Minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee Meeting of 16 FEB 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1415 in Room 2-5 of the Science and Engineering Building.

**NOTE** This meeting is a rescheduled meeting, originally scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 10 February 2010. The meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to this date, due to snow.

- The minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee Meeting of 04 Nov 2009 were approved without amendment.
- Present: Dick Burke, Cathy Olszewski, Peter Vecchio, Paul Levy, Joe Hoffman, Bill Massano, Alison Romain, Maryellen Keefe, Linda Sturges.

President's Report

Vice Admiral Craine

The Admiral is not present. Per Dr. Hoffman, as of this meeting, the Admiral will not be present at the faculty meeting. He will be attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. There is no news on the budget, which would have been the primary point of his remarks to the faculty. Dr. Hoffman also asks to leave his space on the faculty meeting agenda available, should his plans change.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs (VPAA)/ Provost Report

Prof. Hoffman

Dr. Hoffman remarks that he will need some time at the faculty meeting to do new faculty introductions. Also there will be Middle States announcements and updates on the SUNY Provost search. The presiding officer suggests that the provost give the faculty an update on Summer Sea Term. The provost remarks that he will be discussing both Summer Sea Term Afloat and Ashore. Dr. Olszewski asks about the charges for the cruise. Dr. Hoffman states that there will be both a charge for the cruise plus a transportation charge, which all students on the cruise will have to pay. Dr. Olszewski remarks that she doesn’t think this is fair for students who are not returning to NYC, i.e. the Turkish students. Dr. Hoffman states this money will be refunded. Dr. Olszewski states that she doesn’t believe that the students who will not be flying from or returning to New York should have to lay out the transportation money. Dr. Hoffman counters that he had to pay for a plane with 300 seats. He continues that regardless of whether a Turkish student is on the first sea term or the second, that student would have to pay for a flight – either to or from Turkey. Now, they are only flying to or from Dublin.

Presiding Officer

Prof. Burke

Dr. Burke will make some remarks at the faculty meeting regarding Campus Governance Leaders meeting at the University Faculty Senate Meeting. Also some remarks will be made regarding the Chancellor’s Strategic Planning. A short period will be left for any questions from the faculty.

Standing Committees:

- **CAP** - Committee on Appointments and Promotions: Prof. Mathieson

Prof. Mathieson is not present and has made no request for floor time at the faculty meeting.

- **CONE** - Committee on Nominations and Elections: Prof. McMillan

Prof. McMillan is not present but has asked via email that he be given time for announcements regarding Departmental Elections, Chancellor’s Awards, and Larry Howard’s position as interim faculty representative to the Athletic Academic Board.

Executive Committee Minutes – 16 February 2010 **FINAL**
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- **CC** – Curriculum Committee:
  Prof. Levy

Professor Levy remarks that he has no business for the faculty this meeting. He will email the faculty with a few updates on information, but the committee has nothing new to present.

- **FAC** – Faculty Assessment Committee:
  Prof. Sturges

Prof. Sturges asks Dr. Hoffman to send out the email blasts for the surveys – both the student and faculty – Dr. Hoffman states that he will. Dr. Sturges remarks that the survey will close on 01 March 2010.

- **FPC** – Faculty Policy Committee:
  Prof. Massano

Prof. Massano reports that as of now, he has nothing to present to the faculty. He asks, however to ask him on Friday (19 Feb 2010). It will be posted in the agenda as “announcements and take any questions”. Prof Massano notes that if he has nothing to say, he will indicate so.

- **SPC** – Student Policy Committee:
  Prof. Romain

Prof. Romain notes the SPC has no announcements to make at this faculty meeting. Dr. Burke asks if she would like to make any comments on the course evaluation developments. She replies no, not yet. Prof. Romain continues by saying that however, as a point of information, Dr. Cappeto (Dr. Michael Cappeto, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment) will available to make comments as necessary. Dr. Olszewski asks if we will be using the same course evaluation forms for the spring semester - to which Prof. Romain replies yes - but we will be moving to an online format and one with a Likert Scale. *(In Likert questionnaire items, respondents specify their level of agreement to a statement)* Prof. Romain continues that we need to have “Banner” *(a comprehensive computer information system that contains information on courses, students, faculty, staff, and alumni)* in order to prevent duplications or students doing surveys for someone else. Prof. Romain continues that the only thing she *could* report is that the committee is developing the questions for the survey, but nothing concrete yet to present. Dr. Burke comments that the issue of faculty surveys by students has been an issue of some “tumult” in past years. However given ABET and Middle States, not having an effective course evaluation system is a major obstacle for us. The objections of some of the faculty notwithstanding, we must have something in place. Prof. Romain suggests that perhaps she should mention that at the faculty meeting, in order to lay groundwork and set expectations in this regard. Dr. Burke asks what the issue of debate regarding this issue was. The Faculty Secretary replies that this issue is documented in great detail in the minutes of our last Executive Committee Meeting, most notably that the information might be used against a faculty member. Dr. Burke comments that at his last institution - everyone *knew* it was going to be used in judgment - but we here, have moved into a period of more consistency and stability than had existed prior to 2004. Dr. Burke asks if we have a chance of passing an effective system. Prof. Romain continues that with a commitment on the part of administration not to use the evaluations in this manner will help move this matter along. The data will go straight to the office of Institutional Research and Assessment. The provost comments that he believes the chairs should see the information.
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- Faculty Senator: Prof. Keefe

Prof. Keefe will possibly make some short comments on the University Faculty Senate

Old Business:

No old business pending.

New Business:

Prof. Sturges makes some brief comments on new assessment levels. Dr. Burke makes some short comments on administrative review, particularly noting that it is important NOT to assess everything at once.

The meeting was adjourned at 1445.

Submitted;

Peter Vecchio,
Faculty Secretary 2009-2010