

Tentative Agenda
Arts & Sciences Senate
October 20, 2003

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
 - II. Approval of minutes from September 22, 2003
 - III. Report of the Arts & Sciences Senate (J. Kuchner)
 - IV. Report of the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (J. Staros)
 - V. Report on campus based pilot assessment process (M. London)
 - VI. Second presentation of proposed amendment to the A&S Constitution (J. Kuchner)-See below
 - VII. Resolution on Suny-Wide Assessment (N. Goodman)
 - VIII. Old Business
 - IX. New Business
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Arts and Sciences Senate
Minutes of the 9/22/03 Meeting

The Arts and Sciences Senate met on Monday 22 September 2003 in the Javits Room. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Senate, Joan Kuchner, at 3:35 PM.

I. The tentative agenda was amended and approved as modified by voice vote.

II. Typographical errors were noted in the minutes of the 21 April 2002 meeting. The minutes as corrected were then approved by voice vote.

III. The President of the Senate, Joan Kuchner, delivered a state of the Senate report and thanked past committee chairs and elected officers. The newly elected executive committee (Fred Walter, Vice-President and President-elect; John Robinson, Secretary) were introduced.

The Senate undertakes most of its duties through its standing committees. The President reported that the standing committees are up and running. The Academic Judiciary Committee (AJC) and the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (FRR) are still not completely staffed, and those two committees have yet to select chairs. Eleven departments have yet to select departmental senators (or to inform the Senate of their choices).

The University Senate will be updating its constitution this year. Effects on the Arts and Sciences Senate are expected to be minimal.

Dean Staros was invited to address the Senate, but is out of town. It is expected that the Dean will meet with the Senate in October.

With other members of the University Senate Executive Committee, the President attended a Provostial retreat on September 18. The Provost appears to show a great interest in faculty governance.

Although the Senate does not meet over the summer, governance-related matters arise. Over this summer, all 1 credit courses in the Physical Education Department were discontinued, and the SSI program was dissolved. Both actions were taken without consultation with the Faculty, despite the obvious impact on students and faculty, in violation of existing procedures.

The matter of the Phys Ed courses has been referred to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (CC). The matter of the SSI program, which affects the SSI interdisciplinary major, has been referred to the CC and to CAPRA (a committee of the University Senate). These committees will report back to their respective Senates.

An issue arose concerning policies for promotion and tenure of faculty in the Professional Education Program (PEP). These are Provostial lines but are in Arts & Sciences departments. The issue was referred to the Promotion and Tenure Committee (PTC) for further study.

IV. R. Cerrato, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, delivered the report of the Committee. The Senate moved to accept the report, and to thank the chair for his efforts. The report is available on the Senate website (<http://ws.cc.sunysb.edu/senatecas/>).

V. R. Cerrato, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, reported on the draft procedures for submitting General Education courses for approval. This procedure, which was distributed with the agenda, is a compromise between the Stony Brook faculty and the system-wide administration. Courses that are not approved for Gen-Ed credit will automatically be sent to the Advisory Council for General Education (ACGE) for resolution. Possible consequences are that this procedure may take time, and that DEC credit may not be available for a course when it is taught. Gen-Ed approval will not be retroactive.

The Senate's approval was sought for a one-year trial of this procedure.

N. Goodman, a member of ACGE, presented his perspective on the issue. ACGE met in the spring, and will meet on October 17. The Senate can expect a report at its November meeting. This procedure is a compromise. System administration will not get access to course syllabi and reading lists, but ACGE may request to see such materials. ACGE is composed of 8 faculty members (4 from the 2-year colleges), and 4 campus-based administrators.

H. Silverman offered an amendment to replace the phrase "Curriculum Committee" with "Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee" throughout the document. The amendment was accepted.

The Senate approved without dissention a one-year trial of this procedure. It will now be sent to the University Senate for approval.

VI. The President proposed an amendment to the Constitution. The purpose is to clarify the distinction between faculty senators and other senators. All faculty senators are automatically members of the University Senate. Other Arts and Sciences constituencies are not bound by this, and have the freedom to select different members to the two senates. N. Goodman and H. Silverman suggested revised wordings for the amendment. The PEG board is in favor of this amendment to the Constitution.

The proposed change in the Constitution is that item A 5 will now read: "Faculty membership in the Arts and Sciences Senate constitutes membership in the University Senate. All faculty representatives to the Arts and Sciences Senate shall also serve as Arts and Sciences faculty member representatives in the University Senate."

The proposed amendment was read and discussed. This was the first reading of the proposed amendment. It must be presented at three consecutive Senate meetings prior to being subject to a vote.

VII. N. Goodman briefed the Senate on system-wide assessment issues. A full report was presented to the University Senate at their 8 September 2003 meeting. Many of these issues were touched upon during the discussion of item V above.

VIII. There was no Old Business.

IX. There was no New Business.

A motion to adjourn being made and seconded, the Arts and Sciences Senate adjourned at 4:55 PM.

26 September 2003

Revised 29 September 2003

F.M. Walter, acting secretary

Proposed amendment to A&S Constitution:

Arts and Sciences Senate Constitution April 21, 2003

A.

5 " *Membership in the Arts and Sciences Senate constitutes membership in the University senate. All representatives to the Arts and Sciences Senate shall also serve as members of the University Senate.*"

Proposed amendment;

A.

5. *Faculty membership in the Arts and Sciences Senate constitutes membership in the University Senate. All faculty representatives to the Arts and Sciences Senate shall also serve as members of the University Senate.*

RESOLUTION ON SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT

Arts and Sciences Senate of Stony Brook University

Whereas, the SUNY System Administration has required campuses to establish programs to assess their General Education curriculum; and

Whereas, the SUNY System Administration has worked cooperatively with the University Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council of Community Colleges to establish the General Education Assessment Review (GEAR) to oversee this campus-based assessment process; and

Whereas, Stony Brook has a long-established high quality General Education program (its Diversified Educational Curriculum, DEC) and has already implemented the first year of a three-year GEAR-approved assessment plan; and

Whereas, each SUNY campus is unique, having different missions, admissions standards, student populations, and routes to satisfying the SUNY General Education requirements; and

Whereas, accrediting bodies such as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education recognize the diversity of campus programs within a state system and assess the performance of the individual campuses and not the state-wide system; and

Whereas, most national experts on assessment (e.g., Dr. Barbara Cambridge, former Director of Assessment for the American Association of Higher Education, and Dr. Peter Ewell, Senior Associate of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) and a recent report of the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy of the California State University have argued that academic assessment is best done at the campus and not system level; and

Whereas, the use of standardized tests (or its functional equivalent, common measures) across the campuses of SUNY would undermine fundamental principles of academic excellence by discouraging pedagogical creativity and innovation while encouraging standardized education that is narrowly tailored to the standardized tests; and

Whereas, General Education occurs over a student's entire academic career, and since students take individually diverse pathways through the available educational programs, including coursework at other institutions of higher education, internships, and study abroad programs, attempting to test this diversity in a standardized manner is an academically inappropriate; and

Whereas, the costs of such a standardized program would be considerable and, in an economic environment that already restricts the ability of campuses to carry out their academic missions in a manner that most believe appropriate, any available funds should be used to support the campus-based assessment programs; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees has offered no academically compelling reasons, evidence or problems that warrant a standardized approach to assessment; therefore

Be it resolved, that the Arts and Sciences Senate of Stony Brook University affirms its commitment to campus-based assessment, will continue to implement its approved campus-based General Education assessment plan, and will not support, embrace or participate in any SUNY-mandated standardized assessment of General Education;

Be it further resolved, that in the best interests of the State University of New York the Arts and Sciences Senate of Stony Brook University urges the Board of Trustees to rescind its resolution of June 17, 2003 on system-wide assessment and allow the Provost's Office and the faculty governance bodies to continue working together to construct a system of assessing foundational skills in General Education that provides both for campus autonomy and System Administration oversight.

