Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of November 19, 2008

• The meeting was called to order at 15:08 in Science & Engineering Room 2-49.

• The minutes of the Faculty Meeting of September 24, 2008 were approved without dissent.

President’s Report

Vice Admiral Craine

• The Admiral presented a brief on the impact of the current economic conditions on the college budget. Major state budget deficits have led to a reduction in state funding to the SUNY system, from 1.46 to 1.26 billion dollars. At the college level, funds from tuition are increasing due to increasing enrollment, but direct state support to the college is decreasing. The budgetary shortfall for the college is about one million dollars; the Admiral presented a series of slides detailing proposed cost-saving and revenue-enhancing measures to address the gap. It was pointed out that faculty staffing levels at the college (particularly in engineering) are not currently sufficient to deal with the larger incoming class sizes.

• In a related issue, SUNY tuition has been increased from $4350 to $4970, which is 7% below the national average. The tuition increase was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

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

Prof. Hoffman

• In a partial continuation of the President’s Report, the Provost noted that the current college budget shortfall will not affect full-time employees. In particular, he expressed thanks to those who are expending extra effort in teaching loads, larger sections, etc.

• The Summer Ashore I term will be marketed publicly for the first time, to appeal to non-Maritime downstate students who need SUNY transfer credits.

• Because of a modification to the calendar, Summer Ashore II will begin later than usual. This may preclude Maritime students from attending summer sessions at other schools.

• The convocation of Industry Advisory Boards was well attended, energetic and successful. Mary Muecke participated as an outreach coordinator. Spring Advisory Board meetings will be left for the individual departments to organize as they see fit. Fall Advisory Board meetings will again be held campus-wide going forward.

• Faculty Assessment Day is scheduled to take place Tuesday December 16, with Prof. Sturges and Prof. Levert as co-chairs. The Provost promised food during the day with a cocktail reception to follow the conclusion of the event. He noted that this exercise satisfies multiple self-assessment requirements and will be relevant to upcoming external reviews by ABET in 2010 and 2012 as well as Middle States in 2012.

• Prof. Traub and Carol Roth announced that although Spring 2009 registration experienced a glitch, it has been fixed and deadlines have been rolled back one day. They noted that freshman and sophomore classes are both comparatively large. Also, the final examination schedule has been posted online; final grades are to be posted online by noon on December 15th.
Presiding Officer: Prof. Burke

- The P.O. attended the recent SUNY Faculty Senate Meeting in Potsdam, NY accompanied by the Alternate Senator, Prof. Keefe. The P.O. related some key points related to the meeting of campus governance leaders, specifically concerning faculty participation in the local college budget issues. He noted that Maritime College appears to have among the lowest level of such participation. It was apparent that at other campuses a significant amount of work is done by faculty members. He contrasted this with the fact that the Maritime College Faculty Budget Committee (FBC) was recently dissolved, and the College Budget Committee (CBC) has not met recently. He recommended that the Faculty Policy Committee be charged with evaluating the level of participation that the faculty currently has in college budget issues, and how the CBC should be tasked to work.

- At this point in the discussion, the Provost (as chair of the CBC) related some of the history of the FBC and CBC. He noted that currently the CBC is primarily charged with spending extra money in the budget. As there is none at this time, he encouraged the faculty to examine and enhance or otherwise alter their role in the CBC.

- Prof. Johansson and Prof. Mathieson moved a proposal for the FPC to look into ways to increase faculty participation in the college budget process. The motion passed.

Standing Committees:

- CC – Curriculum Committee: Prof. Levy
  - A proposed change in hours to NAUT 410 Tugs and Towing I and NAUT 411 Tugs & Towing II was approved without dissent.
  - Two new courses, MTDO 524 Cadet Observer Limited Tonnage I and MTDO 525 Cadet Observer Limited Tonnage II were approved without dissent.
  - A revised curriculum for Associate in Applied Science, Marine Technology/Small Vessel Operations (MTSVO) was approved without dissent.

- CAP - Committee on Appointments and Promotions: Prof. Mathieson
  - Recommendations for discretionary salary increases were made; 60 faculty and staff received awards which should show up in the next pay cycle.
  - The DAC were reminded that recommendations for appointments and promotions should be forwarded to CAP at the beginning of the Spring semester.

- CONE - Committee on Nominations and Elections: Prof. McMillan
  - Chancellor’s Awards nominations should be submitted to CONE by Dec. 5th for completion and submission to Albany in a timely manner.
  - An updated listing of committee memberships was been distributed for review.

- FAC – Faculty Assessment Committee: Prof. Sturges
  - FAC is currently conducting an online survey of undergraduate alumni from the classes of 2005 through 2007. The survey will be open through Jan. 10, 2009.
• **SPC – Student Policy Committee**  Prof. Vecchio
  o Student evaluation forms are on the way, with the first being delivered to those courses that end early and require early evaluation (e.g. labs).

• **FPC – Faculty Policy Committee**  Prof. Massano
  o First reading of a proposed by-law amendment concerning the voting status of adjunct faculty.

• **Faculty Senator**  Prof. Warkentine
  Remarks concerning the recent UFS meeting included:
  o A request to ‘get the word out’ about SUNY as a ‘value school’.
  o The search for a Chancellor for the SUNY system is ongoing.
  o Budget issues and the ‘rational tuition increase’.
  o The SUNY Sustainability Committee reported on a initiative to organize a SUNY Sustainability Conference in collaboration with NYSERDA, and to make an online clearinghouse of related information.

• **Old Business:**
  None outstanding.

• **New Business:**
  o Prof. Yahalom is currently preparing a brochure and information booklet covering research activity at the college. He requested that faculty members who are involved with research forward the relevant information so that it can be included when published in the spring semester. Also, Prof. Yahalom is organizing a series of lunchtime talks on research to foster collaboration and encourage campus research activity. The talks will take place during February and April in the spring semester.

  o Rick O’Keefe, Textbook Manager at the Ship’s Store requested that faculty communicate their textbook requirements as soon as possible. Early information allows him to search for used texts to help keep students costs down.

  o Prof. Hoffman noted that the Human Resources department has been recognized for excellence in service for the second time. Also, he thanked those department chairs who had completed their adjunct faculty paperwork in a timely manner.

  o Prof. Keefe requested that the faculty vote in support of four resolutions passed at the SUNY Fall Plenary Meeting in Potsdam. The resolutions were:

    150-01-1 Resolution on the Effect of New York State’s Budget on SUNY – October 18, 2008.
    150-02-1 Resolution on Implementing the Recommendations of the New York State Commission on Higher Education - October 18, 2008.
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150-03-1 Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation Resolution (7-30-08).
150-06-1 Resolution on the support for the mission and leadership of the Office for Diversity and Educational Equity - October 18, 2008.
The resolutions were approved by the faculty without dissent.

- The meeting was adjourned at 16:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Delo
Prof. Carl Delo
Faculty Secretary 2005-2009