

The Arts & Sciences Senate meets on Monday, November 21st at 3:30 PM in the Javits Room of the Library.

Agenda  
Arts & Sciences Senate  
November 21, 2005

- I. Approval of agenda
- II. Approval of minutes of the October 17, 2005 meeting
- III. President's Report: 1) External 5-Year Review of AFS and the Writing Program  
2) New CAS Faculty Symposium (G. Fouron)
- IV. Report from the PTC: Amendment to the Constitution (see attachment below) (J. Davila)
- V. Report on Increased Enrollment (D. Kane Gillespie)
- VI. Other Old Business
- VII. Other New Business

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Arts and Sciences Senate  
October 17, 2005

President Fred Walter convened the meeting in the Javits Room at 3:30 pm.

- I. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of an item 4A, Dean James Staros' announcement. The agenda was seconded.

- II. Approval of minutes of the September 26, 2005 meeting

The minutes were amended to read that the new journalism school is proposed rather than approved, that it is not certain to be a school, and the words "not housed in the college" be struck out. Minutes were accepted and approved as amended.

- III. Report of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (E. Mendieta)

Eduardo Mendieta gave the annual report of CASA, Committee on Academic Standing and Affairs. He explained the purpose of the committee, which is to regulate academic standing including dismissals and reinstatements. Last year, September 2003-August 2004, the committee saw 162 cases with 41 approved, 52 denied, 9 tabled, and 2 sent back. From August 2004 to present, CASA saw 142 cases, with 72 approved, 69 denied, and 1 tabled.

Mendieta reported that often dismissals are transfer students. The committee suggested that we keep better track of the type of appeals to see which students want reinstatements so we can keep better track of them to make more precise recommendations, and also that a note should be made in favor of better advisement and retention of transfer students. N. Goodman stated that in the past, it has been difficult to get data about transfer students' progress from their native institutions. It was also mentioned that we have an agreement with SUNY to take in any transfer student from the SUNY community colleges with a C or better average. Discussion ensued in which suggestions were made as to how to better help transfer students adjust and track their progress. Goodman suggested that faculty be mandated to put statements in their syllabi announcing CASA deadlines. Mendieta said that a positive outcome this year has been the improvement of deadline notification for dropping classes, withdrawal, and application for PN/C. The Dean reported that the retention rate has been improving for the last 6-7 years.

- IV. Discussion of a Response to the Academic Bill of Rights



The Academic Bill of Rights (available at [www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org](http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org)) is under discussion among the SUNY Trustees. The A&S Senate formed a committee to respond to this document (G. Fouron, W. Godfrey, N. Goodman, J. Lochhead, and F. Walter). The document was read aloud by Frank Myers. An amendment was suggested by N. Goodman to change: "The majority of university instructors present alternative views, wherever appropriate, irrespective of their personal political orientation" to "The majority of university instructors present alternative intellectual views..." etc. It was explained by Goodman that the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees has rejected the bill, but the Trustees are considering it. F. Myers expressed concern that instructors would feel prohibited from expressing controversial materials or views under this bill. J. Kuchner called the question and the response passed unanimously (with amendment above). The response will be presented to the University Senate Executive Committee at their next meeting. They will discuss other places the document might be sent (i.e., directly to the Trustees).

Further discussion: F. Gardaphe announced that UUP is hosting a talk by a leading thinking on academic freedom at the UUP open meeting on Nov. 3.

#### IV. New Faculty Symposium (J. Staros)

Dean Staros announced the new faculty symposium Nov. 18 at Sunwood. New faculty will present research and meet each other. Participating department chairs and search committee members are invited. If senate members want to attend, contact Libby Tolson.

On, Oct. 26, all are invited to an open meeting for all Arts and Sciences college faculty Discretionary increases—the Dean announced that the process for obtaining these is being "tightened up." The 4 page forms for research grants must be filled out properly for consideration.

#### V. Discussion of the impacts of the enhanced enrollment on campus (K. Gillespie)

Kane Gillespie heads an ad hoc committee investigating the effects of "enhanced enrollment" on the A&S college students, faculty, and staff. The committee includes Susan Scheckel, Cynthia Davidson, Paula Di Pasquale, Kanika Jain, Neta Dean, and Sandra Brennan. (This is in addition to a committee headed by Judith Lochhead that is investigating similar issues with departmental chairs.) Issues on which anecdotal information was solicited from faculty, students, and staff (via committee members and departmental chairs) included effects on course learning outcomes, dept. curricula, effect on students, and descriptions of one particularly problematic course affected by over enrollment per department. 17 responses were obtained. Responses included reference to lowered community morale, issues involving faculty access to adequate classroom and office space, overloaded large lecture classes (especially in Chemistry and Biology), fewer GAs and TAs per course (due to higher caps on classes and cuts in NIH grant subsidy), problems with recruitment of new faculty and staff, reports of faculty looking for work elsewhere and staff looking for inter-departmental transfers due to increasing job stress, increased stress to Gas and TAs who must teach and grade more students while spending less time on their research, less time for faculty to meet individually with students, an increase in adjunct faculty (without adequate office facilities to accommodate their needs), and increase in size of upper division classes (i.e., political science, English, history) beyond pedagogical soundness. Also mentioned: faculty responsibilities shifting from upper division classes to lower division DEC and 100-level courses, lack of faculty recognition of students in large classes, added staff workload, departments waiving graduation requirements because they don't have resources to meet demands. It was stated that by the Dean that the Provost's office's reports are pretty much in agreement with these findings. Dean Staros encouraged the Senate to encourage faculty, staff, and students to find ways to voice the feel of need in the college to the administration so that resources may find their way to the College as they become available.

#### VI. Evaluating the Freshman Experience (F. Walter)

Last year, the focus of evaluating the freshmen experience was the establishment of the Undergraduate Colleges and the mandatory College 102 seminar. The provost and associate provost decided to have the seminars use ABCU grading although the Senate had recommended S/U grading. The curriculum committee gave the Undergraduate Council one year to test the A-C grading and then evaluate it and report back to the committee the results. So far no results have been reported. Discussion ensued among Senate members who had taught the seminars about how they were progressing. J. Kuchner



questioned if there were a way for the Senate to be involved in designing the evaluation tool. N. Goodman suggested that further discussion was needed to define what we mean by "freshmen experience."

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Davidson, Arts and Sciences Secretary

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**DATE:** November 14, 2005

**TO:** CAS Academic Senate

**FROM:** Joanne Davila, Chairperson, PTC

**RE:** Resolution for an amendment to the constitution

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Current policy states that the PTC will consist of 7 members, one of whom is a non-tenured member who serves a one-year term. This policy was re-affirmed by the PTC and the Senate in May 2005. However, the Senate has been unable to successfully recruit a non-tenured member for the PTC for the academic year 2005-2006. Because of this, and because the reasons for it are likely to be ones that persist into the future (e.g., few junior faculty, low motivation for participation), the PTC would like to have the option to have the 7<sup>th</sup> member be an additional tenured member. The PTC prefers a 7-member committee so that there can never be a split (i.e., tie) vote. As such, the PTC proposed the following addendum to the constitution, to be added at the end of the PTC section, Article C, section 3, point (2):

"In the event that it is not possible to find a qualified non-tenured faculty representative, the Senate Executive Committee shall appoint, with consent of the Senate, a tenured faculty member to fill out this term. That faculty member may be from any department not currently represented on the PTC."

The PTC proposes that a non-tenured member must be appointed no later than May for the following academic year. If a non-tenured member cannot be secured by that time, then the tenured faculty person elected, during regular elections, as PTC "alternate" would serve a one-year term. That is, during regular yearly elections for positions on the PTC, the runner-up candidate would be elected as an "alternate" to serve if needed. This does away with the need for any additional elections. Should there be no "alternate" (i.e., one candidate was running unopposed), then the Senate shall appoint a member in consultation with the PTC.

