

College of Arts and Sciences Senate

Minutes of March 15th, 1999 Senate Meeting

Secretary: Robert Bloomer

The Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

I. The tentative Agenda was approved.

II. The Minutes from the CAS Senate Meeting on February 15, 1998 will be subject to approval at the next Meeting on April 19, 1999.

III. Report of the CAS Senate President (Hugh J. Silverman)

The President reported that he has gotten the CAS Senate Webpage up and running. The address of this new site is:

ws.cc.sunysb.edu/senatecas

Since there is no general list of all CAS faculty, the President sent a memo to departmental Chairs requesting nominations for At-Large Senators and for membership on CAS Standing Committees. But apparently this memo has not yet been passed along to the faculty in certain departments. The Dean said that his office would work on creating a general list of CAS faculty.

With respect to the election, the President noted that, in accordance with its constitution, the CAS Senate has 27 Departmental Senators and a corresponding number of At-Large Senators. With staggered terms, there are approximately nine positions as At-Large Senator and two on each of the Standing Committees. He encouraged the Senators in attendance whose terms are expiring in August to consider running again, and he asked everyone present to forward names of people who would be willing to serve as At-Large Senators and on the Standing Committees.

IV. Report of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Paul Armstrong)

The Dean delivered a report on the numbers of faculty in the CAS.. This followed up on what he said about his long-term budget balancing plans at the CAS Senate Meeting in December 1998. The first page of the Dean's handout showed how faculty FTE has declined in the College since 1995-1996. In order to balance his budget, he has had to reduce his search list against anticipated resignations and retirements. The next page, which is given below, provided the figures that the graph on the first page illustrated:

From Year Resignations/ New Faculty Net Gain/

Previous to Retirements Appointed Loss

9/1/96 - 35 5 -30

9/1/97 - 21 14^ - 7

9/1/98 - 26.5 27^ 0.5

9/1/99	* - 26	18	- 8
9/1/00	*- 26	21	- 5
TOTAL	- 134.5	85	-49.5

Diversity Appointments

	6	-43.5
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* CAS Budget-Balancing Plan

^ Additional Presidential Diversity Appointments

9/1/97	1
9/1/98	5
TOTAL	6

The following pages of his handout then detailed year by year who he is actually counting and in which departments they were or are. Whether the Dean authorizes 21 searches next year depends on where we stand at the end of this year. Some departments would like to replace senior faculty with senior faculty, but the Dean is reluctant to do this because we need more faculty, which can be achieved by hiring more Assistant Professors. But this is a balancing act because the goal is to maintain high quality at the College. We can also increase the number of faculty by taking advantage of some Presidential initiatives. The Dean encourages all departments to be active in seeking out candidates for diversity appointments, as we should have a faculty that reflects our student body. The Dean noted further that the President is also interested in making a few "star" appointments at the senior level. One such appointment has already been made in the History Department.

During the discussion, the Dean said that his plan should yield a surplus by the end of next year of \$320,000-350,000, which would then allow him to increase the search list. But whether or not this goal is reached also depends on decisions in Albany. In response to the question of whether diversity appointments are for women in underrepresented departments or for other racial minorities, the Dean stated that this is the President's decision. Up to now, she has been interested predominantly in African-American appointments.

V. Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws

Copies of the CAS Senate Constitution and By-Laws were distributed, and then President read aloud those passages that he and Joan Kuchner, the Vice-President of the CAS Senate, had previously changed or added and had been discussed in the CAS Executive Committee. N. Goodman wanted to know why the Dean is a member of the Graduate Programs Committee (see C.2.c.5 of Constitution). The President responded that if a department wants to change or add a program, it is submitted to the Dean in order to determine whether it is fiscally feasible. If he determines that it is, then he submits it to the Graduate Programs Committee, which decides whether it is academically viable. Thus, the Dean is pivotal figure in such transactions. N. Goodman remained unpersuaded, noting that committees are advisory to the administration, and so as a member on the Graduate Programs Committee he would get "two shots at the same thing." N. Goodman moved to strike C.2.c.5 from Constitution, which was then seconded. The MOTION passed unanimously, though this does not mean that the Dean cannot be invited to future meetings of that Committee. After other suggestions for revisions were discussed, the MOTION to accept both the Constitution and By-Laws as revised was passed unanimously. Look for them on the CAS Senate Website!

VI. Old Business: None

VII. New Business: None

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.
