

TENTATIVE AGENDA
Arts & Sciences Senate
November 15, 1999

I. Approval of the Tentative Agenda

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Senate Meetings of October 18th, 1999.

III. Report of the Arts & Sciences Senate President (Hugh J. Silverman)

All Arts and Sciences Senate Standing Committees have now met, elected their chairs, and are effectively functioning. The Senate has already heard reports of last year's committee accomplishments from Elizabeth Stone, Chair of the Curriculum Committee (CC), Bernie Maskit, Chair of the Graduate Programs Committee (GPC), and from Erich Goode, former Co-Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (CASA). Everett Waters, Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee (PTC) will give his report this month. The newly elected Co-Chairs of CASA are Nancy Hollingsworth (fall 1999) and Marci Lobel (spring 2000). Harvey Cormier was elected Chair of the Academic Judiciary Committee (AJC). We will hear from the AJC next semester.

Focus on Graduate Enrollments, Graduate Education, and Graduate Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Special reports by the Provost and CAS Dean.

We are nearing the deadline for submission of Stony Brook's Implementation Response to the Trustee's Mandated Revision of General Education Requirements in SUNY.

IV. Report of the Acting Provost and Academic Vice-President (Robert McGrath)

V. Report of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Paul Armstrong)

VI. Report of the Arts and Sciences Senate Standing Committee on Promotion and Tenure Committee (Everett Waters, Chair)

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

ARTS & SCIENCES SENATE CALENDAR - SPRING SEMESTER 2000

Monday, February 21st, 2000

Monday, March 13th, 2000

Monday, April 17th, 2000

All meetings are at 3:30 p.m. SHARP, in the Javits Room, 2nd Floor, Library
College of Arts and Sciences Senate

Minutes of October 18th, 1999 Senate Meeting

Secretary: Robert Bloomer

The Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

I. Agenda. The tentative Agenda was approved.

II. Minutes from the CAS Senate Meeting on September 27, 1999. The Minutes from this Meeting were approved.

III. Report of the CAS Senate President (Hugh J. Silverman). The President reminded those in attendance of the CAS Senate Website at <http://ws.cc.sunysb.edu/senatecas>

Posted here are Senate Announcements, Agendas, Minutes, Constitution, By-Laws, PTC Guidelines, Curriculum Committee forms, etc.

The President clarified the role and status of the CAS Senate Standing Committees on Curriculum (CC), Graduate Programs (GPC), Promotion and Tenure (PTC), Academic Judiciary (AJC), and Academic Standing and Appeals (CASA). As CAS Senate Committees, they report to the CAS Senate and its Executive Committee. So all of the work that they do eventually comes to the CAS Senate, which is responsible for this work. For this reason, the President would like to continue the practice of having the Committees deliver reports to the Senate, which then approves the reports. At this time, the report given on September 27th, 1999 by Elizabeth Stone from the Curriculum Committee was approved.

IV. Dean's Report. Dean Armstrong drew attention to his annual letter from September 1999 to the CAS Faculty and Staff. The Learning Communities Program, which links the large classes freshmen take with small seminars that provide them with a community of fellow-learners, has reported a higher retention rate than non-LPC freshmen, a higher mean grade point average, and on the survey sent to them also greater satisfaction with their academic experience. This year a new undergraduate biology curriculum has been started which offers improved laboratory experiences, a new freshmen course, a reorganized sophomore sequence, and better tracking and organization of upper-division offerings. Noteworthy about this curricular innovation is that it is timed to coincide with the opening next semester of the new Biology Learning Laboratory, which is attached to the Centers for Molecular Medicine Building. There will be a grand ceremony celebrating the opening of these Centers on the 12th of November. The revised Freshman Writing Requirement that the University Senate approved last year, and improved placement practices are insuring that students who could benefit from a second semester of Freshman Composition are enrolled in the writing course they need. A Math Advisory Committee has helped bring about significant improvements in Freshman Mathematics. In addition to these curricular developments, the Dean also drew attention to numerous faculty achievements, to initiatives such as the Faculty Mentoring Program, to the diversification of the faculty, and to the CAS's accomplishments in private fund-raising. Please refer to his letter for details.

Last year the CAS had 17.5 departures, i.e. faculty who retired or left for other institutions. The searches authorized last year by the Dean for appointments to begin in September 1999 resulted in 17.5 faculty lines -- exactly one for one. But we had 25 faculty join us because of diversity appointments and the lines funded by the School of Medicine and by Brookhaven. So we see a net increase of 7.5 faculty lines as compared to last year. Because of the cuts we have taken over the past three years, the Dean has had a difficult time balancing his budget and projects a \$400,000 deficit for the current academic year. Last year the Provost covered a \$700,000 budget deficit, but he cannot help to balance the smaller deficit this year. Thus, the Dean has reduced the search list for next year by authorizing only 16.5 lines.

V. Report of the Arts and Sciences Senate Standing Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (Mark Setton and Erich Goode, 1998-1999 CASA Co-Chairs).

Erich Goode summarized the kinds of cases that this Committee handles. If full-time students have a grade-point average below 2.00 in the second through fourth years or lower than 1.75 in the first year, they are placed on a notice of academic dismissal. If this continues for two consecutive or three semesters total, they can appeal. The Committee makes a decision as to whether or not their appeal has sufficient merit to waive the academic dismissal. Clifford Huffman screens the cases before they come to CASA and takes care of about 75% of them. The other 25% of the cases are reviewed by CASA. Students also petition to receive late or retroactive withdrawal or cancellation of courses. This entails, for instance, one semester in which they might have received a B, a C, and two F's. If they show documentation that these F's involve selected problems, they are permitted to keep only the grades in the courses they passed. Lastly, there is termination of academic dismissal. This takes place after the student is dismissed but who may have attended another university or college and accumulated a sufficiently meritorious record that warrants readmittance; or after the student is able to demonstrate that the initial problems have been addressed. In 1998, CASA received 137 appeals for waiver of academic dismissal and approved just under one-quarter of them, denied about 70% of them, and tabled the rest. The same was true for retroactive withdrawal from a course and cancellation of a course from the record. But CASA approved most of the cases involving termination of academic dismissal. This report was accepted by members present at the Meeting.

VI. Report of the Arts and Sciences Senate Standing Committee on Graduate Programs (Bernie Maskit, 1999-2000 GPC Chair).

The primary role of the GPC, which was fully formed last year, is to review graduate program proposals and to effect clarification or improvements before recommending approval by the Dean. Last year a revised M.A. in French and Italian as well as an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Art and Philosophy were recommended and approved. A Graduate Certificate can be either a self-standing, money-making program for the university or a supplement to existing graduate programs and usually entails 18 credit hours. Such certificates already exist in Women's Studies and Waste Management. Replying to Christina Bethin's question about the nature of communication between the GPC and the University Senate's Graduate Council, Hugh Silverman said that the GPC communicates with the CAS Dean, who submits GPC reviewed and recommended programs to the Graduate Dean who in turn takes up relevant matters and seeks approval from the Graduate Council before sending them on to SUNY Central (if necessary). This report was accepted by members present at the Meeting.

VII. Report of the Arts and Sciences Senate Standing Committee on Promotion and Tenure (Everett Waters, 1999-2000 PTC Chair). Due to lack of time, this report was tabled until the next Senate Meeting.

VIII. Old Business: There was no old business.

IX. New Business: There was no new business.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

College of Arts and Sciences Senate Executive Committee
SUNY Stony Brook
Monday, November 22, 1999
Minutes of Meeting #5
Robert Bloomer, Secretary

In attendance:

Hugh Silverman (HJS), President
Joan Kuchner (JFK), Vice-President
Robert Bloomer (RB), Secretary
Ruth Ben-Zvi (RBZ)
Kathleen Breidenbach (KB)
Peter Gratton (PG)
Nancy Hollingsworth (NMH)
Bernie Maskit (BM)

Invited:

Mark Aronoff (MA), Associate Provost

Absent:

Harvey Cormier (HC)
Elizabeth Stone (ECS)
Everett Waters (EW)

The Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

I. Agenda and Minutes: The tentative Agenda and the Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting on November 8, 1999 were approved.

II. Status of Senate Standing Committees. Specific Issues Related to the Chair of the Academic Judiciary Committee (AJC) and Curriculum Committee (CC) Protocol: The AJC consists of nine faculty members, of whom one is elected Chair, one member from the PEG Board, and one from the Dean's Office who acts as the Hearing Officer. Although HC has expressed his willingness to serve as Chair, the Dean sent a message to the Chair of HC's department to ask HC to resign because he is an Assistant Professor. However, HC will continue as Chair of the AJC but will seek someone to assume his duties in this capacity.

HJS noted that he does not receive agendas for CC Meetings, while the Dean goes to the CC and instructs it on policy. KB agreed to try to send agendas to HJS.

III. Proposal for CAS Senate Executive Committee Representation on the Academic Review Committee (ARC): Tabled.

V. Committee on Faculty Rights, Responsibilities, and Retirements vs. Council on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (a joint University Senate-Provostial Committee): Tabled.

V. Implementation of the Trustee's General Education Requirements. Invitation of Associate Provost Mark Aronoff: Stony Brook's response to the Trustee's requirements, which Albany wants to implement by the Fall of 2000, is to be submitted by December 31, 1999. The University Senate will discuss Stony Brook's proposal at its Meeting in December, but should it also be reviewed by the CAS Senate as well? MA does not think so because the Curriculum Committee has been charged with this matter by the University Senate.

MA stated that D.E.C. Category K, previously called American Pluralism, will be changed to The American Experience in Historical Perspective. The CAS Senate Executive Committee accepted this new wording. Proceeding from bulletin descriptions, MA and Elaine Kaplan have found 15 courses currently in K that do not qualify for this new Category. MA is proposing that graduating high school seniors must attain a score of at least 75 on the Regents Exam for Category K. AIM, LEP, and student-athletes would be affected by this; some 250 of them would have to pass a standard American History course for D.E.C. Category F credit. BM suggested that HJS send ES of the CC an email in order to initiate general discussion, then HJS will submit our conclusions to Bill Godfrey for the University Senate to take up. Five members present were in favor of this, one was against it, and one abstained.

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VI. Old Business: None.

VII. New Business: None.

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College of Arts and Sciences Senate Executive Committee
SUNY Stony Brook
Monday, November 29, 1999

Executive Committee Members

In Attendance:

Hugh Silverman (HJS) , President
Joan Kuchner (JFK), Vice-President
Kathleen Breidenbach (KB)
Nancy Hollingsworth (NMH)
Bernie Maskit (BM)
Elizabeth Stone (ECS)

APPROVED

Absent:

Robert Bloomer (RB), Secretary
Ruth Ben-Zvi (RBZ)
Peter Gratton (PG)
Everett Waters (EW)

The Meeting was called to order at 3:45 P.M.

I. Agenda: The tentative Agenda was approved with one addition. ECS requested that item 6 include a discussion of the policy for committee communication with the Dean.

II. Proposal for A & S Senate Exec. Comm. Representation on ARC: ARC reviews A & S and Marine Science programs on a 7 year rotation. Programs in the College of Engineering are also reviewed. HJS gave a brief history of program reviews from 1970' & 1980's including the idea that faculty committees were primarily responsible for academic reviews until approximately 3 years ago. Currently , there is University Senate representation on ARC. A proposal was presented to have a representative form the A & S Senate on ARC to be present at the initial interview when the charge is given to the review committee, as well as at the exit interview. BM suggested that more faculty representation could come from the University Senate not the A & S Senate. Two options were discussed: to leave the situation alone or to present the issue to the University Senate for further discussion. The proposal to request an increased A & S Senate representation to ARC was unanimously defeated. The suggestion to bring the issue to the University Senate remained.

III. Committee on Faculty Rights, Responsibilities, and Retirements vs Council on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (a joint Univ. Senate- Provostial Committee): HJS reviewed current activities of the A & S Committee on Faculty Rights, Responsibilities, and Retirements describing how it differed from the Council on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. The latter was set up to deal with individual faculty issues whereas the Committee on Faculty Rights, Responsibilities and Retirements will deal with large categories of issues that cut across individual cases. The Executive Committee

requested that the Chair of this committee present a written description of the committee's mission and current actions.

IV. Implementation of the Trustee's General Education requirements:

The question of University Admission Requirements concerning American History:

The Curriculum Committee was asked to report on its discussion of the proposal to add an entry level skill requirement of a grade of 75 or better on the New York State Regents Exam in American History to the revision of the DEC that will be presented to the Trustees. ECS reported that the Curriculum Committee was concerned that this entry level skills requirement would create problems for transfer students, out of state students and foreign students. According to KB, approximately 300 out of state transfer students are not required to submit high school transfer records. The alternative recommendation was that an advisory prerequisite for DEC K be included in the Bulletin. The A & S Curriculum Committee noted that DEC K courses build on the basic narrative of American history, which is taught in high school. They propose that in order to insure that all students understand the knowledge and have the skills required for the successful completion of DEC K courses, all DEC K courses should have as an advisory prerequisite: a knowledge of American History or 1 introductory course in American History and completion of DEC I & J . The A & S Senate Executive Committee voted to support the recommendation of the A & S curriculum committee

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V. Items for discussion with Dean Armstrong on Dec. 13th, A & S Senate Exec. committee meeting: No items were discussed.

VI, The policy for committee communication with the Dean: This item was added to the agenda. ECS indicated that the Curriculum Committee meets with the dean to discuss policy and that as chair of this committee she feels that this action is appropriate. Committees may invite anyone to their meetings that they deem are appropriate. The issue that ECS raised with the Curriculum Committee was the status of the A & S President as an ex officio member of the Curriculum Committee. It was pointed out that this relationship was a regular part of organizational structure in order to create a seamless connection between standing committees and the A & S Executive Committee. Due to the late hour, further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan F. Kuchner. Ph.D.
Vice-President, Arts and Science Senate

