

**Agenda for Arts and Sciences Senate Meeting, Javits Room, 3:30 pm, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

- 1 Approval of agenda.
- 2 Approval of minutes of last meeting (March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014).
- 3 President's Report.
- 4 Standing Committee Reports AJ, CASA, FRRPC (brief)
- 5 Report from A&S Dean, Nancy Squires on the state of the College.
- 6 Barbara Chernow Senior VP for Administration on various campus issues.
- 7 A&S Senate President elect, Meg Schedel
- 8 Other Business

**Attachments**

1. Minutes of last meeting (March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014)
2. President's report
3. Committee Reports (Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Academic Standing and Appeals, Academic Judiciary)

## A&S Senate Meeting

March 24, 2014

### Minutes

I. Approval of tentative agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes from February 17, 2014: approved.

III. President's Report (T. Sears)

- Club Red is meeting at the Simons Café this coming Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senate Elections are upon us so please encourage your colleagues to volunteer.
- The CAS Dean search is moving forward. The initial interviews start tomorrow in NYC with 16 candidates at the executive search firm of Russell Reynolds Associates.
- The University Senate Personnel Policy Committee will be an Ad Hoc Committee which will work with the Provost and the Promotion and Tenure Committees of the various senates. They are to establish policies to ensure fairness and equity in promotion and tenure issues. This committee will not be put in the Senate By-Laws.

IV. Report from the Interim VP for Research (D. Conover)

- Started at the University as an Assistant Professor in 1981.
- In 2010 became the Director of Ocean Science at the NSF. Was responsible for a \$350M budget and for several facilities construction projects which were collectively worth about \$600M.
- There has been a lot of turnover in the past five years. There have been four VP's in the past four years.
- There will be a search for a permanent VP for Research.
- Most important role is how to make the institution more strategic in going forward in promoting research on campus and in bringing more research dollars to this campus.
- Money gets reinvested back into research.
- The NSF and NIH are looking to fund more interdisciplinary research. Federal funding will most likely decrease.
- We have to make sure that Stony Brook is in compliance with the rules, regulations, and federal guidelines.
- We have to be very vocal on behalf of researchers. Keep an open dialog with Congress.
- The Oracle system is being upgraded. We are in the process of re-negotiating the overhead rate.

V. TLT Tools for Aiding Faculty Running On-Line Courses (P. Aceves)

- What is the University doing for authenticity? How do you know it is really the student taking the on-line course and not someone else? By having Respondus LockDown Browser. It is a custom browser that locks down the testing environment within Blackboard, ANGEL, Canvas, etc.
- Assessments are displayed on full-screen and cannot be minimized.
- The assessments cannot be exited until they are submitted by the users for grading.
- Printing and print screen are disabled.
- You cannot copy or paste to and from the assessment.
- Right-click menu and function keys are disabled.
- The Respondus Monitor integrates webcam technology with LockDown Browser. This addresses the core issues of student identity and cheating.

VI. Old Business: No old business.

VII. New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Laurie Cullen

Secretary

# President's report

Trevor Sears

April 18, 2014

## Abstract

Summary of some issues discussed recently at Senate Executive Committee meetings and various other issues for April 2014 A&S Senate meeting.

### 1. A&S Senate Matters

Following is a list of current A&S Senate officers for reference

President: Trevor Sears (Chemistry) (trevor.sears@stonybrook.edu)

Vice President: Margaret Schedel (Music) (gem@schedel.net)

Past President: Eduardo Mendieta (Philosophy) (eduardo.mendieta@stonybrook.edu)

Faculty at-large Representative: Robert Aller (Marine Sciences) (Robert.Aller@stonybrook.edu)

Professional Employees Governance Board Representative: Charles McAteer (charles.mcateer@stonybrook.edu)

GSO Representative: Evgenia Sidorova (President SBGSO) (yevgenia.sidorova@gmail.com)

USG Representative: Tyrik Jiang (tyrik.jiang@stonybrook.edu)

The current Standing Committee chairs are:

Promotion and Tenure Committee: Mike White (Chemistry) (michael.g.white@stonybrook.edu)

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Peter Stephens (Physics) (peter.stephens@stonybrook.edu)

Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals: Ken Feldman (kenneth.feldman.1@stonybrook.edu)

Academic Judiciary Committee: Marie Huffman (Marie.Huffman@stonybrook.edu) (Wanda Moore)

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policies: Bassam Allam (SoMAS) (bassem.allam@stonybrook.edu)

Senate Secretary: Laurie Cullen (laurie.cullen@stonybrook.edu)

A&S Senate information is available at:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/senatecas/index.shtml>

### 2. Updates on old Business

[**A&S Dean Search Update**] Two candidates visited the campus last week: Professor Geraldine Downey (Columbia) and Professor Bruce Bursten (U. Tenn). More will be coming to the campus during the next two weeks. The person selected will have a large influence on the College for at least the next few years. Please try to attend the town hall Q&A meetings that are scheduled for every candidate. The remaining ones are scheduled as:

Monday, April 21, 12 -1 p.m., Wang Lecture Hall I

Thursday, April 24, 12 -1 p.m., Wang Lecture Hall I

Wednesday, April 30, 1-2 p.m., Wang Chapel

Monday, May 5, 12 -1 p.m., Wang Lecture Hall I

More information is available on the A&S Dean Search web site:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/casdean/index.html>

[**Club Red/Café Rouge**] The Friday evening get-togethers at the Simons Center Café have been very well attended by comparison the those held at the Hotel. There have been favorable comments about the appetizers and glasses of wine and bottled beers are available for \$5. Please note that space is limited and in its current limited incarnation, Club Red is intended to be a social gathering for faculty and staff. Until we have our own dedicated facility, it is not appropriate to bring large numbers of students.

Please RSVP to Laurie Cullen (*laurie.cullen@stonybrook.edu*) if you plan to attend in large numbers one evening, so we can have the right amount of food.

**[Senate Representative and Committee Members]** Although there have been some volunteers, there are still many openings for standing committee members and senate representatives. The elections are coming up very soon. Openings were summarized in last month's meeting documents. Please contact Laurie if you wish to stand, or just write your name in on the ballot at the election.

**[Administrative Review Committee Mini-Survey]** The University Senate ARC survey will be released early next month. All members of CAS are eligible, and encouraged, to complete this survey, which will be delivered by e-mail. It's important to do this because it provides data that guides Senate and University decision-making and is an opportunity for the larger community to make its opinions known. Poor participation levels result in statistically much less significant results and weaken the Senate's case as we argue to correct or change deficiencies and lobby for facility improvements, for example.

**[Establishment of University Senate Personnel Policy Committee]** In its April meeting earlier this month, the University Senate established an *ad hoc* Personnel Policy Committee. In its charter it is stated that the PPC shall work with the office of the Provost and with the promotion and tenure committees of the various academic senates to ensure fairness and equity in promotion, tenure, and workload issues for all interdisciplinary faculty hires, and for all faculty who report to more than a single administrative unit. As detailed in last month's report, this grew out of concern that some faculty hired in various cross-disciplinary areas were not well-served because their appointments were crossing boundaries between existing units. The A&S PTC will work with the new committee as appropriate.

### 3. Administrative Issues

**[University Budget]** With the detail of the new state budget and its implications for SUNY becoming clear, Stony Brook University is projected to face an approximately 2% budget shortfall in the coming year. The immediate cause is the failure of the state budget to include cost of living increases for SUNY operations, predominantly salaries. This will definitely result in reductions in planned hiring under SUNY 2020 and may well impact the proposed graduate student stipend increases. At present, it is not clear where other savings will be made. There is a budget increase for critical maintenance and \$60M for a new building in the research park for StartUp NY.

**[Middle States Review]** The committee visited the campus earlier this month and all indications are that they were favorably impressed. There seems no doubt that Stony Brook will be reaccredited based on initial feedback. The preliminary report is due by early May and the final report is scheduled for release in June.

## Report of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (CASA)—April 2014

Submitted by Kenneth A. Feldman, Chair of CASA

The members of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (CASA) primarily consider cases where some students, having not received an approval (by Clifford Huffman) of their petition for a change in academic standing or for some other request, decide to appeal to CASA. They do so by submitting a new petition usually giving more information and greater documentation.

The committee's more recent decisions on these appeals follow (starting with the spring semester of 2012).

### Spring 2012

Approved:	9
Denied:	10
Tabled:	3

### Summer 2012

Approved:	15
Denied:	9
Tabled:	1

### Fall 2012

Approved:	14
Denied:	13
Tabled:	2

### Spring 2013

Approved:	16
Denied:	7
Tabled:	0

### Summer 2013

Approved:	13
Denied:	13
Tabled:	2

### Fall 2013

Approved:	6
Denied:	7
Tabled:	1

It should be noted that the number of appeals in the past two to three years has been lower than it has been in the past (three to four years ago and before that). This lower

number of appeals is attributable to more than one factor. Students are no longer generally allowed to petition for anything they like. They must meet certain standards. For instance, for suspension issues students must have achieved a term GPA of 2.00 the previous semester if they are petitioning for immediate reinstatement. This requirement cuts the number of petitions down, and those that come in (if adequately documented) are approved by Huffman and thus do not go to appeal. Moreover, petitions dealing with situations more than two years in the past used to go automatically to CASA, but the committee decided that Huffman should act on them as he does on other petitions.

Another factor is that is that the Advising Office now takes a more active role in monitoring students upon arrival to head off problems that might arise later in their career. For instance it might be suggested that students withdraw from a course during the semester, which can be done without petition prior to a stated deadline.

As a result of these more recent policies and procedures, when petitions do come into Huffman their quality (documentation) is generally higher and more satisfactory to warrant his approval of the request.

## **Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee**

### **Report for Academic Year 2013-2014**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to establish the Multilingual and Intercultural Communication (MIC) Center, under the rules for the creation of new academic entities. The committee requested clarifications of the role of participating faculty, particularly with regards to departmental expectations in terms of teaching, research and other administrative responsibilities and inquired how the participation in the center is going to be considered in promotion and tenure decisions. The committee also requested clarification of the role of the participating faculty in the governance of the center. These points were addressed in the revised proposal that was passed on to the A&S Senate.

The Committee also discussed the benefits and challenges raised by massive open online courses (MOOC) and Open SUNY. The comment the Committee would like to renew is for Stony Brook University to keep the interests of its faculty and students in mind when dealing with these matters.