

University Senate Minutes

March 2, 2004

At 3:35 the University Senate President, Brent Lindquist, called the meeting to order. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

President Kenny enthusiastically reported that Stony Brook Day in Albany was splendid. There were 700 students and faculty in Albany and she commented that we would be proud of their representation of Stony Brook. They made a special plea for the student recreational center and she believes the NY assembly is more receptive to this idea than in previous years. The University continues to support the acquisition of the Gyrodyne property. Initial occupants of this area will be the Center for Wireless Technology and a Center for Computational Neuroscience. Statewide, SUNY currently has a no growth policy. This year exceeding our target brought in extra tuition \$\$\$ which helped our budget situation.

In response to a question about the proposed Institute for Wine Culture the President responded this is neither an academic program nor an institute by Stony Brook's definition of institutes. It is being funded by a grant from the legislature and it should stimulate the formation of short courses. She stated this is a small project with big effects.

There was a question regarding Stony Brook's talked about goal of 25,000 students. She stated this number is not wrong, not obsolete, but not for this time.

In response to another question she reported there will be a VP for Advancement by no later than next fall.

The President also submitted a written report.

University Senate President's report acknowledged that the recent memo from R. Reeder (re. spam and viruses) was at the request of the Senate Executive Committee and that Brent, on behalf of the US, wanted thank R. Reader for providing this information to the University community. The next University Senate elections will be electronic and will use SOLAR.

The Dean of the Medical School (N. Edelman) reported on web filtering on the East Campus. He gave background on an incident that occurred in the Hospital involving downloading of information that was, if not illegal, inappropriate to the mission of the HSC. Some workers complained this was creating a hostile work place environment. The response by the Dean was to subscribe to a commercial service that filtered inappropriate web sites. The Dean, along with Dennis Proul (East Campus CIO), has set up a procedure to resolve disagreements with this policy. The Dean reminded the US that the HSC is a hybrid of a health care delivery unit and an academic unit.

This presentation led to a discussion resulted in the following Sense of the Senate resolution, proposed by Norman Goodman:

"It is the Sense of the Senate that web filtering is a form of censorship and is inappropriate at an internationally respected institution of higher education."

This Sense of the Senate resolution was passed by a vote of 27-1-1.

Provost McGrath presented a written report and answered questions.

R. Kelly distributed a summary and reported on the 2003 Administrative Review Process.

G. Meyer distributed a 111 page draft of the final self-study report to the NACC and made an oral report. He urged people to read the report and requested comments.

Bill Collins, representing the Undergraduate Council, introduced a resolution on having the online version of the bulletin to be the official version of the bulletin. The exact wording of this resolution was in a document distributed at the meeting.

In the discussion it was suggested that ". . . unless the student chooses to accept a more recent version." be added to the resolution. It was the sense of the Senate that it would be better to refer this comment to the Undergraduate Council for further action.

This motion passed by 18-0-3.

The Senate adjourned at about 5:00 PM.

Recorded by F. Fowler.

