

SUNY Downstate Medical Center
EXECUTIVE (Centerwide) COMMITTEE of the Faculty and Professional Staff
Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, October 20, 2014
4:00 PM – 5:00PM

Attending:

Presiding Officer	Stephan Rinnert, MD
Secretary & University Faculty Senator	Henry Flax, EdD
Presiding Officer, College of Health Related Professions	Angela Griffin, PT, PhD
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Health Related Professions	Kenneth Martinucci,
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Medicine	Clinton Brown, MD
Presiding Officer, College of Nursing	Veronica Arikian, RN
Presiding Officer, School of Graduate Studies	Nicholas Penington, PhD
Presiding Officer Elect, School of Public Health	Paul Landsbergis, PhD, EdD, MPH
University Faculty Senator	Helen Durkin, PhD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Steven Kang, MD

Unable to Attend:

Past Presiding Officer & University Faculty Senator	Miriam Vincent, MD, PhD, JD
Presiding Officer, College of Medicine	Allen Norin, PhD
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Nursing	Sandra Maldonado, RN
Presiding Officer Elect, School of Graduate Studies	John Kubie, PhD
Presiding Officer, School of Public Health	Daniel Ehlke, PhD
University Faculty Senator	Kathleen Powderly, PhD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Virginia Anderson, MD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Mathew Foley, MD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Farhad Haeri, DPT
Recording Secretary	Migdalia Gaston

Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Helen Durkin moved, Paul Landsbergis seconded the approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2014; motion carried. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

Presiding Officer's Report:

Dr. Rinnert advised the group that the following search committees have been constituted:

- Dean, College of Medicine
- Dean, College of Health Related Professions

Presiding Officer Stephan Rinnert introduced our new Vice President for Faculty Development, Dr. Joseph Merlino, who has been charged with handling these searches. In response to concerns from the body, Dr. Merlino will share the lists of the members of each search committee with Dr. Rinnert for distribution. Dr. Joks represents faculty governance on the COM search committee; it is uncertain whether faculty governance representation has been included in the CHRP search.

Dr. Merlino provided the body with his background (Administrative psychiatrist for most of his career). He has worked at KCHC for 5½ years following federal law suits brought against that institution. The Office of Faculty Development and Professional Affairs was created by Dr. Williams. Dr. Merlino provided the overview of the charge for the office:

- Mentoring for faculty (not exclusively for junior faculty);
- Developing best practices for teaching adult learners – looking for expertise within and without the university;
- Institutional culture of strategic planning;
- Recruitment support for faculty, staff and deans.

Search Committees

Dr. Merlino is currently coordinating 2 searches with Korn-Ferry.

- The College of Medicine search is up and running. The job description has been completed. Resumes are being solicited. The goal is to provide 3 unranked candidates to President Williams.
- The CHRP Dean's search will begin at the beginning of November.

There was general discussion about the needs to search for department chairs. Dr. Rinnert agreed and advised Dr. Merlino that there are several departments in need of permanent chairs.

Faculty Support

Dr. Merlino has begun planning quarterly faculty receptions. The first is scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 4:30 PM for new faculty in all schools.

Web Page

Management of the Faculty Development web page has already moved from Dr. Rinnert to Dr. Merlino.

Dr. Rinnert noted that the newsletter will include a section on Faculty Governance. Faculty development is a center-wide issue. Dr. Merlino is in the process of developing an academic calendar for the institution, as well as a teaching academy.

Dr. Rinnert advised the body to consider Strategic Planning in the wake of the announcement of a Provost's Office to be established by Dr. Susan Phillips who has been invited to create such an office at Downstate. It was noted that Dr. Phillips is not a candidate for this position. Dr. Durkin questioned the Provost's role; Dr. Rinnert stated that he understands the position to be one of an "uber-dean". He noted the importance of commonality of education among the schools as a role of the Provost.

Dr. Flax asked about the location of this office; Dr. Merlino responded that he and Dr. Phillips are housed in the F, M & D Design area, BSB, room 1-115.

Dr. Rinnert noted the push from the Chancellor's Office to merge Upstate Medical University with Binghamton University and Downstate Medical Center with the University at Albany.

Constituent Reports:

The College of Health Related Professions – Dr. Griffin reported that the total enrollment is 406 students. Open House for prospective students will be held on October 21 at 5:30 PM. The next CHRP Faculty Assembly meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2014. Faculty are publishing and presenting their research at various professional meetings.

The College of Medicine – Dr. Brown reported that the Executive Committee is meeting regularly. The College has a new Acting Dean (Dr. Pamela Sass). The search for a dean is ongoing. There is concern about the need for a Provost's Office. President Williams has indicated a desire to hire a Vice President for Research, separate from the Dean's position. The CAPQ – Dr. Keith Williams has noted that the committee communications loop is not complete. Candidates need feedback on recommendations for promotion. Did the Dean follow the recommendations s/he received? Dr. Durkin stated that there is a need for program projects assistance. We need a person who is knowledgeable about NIH research mechanisms. Dr. Merlino was questioned about counsel for faculty on research. Senior faculty to monitor junior faculty. Dr. Durkin stated that we need help for senior faculty as well. Dr. Rinnert noted that, at his meeting with the president, Dr. Williams stated that the Vice President for Research is to help with this issue.

The College of Nursing – Dr. Arikian reported that there are 60 new Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing students, as well as 60 new RN to BS degree students. There are 70 new graduate students across all programs. The Maimonides students are coming here for classes, but we no longer have faculty on site at Maimonides Medical Center. From October 1 – 3, 2014, the College had its CCNE accreditation site visit. The panel found no issues

with compliance to standards. The final report will be received in the spring. On October 27th, the Nurse Anesthesia program will receive its accreditation site visit. Open House for prospective students will be held on October 21 at 5:30 PM in the Student Center. The inaugural White Coat Ceremony is scheduled for October 22nd 2014. We are one of only 20 schools nationwide to offer this.

The School of Graduate Studies – Dr. Penington reported that three students complained to the Executive Committee about their stipends (\$25,000 per person). Other schools in the metropolitan area pay c. \$32,000. The Executive Committee is considering ways to handle the disparity. The Graduate School has had a fixed budget for stipends for the past 20 years. This year, 12 MD/PhD offers were made and all 12 offers were declined. The body questioned Dr. Penington about the possible reasons for the declination (negative publicity re Downstate? Shrinking research at the institution?). The SGS has received a 5-year, \$2,000,000 grant to share with Medgar Evers College for undergraduate students to work up to 35 hours in a laboratory here. Dr. Rinnert questioned whether the loss of MD/PhD students is a national trend. Dr. Durkin stated that MD/PhDs nationally are a failure since they stay in private practice and do not continue in academic research. She provided detailed reasons for candidates who did not come to her lab, including the cost of a Flow Cytometer. The contract for the machine is \$25,000 per annum. This should be a cost borne by the school, not her lab. There are issues of faculty advisories regarding the length of lab time, 7 years, instead of 3 years. Dr. Flax questioned whether Ellen Telesca does any enrollment follow-up with candidates who decline our offers. Dr. Penington responded that he has no knowledge of that. There was extended discussion regarding the reasons for these declinations, including the failure to court students, the lack of campus housing, etc.

The School of Public Health – Dr. Landsbergis reported that enrollment has grown from 220 to 248 in 2014. The Executive Committee of the faculty met on September 25th. The body was happy to learn about the revitalization of the Centerwide Committee. The SPH is engaged in online teaching. The school is updating its policies and procedures and would like to speak with CAPQ leaders from the other schools for guidance in this area. Two of four department chair searches are underway.

University Faculty Senate Report:

Dr. Flax provided an overview of issues discussed at the UFS Fall Planning meeting held in Syracuse September 18-19, 2014.

1. Personnel changes at System Administration.
 - a. Alex Cartwright has joined SUNY System Administration as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. Alex comes to System from Buffalo University, where he had been Vice President for Research.
 - b. Jim Malatras left the position of Chief of Staff, called back to the Governor's office to be Director of Operations for New York State.
 - c. Stacey Hengsterman is interim Chief of Staff, with a search in place for a permanent individual; she's relinquishing some of her duties in governmental relations during this period.
 - d. Josh Sager is the new chief budget officer, replacing Wendy Gilman.
2. Chancellor and Strategic Planning.
 - a. The Board of Trustees conducted a review of the Chancellor, overseen by Steve Trachtenberg (former president of George Washington University and a very well known, if sometimes controversial, figure in higher education). The Board is/will be offering the Chancellor a new contract, which I believe is to be for 5 years.
 - b. The Chancellor's stated position on Strategic Planning is that she is willing to tie increases in State funding to performance measures. SUNY Excels is the name for a matrix of performance measures that will include data and goals at the System level, but with campus goals to be set in appropriate areas (as defined collaboratively campus by campus). The full Senate will get a presentation from the Chancellor's team at our Fall Plenary.

3. System Administration Budget. New, additional charges are being assessed to campuses in order to support the operations at System Administration. The line-item budget for operating System Administration within the legislatively approved SUNY budget hasn't been increased in some 20 years. Obviously costs have gone up since then, probably more so with the numerous System initiatives that Chancellor Zimpher has undertaken. System has been charging campuses for some services, but the System expenditures significantly exceed this as well. A further complication is that some System offices have sent these costs, charge-backs, etc., to campuses at irregular times during the year, making campus budget planning more difficult. One of Jim Malatras' initiatives was to rationalize System budgeting, make some cuts centrally, and have a single charge to each campus. A big part of the process is to increase the charges to the campuses, which has raised consternation among Presidents. The Board is also concerned, in part about the methodology, in part about the size of the System budget. The Board has approved the increased assessments to campuses for this year, but has demanded more justification and an examination of alternatives before moving any further forward.
4. Seamless Transfer. The transfer paths were updated by the end of last spring, and we are now in a period of considering adjustments to programs that might be necessary to make this work. Most requests for waivers have apparently been denied, sometimes with audacious suggestions that wholesale curricular changes should be made. Faculty on some of the campuses are finally realizing that they may have to change major requirements for the first two years.
5. The Merger of SUNY IT and CNSE: SUNY Polytechnic Institute, or SUNY Poly for short. It is hard to discern where the merger (and separation of CNSE from U Albany) stands. It seems that new students at CNSE now are enrolled at SUNY PI (except for doctoral students).
6. Open SUNY. The "first wave" of "Open SUNY" programs—existing online programs with enhancements—was approved last academic year, and the second wave is about to be announced. System Administration has increasingly recognized that most student services need to be coordinated among the contributing campuses rather than established centrally, although SUNY is currently contracting with an outside vendor to cover a help desk 24/7 (beyond what was being covered by previously existing SLN assistance).
7. START-UP NY. 35 SUNY campuses have approved plans, with more in the offing. Companies have been announced at a number of campuses.
8. LICH and the Hospitals. SUNY is still trying to work out a final contract. Meanwhile, the nurses' union obtained a temporary restraining order blocking the sale until jobs for nurses are worked out. There are other developments regarding the hospitals and medical schools. First, the Board passed a resolution to set up a task force to examine and propose a "new governance structure" for the SUNY hospitals, and System is establishing this group. The charge is to recommend how the hospitals should be governed—likely with local governing boards, answering perhaps to a central governing board that is separate from the SUNY Board of Trustees. Second, Stony Brook is pursuing an arrangement to take over operation of the Southampton Hospital in order to establish a regional hospital network, something that will become increasingly important in the Affordable Care Act environment. The Board isn't in a hurry to approve it (largely due to the timing – the issue with LICH is still too fresh). Finally, the Chancellor has pressed for closer ties between the stand-alone medical centers and the University Centers. Accordingly, Downstate and U Albany have been in discussions about collaborations, and Sue Phillips has been assigned dual duty as a VP for Planning at Albany and VP for Academic Affairs at Downstate. Binghamton and Upstate are in talks about the shape of future collaborations.
9. Budget for 2015-16. With the final year of NYSUNY2020 looming, System is consulting with the Presidents and the Board about whether to request a new round of tuition increases to actually bring us to 2020. Further budget issues are a hard push to convince the governor and the legislature that "maintenance of effort" means covering mandated cost increases. The SUNY Excels matrix is to form the basis for seeking

new State funds in support of SUNY. Finally, SUNY is seeking additional bonding authority for both critical maintenance and selected new construction projects.

10. TeachNY. There was a lot of focus on teacher education over the last year, and the Chancellor has decided to be a national champion for the Common Core. She has established a TeachNY program, with an advisory committee to offer guidance on how to improve teacher education and K-12 quality and success. The first meeting was scheduled for Sept. 23, 2014.
11. Alfred Ceramics. Alfred University has continued to take \$18 million per annum from SUNY but cannot seem to find space on its website to include the College of Ceramics or put that money toward support of the college.
12. Reduction of Student Assistant Hours. There has been significant concern raised by the Student Life Committee about the forced reduction of Student Assistant hours below 29 hours a week to exclude student workers from potential health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Penington voiced support of the Committee's position to maintain higher maximum hourly limits for student workers.

Dr. Flax moved to table the remainder of the agenda to the November meeting due to the lateness of the hour. Dr. Brown seconded the motion; the motion carried. The following will be on the November agenda:

Old Business:

By-laws update and review – Dr. Flax has made no progress on having the by-laws rescanned to a format that is more “user friendly”. Once done, the document will be posted on the website.

Parking Deck Status

New Business: Centerwide Issues

Parking Deck Elevators – loss of service affects Persons with Mobility issues.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 10, 2014 – 4:00 PM,
Pathology Department Conference Room (BSB, room 4-5).**

Dr. Flax moved to adjourn; Dr. Kang seconded the motion; meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Flax, Ed.D.