Minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee Meeting of 24 MAR 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1513 in Room 2-5 of the Science and Engineering Building.

- The minutes of the Faculty Executive Committee Meeting of 16 Feb 2010 were approved without amendment.

- Present: Dick Burke, Chris McMillan, Peter Vecchio, Cathy Olszewski, John Mathieson, Bill Massano, Paul Levy, Allison Romain, Joe Hoffman, Linda Sturges, VADM Craine

- The purpose of this meeting is to set the agenda for the FACULTY MEETING of 07 April 2010

President’s Report

Vice Admiral Craine

The Admiral was not present at the start of the meeting, but arrived later on. Upon arrival, the Admiral indicates that he will be giving a report to the faculty. He is waiting at this time for more budget details. Also included in this report would be a brief review of the facilities master plan and where they are to date.

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

Prof. Hoffman

The Provost is not present at the start of the meeting but arrived half hour into these proceedings. He and Dr. Sturges were with Dr. Loftus, of Middle States. Dr. Burke believes Dr. Hoffman will have a report to give at the faculty meeting.

Upon his arrival, the Provost indicates that he will be discussing the Middle States procedures and graduation.

Presiding Officer

Prof. Burke

Dr. Burke notes that he and several others spent the day (today) with Dr. Barbara S. Loftus Vice President, Institutional Field Relations, Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The purpose was to “kick off” the process of drafting our self-study for the 2012 re-accreditation visit. A steering committee has been appointed – every working group is represented. There are seven total working groups, each of which has two co-chairs, one of whom is a faculty member, the other is an administrator. Dr. Burke is co-chairing the working group on leadership and governance together with Capt. Tom Greene. A large part of the work will fall on Linda Sturges, who is co-chair of the working group on assessment. Dr. Loftus made the point that “Standard 14” – assessment of student outcomes – is always an important part of the Middle States effort.

Dr. Burke feels, based on Dr. Loftus’ visit, that we are on the right track. This visit included looking at what we have prepared to-date, her walk around the campus, her meeting with the Admiral and the college council.

Regarding his report to the faculty, Dr. Burke says that he has not yet spoken to Dr. Keefe. They will work out who will cover which topics from the University Faculty Senate and Governance meetings. Dr. Burke will also have some information from the “committee of 200”, i.e. the Chancellor’s Strategic Planning Committee, which has finished up its work. Dr. Karen Markoe was also involved, being on the steering committee. Additionally, Hartley Spatt, Eric Kneubuehl and Tom Magliocca were involved.
Dr. Olszewski received an email from Dr. Keefe indicating that she will discuss the University Faculty Senate effort with regard to PHEEIA - The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. Other SUNY campuses are debating whether or not they should support PHEEIA. The proposed legislation states that in the face of decreasing state support, both the CUNY and SUNY chancellors are asking for increased flexibility in the management of the university. In particular, having tuition managed by the universities, not by the legislature. Tuition might be differentiated by program, sector - though problematic in its definition, or by campus. Purchasing and property sales might be executed without the approval of the legislature. The UUP union has come out strongly in opposition to PHEEIA, though Dr. Burke has a sense that the University Faculty Senate is in favor of the legislature, though there has not been a vote of the entire faculty senate. Not surprisingly, all campus presidents have come out in favor of this, considering the proposal is coming from their boss. Various campus senates have voted in favor of the legislation, though some, notably Old Westbury, are opposed.

Dr. Burke will discuss the University Faculty Senate and a little bit about PHEEIA and the Chancellor’s strategic planning effort. Dr. Keefe will discuss PHEEIA and other Senate information.

**Standing Committees:**

- **CAP - Committee on Appointments and Promotions:** Prof. Mathieson
  
  Prof. Mathieson would like a short amount of time to discuss recommendations, and the Provost’s goal to have decisions by the time of graduation. Dr. Burke asks if CAP sees any controversy on any of the nominations being proposed CAP does not see any problems, unless decisions are going to be based on money.

- **CONE - Committee on Nominations and Elections:** Prof. McMillan
  
  CONE will be running the campus-wide elections for the next academic year and will require nominations from the floor. Prof. McMillan will be circulating, in advance, notification of what the vacancies will be. Additionally he will contact those persons on the current slate whose positions are up, asking if they will be running again. This information will be forwarded to the Assistant Presiding Officer for circulation, so that at the meeting a finalized ballot can be created, pending nominations from the floor.

- **CC – Curriculum Committee:** Prof. Levy
  
  The Curriculum Committee will present for approval:
  
  i. Three graduate courses
  ii. Two engineering course revisions
  iii. Three engineering curricula revisions
  iv. PE 100 revision

  In addition to these, there will be some other items, which will be decided at next week’s curriculum committee meeting. There may be some debate regarding the PE 100 revision.
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- **FAC** – Faculty Assessment Committee: Prof. Sturges

Prof. Sturges is not present at the meeting, as she is on campus with Dr. Loftus. She and Dr. Hoffman arrive about half hour into this meeting. Dr. Burke indicates that he will put the FAC on the agenda. The Presiding Officer feels that Dr. Sturges may want to discuss the Middle States visit and additionally, Faculty Assessment Day. Dr. Burke notes that the week from final exams to the departure of the TSES will be a very hectic time, given all the academic obligations and ship commitments.

Upon her arrival, Dr. Sturges notes that she will be going over a particular “check-list” which she will be distributing the department chairs. The list will cover items pertaining to where the department is and what they need to be doing regarding their preparedness for the Middle States evaluation.

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

The first reading of an amendment to the by-laws will be proposed regarding the addition of a position to be called the “Faculty Web Master”. Now, the web page is under the control of the presiding officer, who indicates he does not have the time to commit to maintaining the site. The Presiding Officer would like to see this obligation taken on by a junior faculty member, as a service contribution to the governance of the college. The amendment to the by-laws would create the position and allow the Executive Committee to appoint that person.

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

SPC has a draft of a new student survey. The Student Policies Committee would like input from the faculty regarding its contents. The question was posed as to whether or not the faculty needs to actually vote on its approval. The consensus was yes - in fact the faculty will have to approve the questions. Pending its final approval from the SPC, this body of questions would be presented to the faculty electronically, and then voted upon at the next faculty meeting. Dr. Burke notes that it is the policy of the Provost’s office that results from these surveys are never to be used as a comparative instrument for the purpose of tenure, re-appointment or promotion. The SPC indicates that this matter will be incorporated into the proposal itself.

During this discussion, Drs Hoffman and Sturges arrive, a brief conversation interrupts this SPC discussion and the focus turns Dr. Loftus and her visit to the campus.

Dr. Burke redirects the conversation back to the SPC draft of the course evaluation survey. A discussion ensues about the content of the questions, particularly noting questions which refer to the student’s self-evaluation. Such questions were, for example, “how many hours did you spend studying / preparing for this course”, “what my level of effort is in this course”. Dr. Mathieson feels that the survey tells very little about the student him or herself.

Dr. Hoffman notes that in these surveys, one needs to look at the trend for a single faculty member over time not compare one to another. The Admiral continues that he has used surveys to a great extent in the past in the Navy to evaluate courses. He estimates that they would get about ninety percent of the surveys returned with useful information – the other ten percent had extremes. These surveys had either strongly disagreed with everything or put “N/A” on everything.
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- Faculty Senator: Prof. Keefe

Prof. Keefe is not present at this time.

Old Business:

No old business pending.

New Business:

Dr. Markoe requested time via Dr. Burke for some unspecified new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1601

Submitted;

Prof. Peter Vecchio,
Faculty Secretary 2009-2010