

Tentative Agenda
University Senate Meeting
May 1, 2000

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2000 (attached)
- III. Report from the President (S. Kenny)
- IV. Report of Acting Provost (R. McGrath)
- V. Report on EPA Compliance Issues (M. Kotlas)
- VI. Report of University Senate President (B. Godfrey)
Proposed Policy Statement (attached): General Education Program
- VII. Presentation by Angela Mori (new Manager of the Bookstore)
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjournment

Policy Statement on General Education Program

"The SUNY Stony Brook University Senate joins other SUNY campuses in condemning the process by which the new General Education Program has been mandated and implemented.

It is the central role of the faculty of each campus to design, monitor and deliver the educational curricula.

The Trustees have undermined this responsibility and have, besides, imposed unrealistic deadlines and responsibility on each campus to implement these requirements without providing adequate planning time or funding.

For example, the American History requirement is ill conceived and the proposed one-semester course cannot deliver the objectives as outlined by the Trustees' Task Force. Besides, no unit of SUNY has the resources to teach such a survey.

The University Senate of Stony Brook calls on the Faculty Senate of the State University to issue a proclamation that condemns the process by which the Trustees imposed the general educational requirements and the disruptive way in which it was imposed without adequate consultation, funding, or time for planning and implementation. The University Senate of Stony Brook is dismayed at the attempt of the Trustees to give the entire university system a homogenous "one size fits all" curriculum without regard to its educational diversity and individual strengths. We also deplore the fact that the leadership of SUNY has not followed the recommendations of their task force on General Education."

Aaron Godfrey
President
University Senate

Bill Godfrey, University Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. The tentative agenda was approved.

The minutes of March 6, 2000 were approved with minor corrections.

University Senate President's Report: Bill Godfrey stated that most Senate committees were up and running but that a few still need work and have vacancies that need to be filled. Sign-up sheets will be available for all committees with openings. Bill reminded the Senators that the committees are where the senate work gets done. Bill went on to emphasize the fact that a strong Senate is needed in order to keep the University strong. Other business – Bill mentioned that we have the names of the individuals who are serving on the search committees for the two top spot openings on campus. Bill will recommend to the President that a member of the Senate be named along with a Professional and a Student representative. Andrez Carberry volunteered to serve as student rep. In closing, Bill mentioned that at our next meeting in May, all the Senate Standing Committee reports would be delivered.

Campus President's Report: President Kenny was in Washington and was not available for the Senate meeting but she did submit a written report. Highlights follow:

Five-Year Plan - The Task Forces have completed their work, and a Coordinating Committee is synthesizing their recommendations into a draft plan for consideration by the campus community. Town meetings will be held in order to discuss the findings with the campus community. The reports can be reviewed on the WEB: fiveyearplan@sunysb.edu.

President's Awards - The winners of several categories in the 2000 President's Awards have been chosen. Both the Chancellor's and President's awards recipients will be honored at the University Convocation in Fall 2000.

Reinvention Center - Stony Brook has established the Reinvention Center, a new national center focusing on undergraduate education at research universities. The mission of the Reinvention Center is to sustain the focus of the Boyer Commission Report by serving as both a catalyst and a resource for change.

Campus Information Center - Stony Brook is pleased to announce the opening of a campus information center, which is located on the first floor of the Administration Building in room 118.

University Medal - Presentation of the University Medal is the highest form of local recognition available to Stony Brook and is awarded only to those who have had a significant and lasting impact on the University. This year, the two recipients of the Medal are Dr. James Watson and Dr. Antonio Coello Novello.

Acting Provost's Report: Bob McGrath submitted his written report to the senate and mentioned that the University is planning a "Celebration of Undergraduate Achievements" on April 12th and 13th. The Provost was also happy to announce that our recruitment efforts are paying off, applications are up. In closing, the Provost encouraged all the Senators to participate in all the commencement activities that are planned in May. This is a special time of the year

when the Stony Brook family comes together to celebrate with our students and their families. It is also the time of the year when we remind ourselves what it means to work at a University.

Albany Update: Bill Godfrey relayed the feeling that this year is likely to be a good budget year for Stony Brook. This is an election year, the budget deadline is close and Pataki has his sights on a higher office. Some problems remain to be worked out – the speaker wants a second avenue sub way (40-year dream) but the overall tenor is optimistic regarding higher education. The feeling is that it has been ignored for years and it is time for recommitment to the original vision. We could be looking at additional monies (\$5 mil) for full time faculty lines and monies for infrastructure issues. Bill ended his remarks with another reminder that all the Senators should participate in an active campaign of reaching out and contacting all our State Legislators. We have to make sure that we continually contact our key Albany players and keep pushing the SUNY /Stony Brook agenda.

AVP report: Special Guest - Gary Matthews briefed the Senate with a very crisp power-point presentation on the status of the \$108 million dollar 5 year Capital Construction Plan. Gary also mentioned that they have started new construction planning for the next 5-10 years.

3-year Construction Plan Highlights:

Heavy Engineering addition

Humanities building is in the design phase

Center for Molecular Medicine & Biology Learning Labs (new model for design – smart building)

Academic Mall – fountain and landscape (local funds)

Football Stadium (7,500 seats)

Wang building – Asian Cultural Center (18 months to completion) – the 4 acre site is filling up as the project is into a > \$50 million building with an endowment.

UH Cancer Research Center: Clinical facility for a new Linac Accelerator is being completed within two months and will help expand the Radiation Oncology Department. Phase II Research Center will be built on top.

Ambulatory Care Center at UH

New apartment type dorms are being planned for @ 500 students

SAC – Phase II

Parking upgrades

Safety (lighting, emergency phones, blue lights)

Infrastructure

HSC roof

Electrical sub- station

WCPP – cooling tower

Interior signage

Pritchard Gym - makeover

Future developments:

New Child Care Center

FSA is discussing a new building to centralize services (computer store / book store)

Hotel/Conference Center

LIHTI expansion

Bill Godfrey thanked Gary Matthews for taking the time out from his schedule in order to brief the Senate on all the new construction projects.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. O'Connell
Senate Secretary

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Annual Report
1999 – 2000

At the time of submission of this report, Graduate Council (GC) had held twelve meetings (9/27/99, 10/11/99, 10/25/99, 11/8/99, 11/22/99, 12/13/99, 1/24/00, 2/14/00, 2/28/00, 3/13/00, 3/27/00, and 4/24/00). The final meeting of this academic year is to be held 5/8/00. The major initiatives undertaken by GC are summarized below.

Science and Ethics Course: Last year, the Executive Committee of the University Senate charged GC and the Graduate School with implementing a pilot version of a Science and Ethics course, to be targeted initially to doctoral students in the biological sciences. The course, under the direction of Robert Crease of the Department of Philosophy, was held in November for 87 students. The format was four two-hour sessions, each consisting of a one-hour lecture on concepts and principles, followed by small, “break-out” discussion groups led by senior researchers. Although the course was generally well received, student evaluations indicated that scheduling, redundancy, and relevance of the lecture material were areas in which improvements could be made. GC plans to seek continued funding from the University to enable the course to be offered next fall, perhaps with a modest expansion to include students from a broader range of programs.

Approval of Programmatic Changes: On 10/25/99, GC recommended approval of a request for the Molecular Biology and Biochemistry program to change both its name and curriculum. The revised program is to be named Biochemistry and Structural Biology. Also on 10/25/99, GC recommended approval of the request of programs in Cellular and Molecular Pathology and Cellular and Developmental Biology to merge, forming a program called Molecular and Cellular Biology. On 11/22/99, GC recommended approval of a letter of intent, prepared by the CEAS, for a new program offering an MS in Information Systems.

Graduate Council Fellowships and Awards: The GC Fellowships and Awards Committee extended offers of GC Fellowships to thirty-five outstanding applicants to graduate programs. In addition, recipients were selected for five President's Awards and eight Commendations to Distinguished Doctoral Students, six President's Awards and eight Commendations for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, two Mildred and Herbert Weisinger Dissertation Fellowships, and two Madeline Fusco Dissertation Fellowships. GC is grateful to Joe Fetcho, Roger Flood, Martha Furie, Joseph Mitchell, Jonathan Nabe, Troy Rasbury, Randall Susman, and Peter Winkler for the considerable time and effort that they devoted to serving on the selection committee.

Academic Reviews: GC members participated in academic reviews of the following departments: History (C. Bethin, W. Fowler), Theatre Arts (M. Furie, J. Hearing), Oral Biology and Pathology (M. Furie, G. Lopez), Philosophy (C. Bethin, V. Henriquez), Electrical and Computer

Engineering (M. Furie, C. Taber), Materials Science (M. Furie, W. Holt), and Mechanical Engineering (M. Furie, J. Hearing).

Policies revised or instituted:

Advancement to Candidacy: GC wished to correct what it viewed as an undesirable situation, *i.e.*, advancement of some graduate students to candidacy only shortly before defense of the dissertation. Philosophically, this situation is at odds with the commonly accepted view that graduate students should spend a good deal of their time engaged in research for the dissertation. It also deprives students of having a research committee in place at a relatively early stage in their careers. Lastly, it is financially disadvantageous to the University, since students with advanced status can register for fewer credits and thus cost the institution fewer tuition dollars. After extensive consultation with graduate program directors, GC approved the following policy on 9/27/99: "Effective 9/5/00, doctoral students must advance to candidacy at least one year before defending their dissertations. In exceptional circumstances, a student's Graduate Program Director may submit a written petition for a waiver of this requirement to the Dean of the Graduate School." On 4/24/00, GC decided that this policy will not apply to candidates for the Doctoral of Musical Arts, due to the unique structure of this program.

Evaluation of Graduate Students: Graduate School policy (Policy 4-001, Section IIC) required annual written evaluation of all graduate students, but the policy contained a loophole, namely, that "The absence of a report will be construed as a positive evaluation." A survey of the graduate programs revealed that not all had mechanisms in place to ensure that their students received feedback regarding performance on an annual basis. Therefore, on 11/8/99, GC decided that the quoted sentence should be eliminated from the policy. The intent of GC is that all part-time and full-time masters' and doctoral candidates receive a written evaluation from their programs at least once each year.

Revision of the Grievances and Appeals Procedures: A case handled by the Graduate Council Appeals Committee (GCAC) this fall made it clear that the written policies of the Graduate School governing the handling of charges of misconduct brought by or against graduate students needed to be set forth with greater precision and detail. A subcommittee of GC was formed to draft a thorough revision of the pertinent policy (Policy 4-001, Section IV). The revised version spells out more explicitly the procedures for hearings and appeals and clarifies the right of graduate students to bring grievances against faculty or administrative personnel. The revised draft was discussed at length at the most recent meeting of GC and is expected to be approved before the end of this semester.

Other policy changes: In May and June of 1999 (after the last annual report was brought to the senate, GC approved changes to a number of Graduate School policies to improve clarity and consistency:

- *Policy 1-005 Admissions, English Proficiency Requirements for Graduate Students:* was modified to bring it into agreement with the current requirements for demonstration of English proficiency by graduate students who are not native speakers. The related *Procedure 1-011 Proficiency in English, Admission and Support* was revised to make it more clear.
- *Policy 3-008 Academic Progress -Degree Requirements and Information, Committee Approval:* was modified to change the deadline by which requests for approval of preliminary Examining Committees and Dissertation Examination Committees must be submitted to the Graduate School. In addition, a strong recommendation that Dissertation Examining Committees include individuals from at least two institutions was included.
- *Policy 3-023 Academic Progress, Advisors:* was revised to indicate that the graduate program director is responsible for advising students in his or her program unless another faculty advisor is assigned.

Three new policies and one procedure were also approved:

- *Policy 3-013 Academic Progress – Degree Requirements and Information, Graduate Students Seeking Degrees in a Second Program:* specifies that students seeking more than one degree or an advanced certificate in addition to a degree must obtain written permission of the graduate program directors of both programs.
- *Policy 3-014 Academic Progress – Degree Requirements and Information, Revocation of a Graduate Degree:* specifies the circumstances and general procedures for revoking a degree in cases of academic or professional misconduct.
- *Policy 3-015 Academic Progress – Degree Requirements and Information, Dissertation Defense:* states the procedures for holding and advertising the dissertation defense and the public presentation of the dissertation research.
- *Procedure 5-029:* details the steps that are involved in revocation of a graduate degree.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Furie
Chair, Graduate Council

Annual Report
Administrative Review Committee
1999-2000

The Senate Administrative Review Committee has undertaken an assessment of the recently consolidated College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office currently headed by Paul Armstrong. A survey instrument is being developed. It is currently in its third draft and will undergo at least one more revision before it is administered. The Committee decided to survey all Chairs or Directors of the thirty-seven academic units that report to the new CAS Dean and also their major administrative assistant--either their Administrative Assistant (ATC) or the Director of Graduate or Undergraduate Studies. It was felt that these two individuals would have the most contact and familiarity with the CAS Dean's Office, and therefore could provide the most meaningful assessment of it.

The actual final drafting of the survey, its administration, analysis and write-up will be conducted by the new Stony Brook Center for Survey Research headed by Professor Leonie Huddy of the Political Science Department. The Center will conduct the survey using their new computer-assisted telephone interviewing system and trained interviewers. The Provost's Office has underwritten the costs of the survey. We hope to have the survey ready to administer by early May.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paul M. Wortman, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and
Chair of the Senate Administrative Review Committee