

**Spring 2010-- Academic Senate: Agendas & Minutes**

February 5, 2010

March 5, 2010

April 2, 2010

May 7, 2010

*Academic Senate Meeting*  
February 5, 2010

3:00-5:00

**LC 108**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2009 meeting
3. Announcements
4. Report of the Provost  
    Questions and action items from the floor
5. Old Business: None
6. New Business:
  - a. SUNY Assessment Resolution Discussion Draft
  - b. SUNY GE IV
  - c. Elections
7. Report of the Presiding Officer  
    Questions and action items from the floor
8. Adjournment

**Meeting of the Academic Senate**  
Minutes – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Members present:** Jackie Andrews (Institutional Research), Carlos M. Aponte (Graduate School), Karanja Keita Carroll (LA&S), Julie Chiarito (BG&P), Donald Christian (Provost's Office), Thais B.P. da Cunha (Education), Chris DeLape (F&PA), Jackie DiStefano (Finance & Administration), Mark Dziuba (F&PA) Ghader Eftekhari (S&E), Brenna Fearey (Student Association), Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney (Graduate School), Aaron Haselton (S&E), Lisa Jones (Admissions), Peter Kaufman (LA&S), Beth King (Career Resource Center), Bernadette Morris (Records & Registration), Lucien Mott (Academic Advising), Corinne Nyquist (Alt. Faculty Senator), Lisa Ostrouch (Institutional Research), Steve Poskazer (President's Office), Dave Rooney (Student Affairs), Rose Rudnitski (Faculty Senator), Spencer Salend (Education), Stephanie Samuel (Student Association), Corwin Senko (LA&S), Edward J. Sullivan (Education), Davina Vora (Business), Shelly Wright (President's Office)

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

The Presiding Officer asked for a motion to add to the agenda a report from Corinne Nyquist, the SUNY Senator Alternate, which was approved.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes for December 4, 2009 were approved without corrections.

**2. Announcements**

Brenna announcement – needs students with research experience to sit on the research board for student research for this semester. This is for a research line in the SA budget for proposals.

**3. Report of the Provost**

The Faculty searches are active and lively. The Honors review committee is working well. Academic building initiatives are moving forward. Science and Engineering building planning is gearing up. The Wooster planning committee is being led by VP. DeStefano and is progressing. Final decisions are being made on departments that will be assigned to Old Main. The Library planning committee is forming. Webinar on sustainability throughout the curriculum was held a couple of weeks ago. Once we get the sustainability committee underway, it will gain more momentum. The Presiding Officer, Richard Kelder, and the Provost will convene a committee this semester to address some of the issues in the webinar. There will be a discussion on the MS programs in Education. The Provost and Deans have developing a policy on faculty absences. A draft of the policy was read. The final draft will be added to the Faculty Handbook and posted on the human resources website.

**4. Report on the SUNY University Faculty Senate**

The report on the SUNY University Faculty Senate was given by Corinne Nyquist and is as follows:

As Alternate Faculty Senator I attended the Plenary on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Speaking to us from SUNY Central were Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Chief Operating Officer Monica Rimai,

Interim Provost David Lavallee, and Tina Good, President of the Faculty Council of the Community Colleges.

7. Zimpher said “This system needs coordination” referring to SUNY and CUNY. She said that SUNY was “policy light” but that it must be clear how policies are made and how they can be appealed. More planning is needed and as an example she spoke of the nursing program at New Paltz, and the steps taken to continue the program at SUNY Ulster and SUNY IT.
8. Rimai spoke of “unshackling” SUNY from micromanaging by SUNY Central, other State agencies, and the State Legislature through the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act that Governor Paterson announced on January 15<sup>th</sup>. (See summary on verso) Rimai supports it and believes that it is a “push” in the Legislature. SUNY Presidents were asked to support it and they did. The FCCC and the FS both want more information. Concerns raised at the meeting centered on “differential tuition,” “land use and sale issues,” and “mission creep.”
9. Lavallee is working toward a closer relationship with CUNY and with all the community colleges in order to simplify the transfer policy between campuses and between 2year and 4year degree programs. AA and AS degrees would be accepted by all according to the BOT policy passed in December 2009. Faculty groups will be convened to compare lower division courses in majors beginning with Business and Education. Allowing transfers to meet only 7 of the 10 “content areas” was an area of concern among Senators.
10. Tina Good was very supportive of the involvement of the FCCC and the community colleges in the transfer policy discussions. However, she believes that GE needs a complete overhaul.

Resolutions introduced:

7. Bylaws change to report only officers elected and not the vote count. Tie so failed.
8. A Faculty Research and Scholarship Interest Database to foster collaboration. Passed
9. Establish a FS standing committee on Diversity and Cultural Competence. Passed
10. Resolution protesting the \$69.9M cut to the SUNY in the Executive Budget added to the more than \$400M cuts of the past two years. Passed.

NEXT FACULTY SENATE PLENARY SESSION HERE APRIL 22-24th

## **5. Old Business**

None

## **6. New Business**

**a. SUNY Assessment Resolution Discussion Draft** - Presentation by the provost. Resolutions by the trustees on assessment and general education were discussed.

**b. SUNY GE IV** – New Paltz is forming a new GE task force, GE IV.

## **7. Report of the Presiding Officer**

1. The Presiding Office shared changes in committee membership. The master list on the governance website will be updated before the faculty meeting next week.
2. The Presiding Officer asked for approval of a change in date for concluding the governance elections by March 31<sup>st</sup>. This will not be a change in the Bylaws. It will be a change in our practice. April 20<sup>th</sup> is too late for moving ahead in time.

A motion was offered and seconded to approve the change.

The first draft from various groups will be due in the first week of April, instead of May for Middle States.

3. Five members of the GE IV team will be attending a conference, June 4-9.
4. A memorial service was held January 27<sup>th</sup> for Margaret Wade-Lewis. The Presiding Officer attended and spoke for the faculty.
5. SUNY's CGL's are working on issues regarding calendars, such as duration of the semesters, the number of Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, observation of the Labor Day and the MLK day. Furthermore, they are surveying campuses for compensation for governance leaders [e.g., the Presiding Officers, and some key committee chairs] in the form of course reductions or monetary compensation.
6. The College Council members have made contributions for a designated fund that is earmarked for assisting students with unforeseen economic hardships in the middle of the semester. The College Foundation will manage this fund. They have raised almost \$8,000. An alumnus has found out about this fund and has sent a check supporting the cause.
7. The Presiding Officer has no new report for the College Foundation.

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Rudnitski

## Meeting of Academic Senate

March 5, 2010

LC 108

### Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of February 5, 2010
3. Announcements
4. Report of the Provost
5. Report of the Curriculum Committee:

#### **Motion from the Curriculum Committee:**

*On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, the curriculum committee approved the program proposal for a new program offered jointly by the Biology and Chemistry departments:*  
**Biochemistry**

*On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the curriculum committee approved the program proposal for a new program offered jointly by the Physics department: **Astronomy***

*As new program require the assent of the faculty, we ask that the Senate and the Faculty approve these two new programs.*

6. New Business:
  - Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008
  - Student Authentication Provision for Distance Education Courses/Programs
7. Report of the Presiding Officer
8. Old Business: None
9. Adjournment

**Meeting of the Academic Senate**  
Minutes – March 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Members present:** Jackie Andrews (Institutional Research), Carlos M. Aponte (Graduate School), Anne Blanat (LA&S), Karanja Keita Carroll (LA&S), Kevin Caskey (Curriculum Committee), Julie Chiarito (BG&P), Donald Christian (Provost's Office), Patrick Cook (Business), Nancy Cooney (Academic Computing), Chris DeLape (F&PA), Mark Dziuba (F&PA), Ghader Efrekhan (S&E), Brenna Fearey (Student Association), Rachel Ferrara (Student Association), Laurel Garrick Duhaney (Graduate School), Aaron Haselton (S&E), Mary Kahl (VP Academic Senate), Peter Kaufman (LA&S), Bernadette Morris (Records & Registration), Simin Mozayeni (Presiding Officer), Joseph Paparone (F&PA), David Rooney (Student Affairs), Rose Rudnitski (Education), Spencer Salend (Education), Corwin Senko (LA&S), Emily Trapp (IMS), Davina Vora (Business), Heather Whalen Smith (Library), Shelly Wright (President's Office)

Guests: Amy Forestell (Physics), Richard Halpern (Physics), Jeff Reinking (Biology), Daniel Jelski (S&E)

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

### **1. Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of February 5 2010 was deferred until the next meeting.

### **2. Announcements**

Brenna Fearey announced a new Student Association line of funding to support graduate and undergraduate student research. Each student applying would be eligible for \$750 per project. The Student Association has a separate line of funding to support student travel for conference presentations.

Jacqueline DiStefano presented on the budget cuts and current legislation to the Council of Organizations.

### **3. Report of the Provost**

The Honors Review Task Force Committee will have an interim report in the next week.

Faculty searches are progressing well.

David Rooney presented to the College Council on liberal education and partnerships with Academic and co-curricular activities.

The Provost and the Library Dean attended a conference in Florida on library planning.

The Dean of Advising search is proceeding well.

There was a question as to if the college is changing its policies on snow days. It is not.

#### **4. Report of the Curriculum Meeting**

The Astronomy and Biochemistry Programs were approved. It was noted that both programs make use of resources already in place and so will not reflect an significant price burden to the college.

It was brought up to the Senate that some students doing a double majoring in a BS and a BA had a burden of an additional 30 credits to fulfill as opposed to students double majoring in two BS programs or two BA programs. This issue will be researched and debated in more detail at a later date.

#### **5. Unfinished Business**

None

#### **6. New Business**

Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and – Student Authentication Provision for Distance Education Courses/Programs

Middle States requires a policy in place to reflect the Act. The Academic Affairs and Education Technology Committee will work on proposing a policy. Issues such as ways of verifying students taking online courses were discussed. Clear guidelines should also be added to the faculty handbook.

#### **7. Report of the Presiding Officer [full report in Appendix A]**

Campus-wide elections are upcoming and openings include: the Presiding Officer, the Ombudsman, and one additional University Senator position, and possibly two seats on the CAS board. Election guidelines will be updated on the faculty governance website to reflect the new timeline for concluding the elections by March 31, 2010.

A calendar of all committee meetings is now available on the governance website.

College Council met March 4<sup>th</sup>. Provost Christian and VP David Rooney presented to the College Council on liberal education and partnerships with Academic and co-curricular activities.

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Whalen Smith

## Appendix A

PO Report to Academic Senate  
March 5, 2010

### **I. Campus**

#### **Elections**

##### **Campus-wide:**

- a. PO
- b. Ombudsman
- c. One additional Senator [based on the number of full time faculty]
- d. CAS Board

##### **Divisions:**

Schools of Business  
Education  
Fine and Performing Arts  
Science and Engineering  
Liberal Arts and Science  
Faculty of Library  
Professional Faculty  
Student Association

Timelines: Wednesday, March 31

The Organization Committee will be soon calling for nominations.

Divisions Presiding Officers/Council Chairs should call for nominations for expected vacancies on college-wide committees.

Central Committees List was updated on 2/10, 2/16, and March 4.

[http://www.newpaltz.edu/governance/CentralCommitteeList/Spring2010/Governance\\_COMMITTEES\\_MEMBERSHIP\\_Spring2010\\_T3-4-2010.pdf](http://www.newpaltz.edu/governance/CentralCommitteeList/Spring2010/Governance_COMMITTEES_MEMBERSHIP_Spring2010_T3-4-2010.pdf)

Election Guidelines for divisions was posted on gov. website last year.

[http://www.newpaltz.edu/governance/OtherPDF/Election\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.newpaltz.edu/governance/OtherPDF/Election_Guidelines.pdf)

The file will be updated to show the earlier election timeline.

**Committee Meeting Calendar:**

<https://zmail.newpaltz.edu/home/cooneyn@zmail.newpaltz.edu/Governance%20Calendar.html>

**II. College Council**

Their second meeting was held yesterday, March 4. Provost Christian presented the research by Association of American Colleges and Universities [AACU] on Liberal Education and America's Promise [LEAP], an initiative that champions the value of liberal education. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcome for all students, whatever, their chosen field of study. Provost's presentation highlighted High Impact Practices AACU research has identified.

Provost's presentation was followed a presentation by VP Rooney that highlighted the rich array of co-curricular service learning opportunities that are available to our students, including numerous opportunities for developing their leadership skills.

VP Jackie DiStefano gave a budget update.

**III. SUNY Campuses**

Campus Governance Leaders [CGL]: Some campuses have started looking into their budget cuts for next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simin Mozayeni

*Meeting of Academic Senate*

*April 2, 2010*

**3:00-5:00**

**LC 108**

**Agenda**

11. Call to Order
12. Approval of the Minutes of February 5, 2010 and March 5, 2010
13. Announcements
14. Report of the Provost
15. Report of the Curriculum Committee
  - Childhood and Early Childhood Education Dual Certificate Proposal
6. Grading Policy Changes: Proposal
  - S/U Grading Options
  - Course Repeats
  - Replace Grading Policy
7. Traits of Sound Governance Survey
8. Report of the Presiding Officer
9. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee
  - Calendar Guideline and Principles
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

**Meeting of the Academic Senate**  
Minutes – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

**Members present:** Jackie Andrews (Institutional Research), Carlos M. Aponte (Graduate School), Anne Blanat (LA&S), Karanja Keita Carroll (LA&S), Kevin Caskey (Curriculum Committee), Julie Chiarito (BG&P), Donald Christian (Provost's Office), Mary Beth Collier (Provost's Office), Patrick Cook (Business), Thais B.P. da Cunha (Education), Christine DeLape (F&PA), Jackie DiStefano (Finance & Administration), Mark Dziuba (F&PA), David Eaton (Enrollment), Leah Fabiano-Smith (LA&S), Brenna Fearey (Student Association), Aaron Haselton (S&E), Lisa Jones (Admissions), Mary Kahl (VP Academic Senate), Peter Kaufman (LA&S), Robert Michael (Education), Bernadette Morris (Records & Registration), Simin Mozayeni (Presiding Officer), Steve Poskanzer (President's Office), Spencer Salend (Education), Corwin Senko (LA&S), Davina Vora (Business), Heather Whalen Smith (Library), Shelly Wright (President's Office)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes for February 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 and March 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 were approved without correction

**2. Announcements**

Brenna Fearey announced that five proposals for the new research line were received. The Student Association will be conducting elections in May and that faculty should encourage students to run. The student mandatory fee will also be voted during the SA elections. She requested faculty to encourage their students to vote yes.

**3. Report of the Provost**

The new science building will house the departments of geology, geography, mathematics, physics, and computer science. A survey was sent on to faculty members for the upcoming library renovations. Please respond. Furthermore open forum discussions will be held on the Terrace. Student surveys were sent out and over a thousand students have responded so far. The Wooster Planning committee is assessing what departments will occupy the renovated building. Old Main construction is progressing. The South wing will only house two floors, not three as originally planned. Some reprogramming will be needed to be done to adjust to this change.

Open forums will be held to meet the candidates for the position of Dean of Advising.

A team of New Paltz faculty and the Provost will be attending a General Education Institute in Burlington Vermont.

April 12 there will be members from the Turkish Dual Program on campus for the annual meeting.

The Provost will be unable to attend the Spring Commencement as he will be attending his daughter's Commencement.

The Provost answered two questions brought up by the Academic Senate. The first was regards to budget cutback affecting capital expenditures. VP Jackie Distefano, replied that there was no cutbacks to SUNY projects funding. although delays are expected. The second was in regards to the ticketing of cars on Mohonk Ave, where there is not a "no parking" sign. It was noted that the area was covered by town police, not by campus police. It will be brought up by the administration at the next Town Hall meeting.

#### **4. Report of the Curriculum Committee:**

##### **Childhood and Early Childhood Education Dual Certificate Proposal**

This combines two certificate programs into one program without creating major changes to either program. The purpose of this change is to allow greater job flexibility and a more competitive edge to graduating New Paltz students. This proposal was approved by the Senate.

#### **5. Grading Policy Changes: Proposal**

The Presiding Officer noted that the proposal is brought forward to the Senate for a discussion at this point. The Academic Affairs Committee will consider it and will make recommendations to the Senate in fall.

#### **S/U Grading Options, Course Repeats, Replace Grading Policy**

The full texts of the three proposals are in Appendix A. The pros and cons of applying a fee vs a grade cap on repeating courses were discussed. In regards to course repeats, a particular concern voice was balancing the need to allow students to repeat courses if personal issues affected their grades with the concern of students using this as a mechanism to inflate grades. It was noted that a minority of students will switch their S/U grade often.

#### **6. Traits of Sound Governance Survey**

The survey was redone due to insufficient response the last time the survey was sent out.

#### **7. Report of the Presiding Officer**

- The call for nominations for campus-wide positions has been sent out.
- Several divisions are working on their elections.
- The Executive Committee has made a resolution to ask the Presiding Officer to discuss with the Provost the timeline that a candidate under review for reappointment, tenure or promotion can submit a rebuttal letter for inclusion in the dossier that goes to the Central Committee.
- There has been no meeting of the College Council to report on.
  
- The College Foundation met on March 25. The Board is working on developing a specific plan for a broad-based fundraising. They have hired a consulting firm to assist them. The Foundations' resources have been continuously on a rising trajectory in the last 20 years, and they plan to move further in that direction. The Board received Nomination Committee's proposal for two new Board members: Barbara Scherr and Mickey Jamal. The Board approved both candidates with enthusiasm.

## **8. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee: Calendar Guidelines**

The text of the resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee that shows changes in the current calendar guidelines is in Appendix B. Pamela St. John, Chair of the AA, discussed the current guidelines. She noted that the current guidelines need revisions for practical reasons. She noted that the school year starts on August 23<sup>rd</sup> according to the Fall 2010 academic calendar, but the entire second week of classes is off.

She noted that the current calendar policy holds a great challenge to classes with lab components as it often means individual lab sections become separated weeks apart from each other. This is problematic because lab set up is time-intensive and solutions and other lab components often degrade over time. The proposed changes to the calendar policy will indicate that classes will be held on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and will create a fall break much like the Spring semester. Of concern were allowing students and faculty to celebrate their religious holiday. It was pointed out that law states that students must be allowed to take off from class, without penalty, for religious obligations. This policy is written in the Students Handbook. The idea of including this information in class syllabi along with a requirement of advanced notice from students who wish to be excused was suggested. There was a motion to accept the resolution brought forward by the Academic Affairs Committee. The Presiding Officer noted that there was no need to second the motion since it came from a committee of the college faculty. The motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

None

## **10. New Business**

None

**11. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Whalen Smith

## Appendix A

TO: Simin Mozayeni, Presiding Officer of the Faculty

FROM: Donald Christian, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
L. David Eaton, Vice President for Enrollment Management

DATE: March 28, 2010

Appendix A

SUBJECT: Grading Policy Changes

We have been discussing aspects of our grading policies that we believe are not consistent with institutional goals of continuing to raise academic standards and quality. Indeed, we believe that three of our policies and practices are out of line with typical standards at other institutions. Neither of us would care to defend them, and we doubt that most faculty would either. We propose that these policies be revised. Because grading issues are at the heart of the academic enterprise and the interests of faculty, and we believe that governance consideration of these proposed changes is appropriate. We hope that you will see our proposal as worthy of consideration, and direct it to the appropriate governance body or bodies, probably beginning with the Academic Affairs Committee.

The three issues we propose be revised are as follows:

1. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Option: Our current policy includes the stipulation that students may change an S/U grade to a letter grade for three calendar years after the semester in which the course was taken, or until graduation. This is an unusual institutional policy. We are aware of students shifting back and forth among these grading options in later semesters, creating transcripts and calculated GPAs that support (as an example) applications for graduate school, even if the change produces graduation deficiencies. Subsequently, the student may again change the grade basis so that graduation requirements are satisfied. Although we do not have quantitative data, subjective impressions are that such practices are widespread among our students. We believe this flexibility does not serve our academic enterprise well and needs to be eliminated; we also believe that doing so will not severely compromise the primary goal of the S/U grading option – encouraging students to explore new areas without impacting their GPA severely. We propose adopting a strict policy like that at many institutions that students may not change between S/U and A/F grading options after a date coinciding with the last day to withdraw from a course. Other elements of our policy on S/U grading seem to be in order.

2. Our policy allows a student to repeat a course without regard to their grade in the first enrollment; we recently saw a transcript for a student who repeated a course after earning an A- in the first enrollment – hardly a wise use of institutional resources or of that student's time and energy. Many institutions do not allow repeats unless the first grade is C- or lower. We suggest adoption of such a policy at New Paltz. A variation that faculty may wish to consider would be to allow such repeats on a space-available basis, as determined at the registration time for non-matriculated students.

3. Our “Replace Grading Policy” stipulates that “The higher of the two grades will contribute to the cumulative GPA.” We even have an unusual “Reversing Repeat Grade Option” that allows a student, during the semester of repeat enrollment, to request specifically that the second grade not replace the first grade. We propose to change this policy so that in all circumstances the grade in the last enrollment always replaces an earlier grade in the GPA calculation.

If these policy changes can be considered and approved this spring, we would suggest a fall 2011 implementation date, with the policies applying to all students (new and continuing) at that time. We think that an earlier (fall 2010) implementation date would be unfair to students who have applied for admission next fall (although we doubt that this particular policy is a significant factor in student decisions to attend New Paltz). We would not be in favor of implementation that would allow existing policies to remain in effect for current students after fall 2011.

We are concerned that these current policies reflect low expectations for student achievement and responsibility. Many institutions observe that student performance rises in response to increased standards and expectation, and we suggest that such a shift would be consistent with our institutional goals. We hope that faculty would support and welcome these proposed policy changes as contributing to stronger commitment and greater academic achievement by students in every course in which they enroll. Additionally, restricting the opportunity for “casual” enrollment in courses without full commitment would reduce some of the course availability issues that we face, and that almost certainly are a barrier to timely degree completion for some students.

Of course, we will be pleased to meet with Academic Affairs or other governance groups to discuss these proposals if that would be useful.

Copy: Steven Poskanzer, President.

## Appendix B

**Academic Senate Meeting**

May 7, 2010

3:00-5:00 PM

LC 108

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of the April 2, 2010 meeting
3. Announcements
4. Report of the Provost  

Questions and action items from floor
5. Committee Annual Reports and questions and action items from the floor:
  - a. Academic Affairs
  - b. Curriculum Committee
  - c. Budget, Goals and Plans
  - d. Graduate Council
6. Report of the Presiding Officer  

Questions and action items from the floor
7. New business
8. Adjournment

**Meeting of the Academic Senate**  
Minutes – May 7<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Members present:** Jackie Andrews (Institutional Research), Anne Balanat (LA&S), Kevin Caskey (Curriculum Committee), Julie Chiarito (BG&P), Donald Christian (Provost's Office), Patrick Cook (Student Association), Jackie DiStefano (Finance & Administration), Mark Dziuba (F&PA), David Eaton (Enrollment), Brenna Fearey (Student Association), Laurel Garrick Duhaney (Graduate School), Aaron Haselton (S&E), Lisa Jones (Admissions), Mary Kahl (VP Academic Senate), Peter Kaufman (LA&S), Beth King (Career Res. Ctr.), Lucien Mott (Academic Advising), Simin Mozayeni (Presiding Officer), Joseph Paparone (F&PA), Steve Poskanzer (President's Office), Johathan Raskin (Graduate Council), Dave Rooney (Student Affairs), Rose Rudnitski (University Senator), Corwin Senko (LA&S), Pamela St. John (Academic Affairs), Davina Vora (Business), Heather Whalen Smith (Library), Shelly Wright (President's Office)

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes for April 2<sup>nd</sup> were approved without correction

**2. Announcements**

Brenna Fearey announced that she will no longer be serving as V.P. of Academics for the Student Association.

There will be a reception for the out-going President Steve Poskanzer after the Faculty Meeting on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> outside of LC102. (Note: this was since moved & held in the Multipurpose Room.)

**3. Report of the Provost**

The internal search for a Dean of Academic Advising has been completed. Mary Beth Collier has been selected as the new dean. She will still work with the Provost's Office in a limited capacity until her replacement for her former position can be found.

In the Provost's first years at SUNY New Paltz, he has attended a meeting for all but one academic department.

All but one faculty search is complete. The Provost expressed his appreciation for everyone's hard work in this important process.

The Honor's Review committee is working on a report to be presented at the next faculty meeting.

The Library renovation project is proceeding. A conceptual framework is being drafted that includes an information commons and a diversity of study spaces on the first floor.

It appears as if it will be possible to include the original three floors in the South Wing of Old Main.

The Provost has met with the GE Board and is discussing revisions.

#### **4. Committee Annual Reports**

##### **a. Academic Affairs**

The Academic Affairs Annual Report is available under Appendix A. The highlights of the report include revisions to SEIs and revisions to the Academic Calendar policies.

##### **b. Budget, Goals and Plans**

The Budget, Goals and Plans Annual Report is available under Appendix B. The highlights of the report include formation of the Sustainability committee, budget discussions and a budget survey that will be tested in the upcoming summer.

##### **c. Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee Annual Report is available under Appendix C. Two notes of concern were raised. The first was that more 300 and 400 level classes were being submitted without prerequisites. Second, 60 new classes were approved, but a significantly lower number were dropped. With steady enrollment, it is unlikely that all new classes would be filled to adequate size.

##### **d. Graduate Council**

The Graduate Council Annual Report is available under Appendix D. There was some discussion on changing the Graduate School's policy from accepting B- and above from transfer classes to a grade of B or higher.

#### **5. Report of the Presiding Officer**

Mary Kahl has been elected to the second University Senator position that has been recently allotted to SUNY New Paltz. She will serve with Rose Rudnitski starting this fall.

The Presiding Officer thanked President Poskanzer and Provost Christian for their strong support for faculty governance. She also recognized the hard work of the chairs and officers of faculty governance this year.

The elections for faculty governance committees are finished and all positions are filled.

The President's Search Committee faculty member elections for all divisions are complete.

The Presiding Officer will refer to the Organization Committee a resolution passed by the Executive Committee today, to consider changing the quorum to 10% of voting faculty instead of 20% that is currently required by the Faculty Bylaws. With more than 600 members, 10% is a more practical percentage who can attend a faculty meeting on a normal work day.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

None

**7. New Business**

None

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Whalen Smith

Academic Affairs Committee Report for the Academic Year 2009-2010 **Composition, Membership and Attendance**

The Academic Affairs Committee was without a Chair for the first two months of the fall semester. The Presiding Officer recommended a Chair for the committee and members voted on 28 October. On that date, the Chair was elected.

Composition (# of members/# that attended meetings): LA&S (5/4), F&PA (2/2), Ed. (2/1—fall semester, 0-spring semester), SS&E (1/1), S of B (1/1), LIB (1/1), Prof. Fac. (2/2), Student Assoc (6/3)

The committee was composed of 15 members. Not all members attended committee meetings. Two student members during the spring semester provided invaluable feedback during our discussions throughout the semester.

The Academic Affairs Committee deliberated this year on the following topics: **Revisions to the SEI**

The committee continued work with the SEI draft, written in the 2008-2009 semesters. This draft consisted of a set of core questions (approximately ten) that would be used by faculty participating in the SEI. In addition, the committee envisioned a pool of secondary questions that faculty could choose from that would be useful in assessing instruction for specific course formats (laboratories, studio courses, or large lectures, for example). The committee spent most of its time discussing the core questions, the scale that should be used for these questions, and the motivation to move to an online SEI. Committee member Lisa Ostrouch from Institutional Research shared a presentation about paper versus electronic SEI's at SUNY New Paltz where it was found that there was no statistically significant difference in the SEI scores obtained in a paper format versus online. The Committee felt that faculty might be willing to move away from a paper SEI if they could incorporate some of their own course-specific questions into the evaluation. The Committee also felt that each faculty member should be allowed to choose between electronic and paper formats.

Some of the committee members reviewed some of the literature concerning the scales used in surveys and evaluations. The literature suggested that a midpoint on a scale helped to prevent the results from skewing and that a five-point scale was sufficient in capturing the sentiments of the reviewer. For reference, the current SEI uses a five point scale: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Disagree, No Opinion/Not Applicable. The Committee felt that a "Neutral" option inserted between Disagree and Agree should be included on the SEI.

Provost Christian was invited to an Academic Affairs meeting to discuss his views on SEI's. He brought the student signature requirement to our attention. Last year the Academic Affairs Committee recommended that this requirement be eliminated. Committee members this year

were not able to justify this requirement. We also discussed the set of core questions developed in 2008-2009 which we modified this year. We have not yet reached a consensus on the format for these questions.

### **Academic Calendar**

The Committee began discussion concerning the guidelines used in generating the academic calendar after V.P. David Eaton brought the 2012 – 2013 calendar to a committee meeting for review. David Eaton had waited to propose the new calendar until the Chair for the AA Committee was elected at the end of October. The approval sought for the calendars was occurring later than scheduled because of the delay in electing a Chair. Although members of the Committee had questions regarding the guidelines used for generating the calendar, the 2012-2013 calendar was approved with a condition that the Committee would review the guidelines prior to voting on the 2013-2014 calendar. David Eaton provided the Committee with a document describing the guidelines used in generating the academic calendar and the Committee spent time reviewing, discussing, and eventually modifying this document. The Committee felt that the school holidays in the beginning of every fall semester caused undue disruption for both faculty and students. The Committee agreed that the students would be better served if they had a mid-semester fall break which would mirror the spring semester schedule. The proposed changes to the guidelines for the academic calendar were brought to the Academic Senate and to the full faculty at which point a quorum was called. The Presiding Officer asked the Academic Affairs Committee to poll the faculty electronically to determine the extent of faculty approval of the proposed changes to the guidelines. The Committee plans to launch the survey and obtain the results before the last faculty meeting of the spring semester.

### **Miscellaneous/Future Work**

In response to a request from a faculty member, the Committee looked into the time assignments provided to students for their registration. Currently, students are given time slots for registration which may fall within one of their class periods. The Committee is still trying to find out if it is possible to schedule a student's registration period for times when they are not attending classes.

The Committee would like to discuss Provost Christian's and Vice President Eaton's proposed revisions to grading policies. The revisions concern the deadline for the S/U grading option, a maximum grade limit for students interested in repeating a course for a better grade, and replacement of a previous grade if a course is repeated.

Submitted by Pamela St. John Chair, Academic Affairs Committee 2009-2010

## Appendix B

### College Curriculum Committee

#### Annual Report 2009-2010

The 2009 – 2010 academic year was a busy one for the curriculum committee. I wish to thank those that serve on the committee for their commitment and dedication. Our workload is quite high. Indeed, I have been told that we are a rare committee that meets every week all year (including finals week).

Over the course of the year, the committee has approved:

- 3 new programs
- 3 new minors
- Revision of the BFA programs and 7 other program revisions
- 60 new courses
- 8 on-line courses
- 2 writing intensive courses
- 42 minor course revisions plus revisions to all 300 and 400 level Elementary Education courses.
- New forms for submitting course and revision proposals

The individual approved items are listed at the end of this report.

#### **Emerging Concerns**

As is often the case, though our work is usually at the course level, we see emerging trends that may need to be addressed. For example, concern about course enrollment, especially now that the minimum has been raised, may lead to a fear of stating prerequisites. Some 300 and 400 level course proposals may have no prerequisites even when the proposal narrative states that a background would be helpful.

Looking at our work over the past year raises another class size issue. There are 60 new courses. The number of course dropped or “mothballed” is much smaller. With the same size of faculty and student body, how can we offer more courses to the same number of students while increasing average class size?

#### **List of approvals**

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

#### **New Programs (3)**

Astronomy

Bio-Chemistry

EED Dual Certification Program combining Early Childhood and Elementary level certification.

#### ***New Minors (3)***

Ancient World Studies

Deaf Studies

Film and Video Studies

## Revised Programs (7 + BFAs)

BFA program plans of study revisions and accompanying minor course revisions

Computer Science

Computer Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Elementary Education            Geography

History                                Minor

Sociology                            Major

Women's Studies

## New Courses (60)

ANT230      Forensic Anthropology

ARH354      Nature & Science in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Amer. Art

ARS329      Design Research

ARS330      Design for the Web

BCM3XX      Protein Structure and Function

was approved as BIO3XX  
and as BCM3XX pending the  
approval of the subject code  
was approved as BIO4XX

BCM4XX      Advanced Biochemistry Lab

BUS458      Introduction to Project Management

CHE110      Food, Medicine and Drugs

GE III NSci SI

CMM205      Introduction to Media Criticism

CMM215      Digital Storytelling

CMM430      Instruc. Comm. & Workplace Learning

CPS315      Computer Science 3

CPS342      Embedded Linux

CPS415      Discrete & Continuous Computer Algorithms

CPS425      Language Processing

CPS441      Database Principles 2

CPS471      Computer Communication Networks

EED 301      Fieldwork 1 (Pre K – 2)

EED 303      Fieldwork 3 (Grades 3 – 6)

EED 370      Ed of Diverse Populations

add GE Div, ER

EED302      Fieldwork 2 (Math, Sci, & Tech Fieldwork)

EED375      Teaching Reading 1

EED406      Student Teaching Seminar

EGC150      Engineering Computing 1

EGC250      Engineering Computing 2

EGC455      System-on-a-Chip

ENG469      Literature & Culture in the Age of Darwin

ENG477      Literature of the Holocaust

FPA 208      Latin America through the Arts

GE-WRLD EEA

GEO207      Current Issues in Latin America Geography

GE WRLD SI

GEO272      People-Environment Relations 1

HIS 244      Mid East since 1798

GE III World SI

|        |                                 |  |
|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| HIS243 | Mid East to 1798                | GE III World SI  |
| HIS337 | Ancient India                   |  |
| HIS338 | British India                   |  |
| HIS339 | Indian Ocean World              |  |
| HIS351 | The Enlightenment               | needs writing board approval for Writing Intensive designation |
| HIS354 | Early Modern Cities             |  |
| HIS362 | Medieval Spain                  |  |
| HIS363 | The Inquisition                 |  |
| HIS365 | Jihad & Crusades                |  |
| HIS384 | The Gilded Age                  |  |
| HON318 | Racism and the Social Sciences  |  |
| HON372 | U.S. Drug Education and Policy  | GE USST EEW  |
| JRN333 | Radio Journalism                |  |
| LAM270 | Intro to Latin American Studies |  |
| MAT053 | College Algebra A               |  |
| MAT152 | College Algebra                 | GE Math and SI   |
| MAT153 | College Algebra B               | GE3 Math and SI  |
| PHI303 | Environmental Ethics            |  |
| PHI330 | Chinese Philosophy              |  |
| PHY341 | Observational Astronomy         |  |
| PHY342 | Planetarium Operation           |  |
| REL275 | Islam: an Introduction          | GE3 Wrld, EEW  |
| REL301 | History of Christian Thought    | GE3 West, EEW  |
| WOM321 | Masculinities                   |  |
| WOM325 | Women and Popular Culture       |  |
| WOM330 | Introduction to Queer Studies   |  |
| WOM335 | Performing Feminism             |  |
| WOM345 | Women and Anger                 |  |

### Online Courses (8)

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ENG477  | Literature of the Holocaust            |
| BIO135  | Evolution for Everyone                 |
| PHI270  | Religions of the World                 |
| ENG255  | Cont. Issues & Literature              |
| ENG308  | Short Story                            |
| FPA 208 | Latin America through the Arts         |
| HIS 355 | Medieval Towns                         |
| EDS383  | Intro to Literacy for Diverse Learners |

### Writing Intensive

|        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| ENG307 | The Novel                             |
| EED375 | Teaching Reading in Elementary School |

## Minor changes (42 + Eds)

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| ARH378   | Sacred Spaces, Devine Images   | new course description                   |
| ARS310   | Visual Language 1  | prerequisite change                      |
| BIO202   | General Biology 2  | prerequisite change                      |
| BLK 285  | proposed title change from “Intro to Black Psychology” to “Intro to African Psychology: A Cultural Approach” |  |
| CHE110   | Food, Medicine & Drugs   | unfreeze                                 |
| CHE315 – | Inorganic Chemistry Lab  | title and number change                  |
| CMD305   | Hearing Science  | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD402   | Clinical Participation   | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD403   | Clinical Participation 2   | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD-06   | Diagnosis in SLP   | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD-11.  | St. Teaching Speer Hearing   | drop completely                          |
| CMD-473  | Clinical Meth. in Audiology  | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD405   | Test and Assessments in Com Dis  | prerequisite change                      |
| CMD420   | Seminar in Comm Disorders  | prerequisite change                      |
| CMM221 – | Introduction to Advertising  | prerequisite change                      |
| CMM319   | Electronic Media Writing   | new course description                   |
| CMM432   | Television in American Culture   | prerequisite change                      |
| CMM434   | Global Media   | prerequisite and title change            |
| EED      | All Elementary Ed 300-400 level courses require students to have declared Elementary Ed as major             |  |
| GEG250   | Map and Graphics   | remove from catalog                      |
| GLC346   | Environmental Impact Assessment  | prerequisite change                      |
| GLG338   | Structures and Tectonics   | prerequisite change                      |
| HIS 320  | Images of War Through Film   | Freeze                                   |
| HIS 329  | Postwar America 1945 to Present  | title change to “Postwar America”        |
| HIS 382  | Roman Catholics in the U.S.  | Freeze                                   |
| HIS 415  | European Hist. Through Biography   | Freeze                                   |
| HIS 433  | Russian Intelligentsia   | Freeze                                   |
| HIS 465  | Military History: Civil War  | title change to “U.S. Military History.” |
| HIS315   | China to 1800  | to be History 215.                       |
| MAT321   | Intermediate Analysis 1  | prerequisite change                      |
| MAT331   | Axiomatic Geometry   | prerequisite change                      |
| MAT364   | Intro to Abstract Algebra 1  | prerequisite change                      |
| MUS251   | Masterworks of Western Music   | catalog description change               |
| MUS313   | Improvisation for Every Musician   | prerequisite change                      |
| PHI 490  | Philosophy Pro-Seminar   | title change to “Seminar”                |
| PHI252   | East Asian Philosophy  | title change & course restriction        |
| PHI270   | Religions of the World   | to become Religions 270                  |
| POL366   | Contemporary Am Foreign Policy   | title and pre-requisite change           |
| PSY303   | Intro to the Psychology of Learning  | prerequisite change                      |
| PSY402   | Psychology of Language   | prerequisite change                      |
| SPA102   | Elementary Spanish 2   | remove prerequisite                      |
| SPA201   | Intermediate Spanish 1   | remove prerequisite                      |

## **New Forms**

Guide to course revisions

New UG Course Proposal

UG Major Course Revision

UG Online Course Proposal

UG Minor Course Revision

## Appendix C

### **BUDGET, GOALS AND PLANS COMMITTEE**

Annual Report 2009-2010

#### **A. Sustainability Committee:**

- Out-going chair, Chris DeLape, aided in revising the Sustainability Committee proposal based on the concerns expressed by the Organization Committee in Spring 2009. The revised proposal was accepted by the BG&P committee.
- The Sustainability Committee proposal, as revised, was approved by the Organization Committee on October 14, 2009. The proposal was passed unanimously by both the Executive Committee and Academic Senate on November 6, 2009
- Proposal brought to Faculty in both November and December; the proposal was passed on December 9, 2009.

#### **B. Budget:**

- Jackie DiStefano and Michele Halstead met with the Committee in early Spring 2010 to discuss the status of the 2009-10 budget.
- Jackie DiStefano presented analysis of the 08-09 revenue plan versus the authorized plan as 9/14/09. Jackie, also, highlighted the drop in state support from 43% in 07-08 of total revenue to 35% in the 09-10 initial plan.
- The 2009-10 budget reduction plan items of \$6.0M was shared with the committee. The tracking of these reductions items were discussed and much is being done in both the finance office and the Office of Institutional Research and Planning. The status as of early Spring was \$4.6M savings had already been achieved to date. Items being tracked by these two offices included:
  - i. Monitoring of total core educational budget
  - ii. Vacancy savings reporting
  - iii. All funds (appropriated) summary for each VP; including funded positions
  - iv. Unit responsibility
- The Albany budget was discussed but at the time, the situation was unknown. It was assumed that New Paltz's budget will remain flat for 2010-11 at this time but too early to tell.
- Capital plan for 2009-2013 including the new Science building and Library renovations were discussed, as well as critical maintenance projects of \$82.2M.

#### **C. Strategic Plan**

- President Poskanzer was invited to the committee meeting in early March, 2010. The President discussed the eight vision points of the college, and shared the current set of metrics to be used for those vision points. President Poskanzer asked for the committee's help in determine what other measures could be used in assessing our vision points. The types of information currently being collected relative to the eight areas includes graduation rates, percentage of faculty who receive tenure, number of students engaged in campus activities, number of people attending events, etc., among other information.
- The budget committee offered its help in working to have a more formal strategic plan that would include a timeline for the achievement of goals and objectives. The committee, also, expressed a desire to be more involved in the campus budgeting

process.

- The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) was discussed. It was recommended by a committee member that more discussions should be held publicly regarding both the merits and drawbacks of the proposed legislation as there is much confusion on this subject.

#### **D. Counting Faculty report**

- Julie Chiarito (Institutional Research) presented the third report based on the new methodology established for measuring the number of part-time/full-time faculty. (The methodology determined which part-time and full-time faculty would be consistently counted. Thus, each year the counts would be based on the same criteria and comparisons would have meaning.) The full report comparing Fall 2006 through to Fall 2009 will be posted on the BG&P Web site.

#### **E. Budget Survey**

- A proposal was made to revise the current budget survey. The proposal was unanimously approved as it was decided that the current survey does not necessarily reflect the current fiscal state of the college.
- For the budget survey, the Committee will develop some questions that will be included in the Middle States Survey. Julie will write three to five survey questions and send them to the Committee members. Those questions can refer to: (1) The alignment of the budget process with the goals of the mission and vision of the College, (2) The knowledge about the budget process that faculty and staff have, (3) Transparency, (4) The best venue to get the budget information, and (5) Participation in the department budget meetings, etc.
- The new survey will be formalized and deployed in Fall 2010.

Respectfully submitted:

*Budget, Goals and Plans Committee:*

Julie Chiarito, Chair, Institutional Research

Kathie Baker, Administrative Services

Kathleen Dowley, Political Science

Donna Flayhan, Communication and Media

Morgan Gwenwald, Library

Stanley Hayes, Mathematics

Elaine Hofstetter, Secondary Education

Itty Neuhaus, Art

Sara Pasti, Art Museum

Tulin Sener, Business

Eve Tuck, Educational Studies

Kerri Clayton, Student Representative

Olivia Hazel, Student Representative

Nick Shupis, Student Representative

## Appendix D

### Report of the Presiding Officer of the Graduate Faculty

Graduate Council accomplished many things this year. Here is a list of the most salient accomplishments:

Revised all forms for submitting graduate course proposals. There are now three forms: new grad course proposal form, major course revision form, and minor course revision form.

Updated rules for online publication of theses by the library so that no faculty signatures are included in the PDFs that are uploaded to the library site.

Initiated discussion about the use of 500, 600, and 700-level course numbers. Discussion remains ongoing at this time.

Initiated discussion about what criteria might be necessary to evaluate the readiness of students who take a leave of absence to reenter the university. In instances where the student has left for psychological reasons, this policy may be especially important. Council is encouraging programs to consider developing their own policies for dealing with impaired students.

Moved towards implementing procedures for faculty to review graduate applications online.

Beginning in the spring semester, the Graduate School implemented a new policy passed by the council that students can only transfer in courses with a grade of "B" or better. Previously, only a "B-" was required.

Council reviewed a significant number of new course proposals and major course revisions throughout the academic year.