

Tentative Agenda
Arts & Sciences Senate Meeting
March 26, 2001

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes from meeting of February 19, 2001
- III. Possible changes in Teaching Evaluations (Emily Thomas, President's Office)
- IV. Undergraduate Administration or Restructuring (Robert McGrath, Provost)
- V. Future of the Graduate Programs Committee
- VI. Other Old Business
- VII. Other New Business
- VIII. Adjournment

Arts and Sciences Senate
Minutes of the 19 February 2001 Meeting

The Arts and Sciences Senate met on Monday 19 February 2001 in the Javits room of the Melville Library. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Senate, A. Tyree, at 3:40 PM.

- I. After modifying the order, the agenda was approved by voice vote.
- II. The minutes of the 11 December 2000 Senate meeting were approved.
- III. The date of the next Senate meeting was originally scheduled during Spring Break. Without dissent, the Senate agreed to reschedule the meeting to 26 March 2001.
- IV. E. Waters presented the proposed Revisions to the Promotion and Tenure Committee Procedures. These revisions were made in response to objections to the current procedures raised by the President of the University.

The proposed revisions to section 6.2 of the PTC guidelines were approved, with three abstentions.

The proposed revisions to section 7 of the PTC guidelines were adopted without dissent.

- V. J. Shea presented the proposed Guidelines for the Academic Judiciary Committee, as requested by the Senate during its December 2000 meeting.

There was discussion of the differences between the proposed Guidelines and the recommendations of the ad-hoc AJC Review Committee. Senators questioned the loose wording of item B3 ("A member who missed an unreasonable number of meetings ... may be dismissed from the Committee."), but this is the same verbiage used in other Senate Committee Guidelines. It was noted that a quorum (item C4) could be achieved without any students present (or, conversely, without any faculty present).

- J. Kuchner recommended that the issues of member dismissals and quorums be reviewed by the A&S Senate Executive in order to understand the implications of these policies and to develop a consistent definition for each of the various A&S committees.

- The executive officer of the AJC, N. Franklin, pointed out that student government had failed to supply any student members, despite her requests. The Senate agreed to take up the matter of how to fill the student seats on Senate Committees at a later time.

The AJC Guidelines were accepted unanimously.

VI. The Senate welcomed the Interim Dean, R. Liebermann, and expressed hope that he and the Senate would work together during the coming months. The Dean presented his report to the Senate. He promised that this would not be a caretaker administration, since the College is still in a precarious state. He requested help from the Senate with Committee assignments. The problem is that some of the committee assignments are too time-consuming for junior faculty, who should be concentrating on their research and teaching. In addition, in the interest of diversity, women and minority faculty are disproportionately sought to serve on Committees, which is burdensome. The Dean asked that the Senate and the Department Chairs assist with the tracking of committee assignments.

F. Goldhaber asked about the projected number of faculty in the College. The numbers are down about 10% (46 lines) in the past? years, while at the same time the number of non-tenured faculty, including emeritus faculty, have increased by 64. The decrease in tenured and tenure track lines coincides with the College's budgetary difficulties, but the Dean expressed hope that lines will be restored now that the College is on better fiscal footing.

The Dean suggested that the Senate look into career paths for non-tenured faculty, including Lecturers. It was pointed out that the Committee on Faculty Rights, Responsibilities, and Retirements is doing just that.

The question of whether the University would retain the current structure, revert to a divisional structure, or do something else, came up. The Provost is presently considering this issue, and it will be decided soon in order to initiate the search for a permanent Dean. The Interim Dean suggested that the faculty should communicate their opinions directly to the Provost.

The Senate took up debate on the Structure of the College. The Dean made an impassioned plea, not as Dean but as an individual member of the faculty, to leave the current system in place, since it is an experiment in progress and we do not yet know the complete consequences of this system. While it seems that there was better communication among some Departments under the Divisional structure, overall the Senators are pleased with the present system. The Senate decided to support retention of the present College Structure. N. Goodman offered the following motion:

Motion of the Senate

"The Senate of the College of Arts and Sciences urges the Provost to retain the current structure of the College of Arts and Sciences led by a single Dean."

The motion was approved with 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

VII. There was no other old Business.

VIII. There was no other new Business.

The Senate adjourned at 4:55 PM

Submitted 26 February 2001

Revised 27 February 2001

F.M. Walter

Secretary

