

Tentative Agenda
University Senate Meeting
April 1, 2002

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
- II. Approval of minutes from University Senate meeting on March 4, 2002
- III. Report from Senate President (B. Walcott)
- IV. President's Report (S. Kenny)
- V. Provost's Report (M. Aronoff)
- VI. Undergraduate Council Resolutions (see below)C
- VII. Capital Building Projects (R. Mann)
- VIII. Library Strategic Plan (C. Filstrup)
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business

Undergraduate Council Resolutions:

1. Cell Phones:

Students are expected to:

CURRENT STATEMENT:

secure in a closed container (and not, for example, wear on a belt or around the neck) and turn off (and not for example, simply set to vibration mode) electronic communication devices, including cellular phones, beepers, speakers, and headphones during an examination.

PROPOSED:

secure and turn off electronic communication devices, including cellular phones, beepers, speakers, and headphones during class time unless otherwise directed by the course instructor. Any use of a cell phone or other unauthorized electronic device during an examination may lead to an accusation of academic dishonesty.

2. Course Repeats:

Students may repeat a course only once, i.e. it may be taken at most twice. Students are considered to have taken a course if they remain in the course past the add/drop deadline, regardless of the grade assigned in the course (passing, failing or withdrawal). Credits for repeated courses course will count once toward cumulative credits, but will count both times toward semester load. Both grades will be averaged into the cumulative grade point average. A student who wishes to take a course more than twice must submit a petition for approval by the academic standing committee of the student's college and for endorsement by the department offering the course.

1. The agenda was approved with the addition of one item (resolution regarding Trustee de Russy).
2. The minutes of 2/4/02 were approved.
3. In response to Trustee Candace de Russy's criticisms of black studies programs, reported in *Newsday* on 2/4/02, the Executive Committee presented a resolution condemning her remarks and calling for her resignation. W. McAdoo, chair of the Africana Studies Department, pointed out that SBU's program was elevated to departmental status by unanimous vote of the University Senate in 1998 and has a rigorous curriculum and stellar faculty. The resolution was passed unanimously, and suggestions were made to send it to UUP, The Statesman, Student Polity, President Kenny, Provost McGrath, the Chancellor, the head of the State Education Committee, Governor Pataki, and Ms. de Russy. B. Walcott, with advice of the Executive Committee, will draft a cover letter. Copies of the resolution, a similar resolution passed by UUP, the relevant *Newsday* articles and a letter to the editor from Ms. de Russy, and a letter from SUNY Old Westbury supporting UUP's resolution were distributed.
4. Report by B. Walcott, President of the University Senate: There are many vacancies to be filled on Senate committees, and retiring members must be replaced. The importance of these committees and an active governance system was stressed, and B. Walcott urged that nominations be made for the upcoming election.
5. Report by R. McGrath, Provost (a written report was also distributed):
 - a. The rigor of our Africana Studies curriculum and the extent to which the department interacts with others on campus were noted.
 - b. The Provost's Lecture Series continues, with presentations by Daniel Pipes on 3/13 and Anthony Lewis on 4/4.
 - c. The Strategic Planning Advisory and Coordinating Committee (SPACC) is considering the academic vision and goals for the University over the next 5 to 10 years. Four task forces have been formed: Teaching and Learning; Scholarship and Creative Activity; Aligning Aspirations with Resources: Scope, Scale, and Structure. SPACC will consider issues such as the size to which the University should grow, the areas in which it should expand, and whether new colleges should be established.
 - d. The Provost has met with deans and heads to determine how best to plan for a 5% budget decrease for 2002-2003. Areas that will not be targeted include graduate programs, programs that cannot be cut without endangering accreditation (such as the Professional Education Program), certain enhancements to undergraduate programs, and matching funds that have already been committed (e.g., a Whittaker Foundation grant to Biomedical Engineering). It is hoped that tuition, which has been frozen for 8 years, will increase after 2002-2003 to provide some budgetary relief. There have been no formal discussions about how plans might be altered should there be a reduction of less than 5%, although unanticipated funds certainly could be used for some short-term initiatives.
 - e. Phase 2 of the faculty salary improvement program has been initiated. As part of this program, deans have formed advisory committees of senior faculty to make recommendations as to how the monies should be distributed. A letter announcing Phase 2 has just been sent to chairs.
6. R. Liebermann, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, reported on how CAS plans to absorb a 5% cut. Plans have been made to reduce the CAS budget of ~\$50 million by \$3 million. Twenty-seven projected searches for new faculty have been reduced to 12. However, candidates for the ongoing searches are excellent. TA lines for non-instructional purposes will be cut, but all others will remain. The budget for adjunct faculty and other supplemental instruction will be reduced. Expansion of the writing program beyond the freshman year will be postponed. Lastly, departments that bring in funds from off-campus will be taxed, for a total revenue of \$600,000. There is no doubt that these reductions will affect current programs. In response to a question, it was pointed out that should next year's cut be less than 5%, it will be too late to resume searches that have been recently halted.

7. Y. Shamash, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has planned for a \$700,000 cut. Twelve faculty searches have been cut to three. TA lines funded by CEAS will be cut back, resulting in more work for faculty and larger class sizes. Because of pre-existing commitments, two faculty will be hired for the Biomedical Engineering program.
8. A resolution from Undergraduate Council was presented that limits the use of electronic devices in classes and exams more stringently than does present policy. It was suggested that the list of devices was too narrow and should be made more general to cover future innovations. A. Lawrence, interim President of Student Polity, reported that Polity has concerns about the proposed change and has not had adequate time to review it. The Senate voted unanimously to table further consideration of the resolution until its next meeting to permit input from Polity.
9. M. Aronoff reported on the status of the Middle States Re-Accreditation Steering Committee, which he co-chairs with P. Djuric. The committee currently has 8 members with plans to expand to about 12. By June, it is expected that 3 to 4 task forces will be formed, with about 50 participants altogether. A written summary was distributed.
10. R. Reeder discussed the timetable for implementation of PeopleSoft and distributed a written summary of scheduled events through May. Highlights include final conversion of current academic records, to take place from 3/15 to 3/24. The Registrar's and Financial Aid offices will be closed over spring break for staff training. On 4/2, the SOLAR system website will become available for viewing class schedules, financial aid status, etc. Students will need new ID numbers, which will be distributed electronically. Faculty should advise students to make changes well in advance of deadlines in anticipation of some delays during the transition period. On-line applications for graduate admissions have been outsourced and are proceeding well. The comment was made that the hard copies are hard to read; R. Reeder said he would look into improving the format of the printouts. Records from 1996 to present are being converted and reviewed for accuracy. Eventually, all University records will be converted to PeopleSoft. The first web-based registration will occur in April; students have been enlisted for functional and volume testing of the system, which is designed to handle as many as 200 simultaneous accessions. Automatic wait-listing for course registration will be pilot-tested in two departments. Training for faculty and staff is ongoing; CELT has been enlisted to help. A web message center will alert students of wait list status, etc. The message center will be able to track whether students log on and is preferable to sending e-mails, which may not always reach their destinations. Security was questioned; the system has many levels of security, and no transactions regarding degrees, grades, etc. can be carried out by a single person. Faculty have already been assigned new ID numbers; these will be distributed soon with paychecks and are randomly assigned, i.e., they are not based on any personal identifiers.
11. A report from President Kenny was distributed.
12. In the absence of any other old or new business, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55.