this year.
- Distinguished Professor “Mick” Adams of the mathematics department and Distinguished Professor David M. Clark, also of mathematics.
- In addition, two professors -- Dr. Tulin Sener, professor of finance in the School of Business, and Dr. Spencer Salend, professor of special education in the School of Education -- have been selected as recipients of the 2003 Chancellor's Research Recognition Award honoring researchers in humanities, arts and social sciences.

- The same number of people who attended the Alumni Weekend this year as the previous year.
- This year's events were done in a more professional manner.
- Asian Studies, Geography and Communication and Media had departmental gatherings and other programs should consider such receptions for their graduates.

- Thank you to the 175th steering committee members and especially Rosemary McBride and Bruce Dubois for all of their hard work on the Birthday Bash. State assemblyman Kevin Cahill read a proclamation from the Legislature. Cake and cider were had by all. It was a good event.

- We had visitors from the Provost's office at System Administration on September 29th to discuss mission review. We are doing well.
- We updated them on progress we've made toward our campus goals (and in some cases exceeded) including enrollment, diversity, retention and graduation rates, faculty quality, assessment and collaboration with our sister campuses.
- We are meeting the goals we are setting for ourselves. An area for improvement is graduation rates. We are working with departments for templates for each major to get students through in four years as well as increasing access to student information.
- The office of the Registrar is working with academic departments to clearly identify major/minor degree requirements that can then be loaded into the DARS system.

- Construction Fund-Run off of water, rain in people's basements not New Paltz's fault. We are at the top of a flood plain and water goes down.
- On the construction front, members of the Construction Fund and the Campus Construction and Planning Office had a good meeting yesterday with the village mayor and village engineer regarding recent press reports about citizens upset over storm runoff into the village and destruction of wetlands behind Esopus Hall. These

press reports were inaccurate and misleading. We are constructing a retention basin behind Esopus Hall that was approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This work is detailed in the Environmental Impact Study for this project. The work will actually divert storm runoff to the south -- rather than north, into the village's aging infrastructure -- by anywhere from 20-45 percent, depending on the type of rain we receive.

- Village officials left with a better understanding of what we're doing on campus, which they can take back to constituents.
- The Capital Planning Council – formed a year ago – has completed its first cycle and has approved a slate of projects totally about \$255,000 to be done next summer. The process is working well. The group will be calling soon for the next round of project proposals.

The approved projects include:

- Creating new classrooms for Art History in Smiley Arts Building.
 - Upgrading Lecture Center classroom 3A for distance learning technology.
 - Converting a photo lab in the Old Library to digital technology and adding an additional computer lab and adjacent studio space for MFA students in that building.
 - Installing fume hoods and sinks for research activities in Coykendall Science Building.
 - Overhauling the plumbing system in Smiley Arts Building.
- Council is looking at proposals for next round of projects.

Question from Faculty: Why are there no faculty members on the Capital Planning Council?

Answer from President: I am looking at the Deans as advocates for faculty for particular projects. Deans are not on the council but attend meetings. If you have elected people from different constituencies it can be problematic.

Report from Barbara Hardgrave:

- SUNY senate is asking for campus reactions to the MOU.
- Almost all positions on central committees have been filled. Organization Committee is looking at last batch of people

No Actions items for Academic Senate officers.

No Action items from Academic Senate Committees.

No unfinished business.

New Business -SYSTEM WIDE ASSESSMENT

Peter Brown motion:

The Academic Senate of SUNY New Paltz reaffirms its conviction that the imposition by SUNY System Administration of SUNY-wide General Education assessment is contrary to the academic mission of the University. We do not support this approach to assessment.

Seconded by Glen McNitt

Discussion:

Janice Anderson: Our motion should say the evaluation imposed by assessment. The motion should not use the term assessment.

Move to change the word assessment to standardized evaluation by Janice Anderson.

Move that we change the motion to “so called value added assessment.”

Second

Amendment to motion passes to call it “so called value added assessment.”

Question from Faculty Member: Can you fill me in on the MOU?

Barbara Hardgrave gives brief explanation of MOU.

- The value added assessment group will be formed the process has already begun. The membership of this group will be distinguished faculty. They are charged with developing the assessment instrument to be used and making sure from a faculty perspective that this will not be used improperly.
- A concern of faculty is that it will compare SUNY schools with very different missions.

Faculty Member: If the full faculty accepts Peter Brown’s motion how will it change the campus?

Barbara Hardgrave: We will be going ahead with our assessment process, it is what we need to do for us. If they will be testing students, what is in it for the students? How valid will the data be? I do not think it will change much here because we will do what is appropriate for our campus.

Faculty Member: A system wide set of two exams is being imposed to see what they have learned in the course of general education which will help in their evaluation of the school.

Faculty Member: It implies that what we are doing now is not value added assessment. The GE committee has done work to make sure the assessment we are doing is value added.

Faculty Member: How can they make promises that this data will not be abused?

President: What we are doing is assessment for purposes of improvement. Theirs is fundamentally about accountability.

Barbara Hardgrave: During the last year UFS reluctantly agreed to consult and to talk about this with the Provost, not because they thought it was a good idea, but with the sense that if it would be forced that they should discuss legitimate concerns that faculty have. The danger is that it is blessing the process.

President: Presidents heard about this the day before it was voted by the BOT.

Question by Faculty Member: Whose values are we adding? Are we adding value to something that is going down?

Faculty Member: This is an important opportunity to express our displeasure.

Faculty Member: This is not value added but ideology added.

Barbara Hardgrave: This issue needs to be raised by our colleagues.

Question Called

Vote on Peter Brown's motion:

The Academic Senate of SUNY New Paltz reaffirms its conviction that the imposition by SUNY System Administration of SUNY-wide General Education assessment is contrary to the academic mission of the University. We do not support this so called value added approach to assessment.

MOTION PASSES.

Meeting is adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Felipa Biamonte

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Minutes: SUNY New Paltz Academic Senate Meeting

April 11, 2003

Attendance: Anne Balant (Communication Disorders) Peter Brown (Foreign Languages) Mark Dziuba (Music) David Eaton (Enrollment Management) Gail Gallerie (President's Office) Matt Gellar (Student Representative) Glenn Geher (Psychology) Mary Hafeli (Art Education) Barbara Hardgrave (Music) Gerald Kitzmann (Liberal Arts and Sciences) Susan Kraat (Library) David Labiosa (Foreign Languages) David Lavallee (Academic Affairs) Michael Muffs (Education Administration) Jerry Persaud (Black Studies) Steven Poskanzer (President) Rafael Saavedra (Foreign Languages) Nancy Schniedewind (Educational Studies) Frank Trezza (Theatre Arts) Helise Winters (Continuing Education) June Trop Zuckerman (Secondary Education)

Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Barbara Hardgrave.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Correction: There are several statements attributed to Matt Schwarz that were actually made by Matt Gellar.

Gary Kitzmann was in attendance at the last meeting.

Announcement: The University Faculty Senate is looking for people to serve on committees.

Announcement: Fundraising dinner on Friday May 9th for Caitlin, a 4 year old who lives in town and who needs a bone marrow transplant.

Announcement: State Science Olympiad is being held this Saturday April 12, 2003.

Minutes approved as amended.

President's Report:

Budget:

- Nothing new to report on the budget.
- There were reports that the budget would get cut by early May.
- Rent Control is up in NYC and is forcing the legislature into negotiations. The last time this was an issue was in 1997.
- We have lobbied hard and loud for the university's needs.
- Nothing new to be concerned about regarding the budget.

Accepted Students Day:

- Accepted students day was last Saturday, great turnout largest number of students and family who signed up.
- Spirits of people here seem great. Our faculty helped us put our best foot forward.
- 28 students handed in money to actually attend, highest number ever.
- 115-120 deposits in the past week and a half.

Enrollment:

- 12 years in a row highest number of applicants among our SUNY peers. Transfer applications have helped to put us over the top. We lead in first year freshman applications. There is a clear growing demand not only for transfer students but for first year students as well.

New Faculty and Staff:

- Poskanzer has been interviewing candidates, 14 new tenure track faculty. We have accepted offers for 11 of those 14. The prospects are good for the others. Most impressed not with the number but with the quality. There is a clear commitment and passion for teaching among these applicants. They are clearly thinking carefully about what this community would be like for them.
- Search for Dean of Fine and Performing Arts: There are several qualified candidates.

Development:

- Funds raised so far this year: almost 1.25 million dollars.
- Faculty and Staff campaign, so far 220 people have already contributed. We are three short of last year's total.
- Already have 23% of faculty and staff, we are poised to surpass last year's development records.

Celebrations:

- Restoration of the Van Den Berg Learning Center celebration was a week and a half ago, good turnout.
- April 25th 11:30 Ceremony to launch 175th anniversary campaign will have a reopening of the plaza.
- May 7th 3:00 pm End of a 30 year delay in meeting our athletic centers needs.

Questions/Comments:

Faculty Member: What was the original number of searches?

Answer by David Lavallee: 11 new lines, 14 total.

Unfinished business from last meeting: Calendar proposed by Academic affairs, Presentation by Glen Geher:

- What we would like to do is propose two calendars one that had the traditional religious holidays, one that did not.
- Academic Affairs Committee endorsed one calendar; Academic Senate endorsed a different version.

Questions/Comments:

Faculty Member: Every year this issues comes up.

- Calendar Option 1 has no substitution days.

Barbara Hardgrave: This body asked for different calendar options because the first was voted down.

Faculty Member: This body regularly prefers to have religious holidays and it seems that your committee in most years recommends the opposite. It appears that your committee does not have appropriate consideration for the actions of this body.

Glen Geher: The Academic Affairs Committee, the people who created for and pushed for the motion on practical and ideological grounds, wanted to say "tough" and ask the academic senate to come up with their own calendar.

June Zuckerman: We did ask for options but we have already rejected one of them. I don't think it is appropriate for them to be presented again for a vote. Option 1 was already rejected. We should have a chance to accept or reject option 2.

Glen Geher: We would like to present to the full faculty both options and note that the Academic Senate did not endorse one. I agree that the Academic Senate should not vote on something already rejected by them.

Faculty Member: It looks to me that what is more important is Columbus Day/Time off in October vs. religious holidays. Which are you making more important? October 11th Columbus Day or the observance of the holidays? This is against the philosophy of the university.

Glen Geher: I see the issue you are talking about, I personally did not endorse this particular calendar. Multiple Observant Jews on the committee voted for option 1. The idea was that to celebrate diversity you should not embrace some religions if you cannot embrace all.

Faculty Member: There has been historical precedence for those religions being included.

Peter Brown: Just because something has had a historical precedent, does not mean the practice should continue to be valid. Option 2 endorses certain religions and not others. Picking one minority's holiday and ignoring the others sends a bad message.

Paul Zuckerman: For many people it is more than just choosing to celebrate a holiday, it is a requirement for their religion. The people who are going to suffer from this are the non-Jewish students. Not observing the holidays that had previously been included sends a very bad message.

Helise Winters: Other SUNY schools have gone to the 1st choice. You need to have continuity. We are an institution of people and we should have policies that are representative of the people.

Glen Geher: There are people who are concerned that the way the calendar is now is disruptive, if we change this around it may be more disruptive. This is a very polarizing issue. I hope people who have strong feelings about this will make their points at the faculty meeting.

Nancy Schniedewind: In the first calendar did your committee consider starting on Monday, making space for some other holidays?

Glen Geher: The decision against starting on Monday is that it may be starting too early, students need to finish their summer jobs.

Nancy Schniedewind: Starting on a Monday would give more days to work with.

David Lavallee: Starting before the 25th creates problems because summer sessions are ending and buildings/facilities need to be prepared.

Nancy Schniedewind: On the one hand, as a state institution, we need to separate church and state but we need to cherish diversity. When you take something away it sends a certain message. Preserve the holidays we have and think of ways to add more.

Glen Geher: Come to the full faculty meeting and voice your opinions, people on my committee would value it.

Faculty Member: People do not know enough about Columbus. I don't know why Columbus is a day we should be celebrating. I have a problem with Columbus Day. If we are sensitive to religious holidays, that is certainly not one I am sensitive to.

Matt Gellar: Students need to be asked how they feel about this issue.

Anne Balant: Students want a mid semester break.

Faculty Member: We do not have a full week of classes until the 20th of September, we end up with more substitutions when we have to accommodate different holidays making it very difficult to make up a day missed because of a holiday.

Jerry Persaud: Thanks for the dialogue. This is an issue among many universities. What is the legitimate basis for having a holiday? Is it because of tradition? Is it because of the number of students who celebrate them?

Faculty Member: Some of this discussion is treating all holidays the same. People want their holidays included so they feel like they are included.

Faculty Member: Can we survey the students?

Glen Geher: Stuart Robinson had surveyed the students before he took over this position, and ending early was more important than celebrating religious holidays. The interest of the students should be considered, although a survey could not be conducted between now and April 25th.

Mat Gellar: What about an email to the students?

June Zuckerman: Students are a very important constituency here, when students are asked if religious holidays should be included they have to be reminded that Christmas is already included, ask if they wouldn't mind going to school on Christmas, it should be focused on all holidays.

Paul Zuckerman: In serving the students, you cannot always go with what they want because there is something different in what the student's value and what faculty value. You can only listen up to a point because students are often happy not to have class

Nancy Schniedewind: Faculty were surveyed, can you give us the results?

Glen Geher: For the faculty religious holidays were more important to them than the students which might be useful data for the faculty meeting.

Glen Geher: This body endorses to present both options at the full faculty?

- Glen Geher will present both calendars at the next faculty/professional staff meeting and will announce that one was not approved by the faculty.
- A copy of both Calendars can be found at http://www.newpaltz.edu/governance/acad_affairs/

Motion: Move to approve calendar option 2, this calendar includes the religious holidays.

VOTE: Yes: 10
 No: 4

This ends unfinished business

Meeting Adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Felipa Biamonte

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