

Meeting of the College Faculty
11 September 2003
Alumni Lounge
4 PM

The meeting was called to order by Scott Turner at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of the minutes will await the delivery of the minutes by the past Secretary, Valerie Luzadis. She had a problem with a hard drive.

Kudos

To Lee Herrington (Forestry & Natural Resources Management) for his promotion to Distinguished Teaching Professor, recognizing his demonstrated mastery of teaching skills, scholarship, professional growth, and service to students.

To Mike Bridgen (Ranger School), who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching for his superb teaching at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.

In Memoriam

We suddenly and tragically lost a dear colleague this summer. Jim Hassett provided the following contribution in memory of Paul Hopkins.

In the late summer of 1977, my wife and I were living in married student housing at Syracuse University. We met Paul and Chris Hopkins the day they moved into their apartment across the courtyard.

This last month, Paul's family invited us to be with them as his ashes were interred in Oakwood cemetery. It is therefore accurate to say that I knew Paul as long as anyone else during his time in Syracuse.

Paul joined the ESF faculty in 1979, and by an odd quirk of fate, I joined the same faculty unit in 1981. We have therefore been friends and colleagues for over 20 years.

Paul's importance to our unit cannot be overstated. Here is one indicator: During his time with us, he advised 124 undergraduate engineering students, and mentored 42 Masters and 10 PhD students. He was recently the Director of the NASA Affiliated Research Center here on campus. He was committed to the idea of continual improvement in his teaching activities, and was one of the first ESF practitioners of distance learning.

A moment of silence in honor of our friend and colleague Paul Hopkins.

We also lost a retired colleague this summer. Betsy Elkins provided these words.

This summer we lost our friend and retired colleague, Don Webster. Don came to ESF in January 1973 having previously been the director of the Libraries at SUNY Oswego and Cazenovia College. He retired in May 1995 after 22 years as Director of College Libraries here at ESF. He died suddenly on July 30.

I remember when I first met Don. I came for my interview. I was very young, and very nervous. I arrived in the pouring rain and when I finally reached the director's office I was very wet. But Don immediately put me at ease, told me a few jokes, and then went on to tell me about ESF. I very quickly knew this was the place for me.

Don led Moon Library through many changes in 22 years: staff, technology, budget cuts (some things haven't changed!) His quick wit and good humor were ever present, bringing inspiration to all around him. "Just because you aren't paranoid, doesn't mean they aren't out to get you," he would quip! When he retired he told me it was wonderful. He said, "Every day you can wake up and decide for yourself, shall I call this a Saturday or a Sunday?"

Don loved his family and he loved to travel. His retirement afforded him the opportunity to travel to visit his family in Portland Maine, New York City and Sydney Australia. He left 4 wonderful adult children who inherited his wit and wisdom. (His wife Peg died in 2000.) When his son Ted (an ESF grad of the LA program) spoke at Don's memorial service, we thought we were listening to Don himself. While we miss him, we are glad to know that his legacy lives on.

Introduction of new or visiting colleagues

Matthew Bejune is our new part-time temporary visiting assistant librarian. (Betsy Elkins)

Dannelle Jager, who has a masters from SU, is working with Pat Lawler in the writing program. (Rick Smardon)

Marika Palosaari is visiting from Helsinki until February preparing her doctoral research in environmental communication. (Rick Smardon)

Edward Ragan is a Visiting Assistant Professor, teaching American History. He taught with us on a temporary basis last year and did a wonderful job. (Rick Smardon)

Nasri Abdel-Aziz is a new math and calculus Instructor. (Chad Dawson)

Branislau Fialkouski is a forester and visiting scholar from Belarus. (Chad Dawson)

Executive Chair's Report (Scott Turner)

We welcome our new officers. Craig Davis is the new Chair of the Committee on Instruction, Chris Nowak is the new Chair of the Committee on Research, and Brenda Nordenstam is the new SU Senator.

Chancellor's Awards & Distinguished Professorships: Department Chairs have been asked to provide representatives to a nominating committee, which will also include students.

SU Proposal for a New Paradigm for Course Scheduling: (see discussion below)

Report of the ad hoc Committee on Professional Development is posted on the faculty governance web site, and we will discuss it later this year.

The report of the ad hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure has been posted for some time. In October we will vote on a sense of the faculty resolution on this matter.

The Budget Committee will introduce a faculty resolution for involvement in the budgeting process.

There is a new subcommittee of the Committee on Instruction to focus on issues relating to General Education.

Faculty evaluation of senior academic administrators

Status of the Faculty Forum: the web site for communication among the faculty about governance issues has not much been used. Scott will disconnect it later this month unless we protest.

Information items from the floor:

There is a petition for bike paths in Syracuse, which you can sign at the back of the room.

General Education Update (Scott Shannon)

We adopted a Gen Ed assessment plan for ESF in May 2002, and other SUNY campuses did the same. But in June 2003, the SUNY Board of Trustees approved a proposal by Trustee Candace DeReussy requiring system-wide assessment. The claim is that this does not preclude distributed assessment, but clearly it undermines it. The SUNY Senate was surprised, and has been working to make this resolution more palatable to faculties. Joe Hildreth, president of the SUNY Senate, has been negotiating with System Administration through the Office of the Provost to incorporate a number of potential "safeguards." If standardized tests are used, we want to ensure that they will not be used to penalize students or campuses, and there should be some faculty involvement. Implementation would be complete in 2006. Only aggregate

scores should be reported, and knowledge should be assessed relative to the various starting points of our students. The funding ramifications also need to be addressed.

We should make a strong and rational statement of our position. Resolutions have been passed at SUNY Albany and Potsdam. Scott will post a proposed SUNY-ESF Resolution on the web and we can vote on it at the next meeting.

Committee on Instruction (Craig Davis)

Members of the committee are Gary Scott, Jo Anne Ellis, Rick Smardon, Jose Fragoso, Eddie Bevilacqua, Karin Limburg, Kathleen Stribley, and four more to be named to the GenEd subcommittee from Chem, LA, ES, and FNRM.

The COI has three sub-committees: Academic Standards, Instructional Quality, and General Education (new this year).

Deadlines for Proposals are February 1 for curriculum proposals and March 1 for course proposals.

Committee on Research:

No report.

Committee on Public Service & Outreach (Rene Germain)

Agenda items this year include developing a more effective clearinghouse for scientific inquiries. The most popular link on the ESF web site is an old brochure on "why leaves change colors." We can have more impact by working with ...

The Spotlight on Outreach may be separated from the Spotlight on Research, and we will look at other ways to bring attention to outreach efforts.

Joining forces with the Environmental Challenge (Science fair for high school students) and ESF in the High School.

We also hope to promote Service Learning.

Agenda items this year include:

- (1) developing a more effective clearinghouse for scientific inquiries by building upon the "Environmental Information Series" and the "Improving your World" web sites,
- (2) working with the Research Committee on the Spotlight on Research and Outreach. Although the committee will encourage outreach posters, this year's focus will be on distributing and extending ESF research represented by the posters.
- (3) We will co-sponsor two programs from the Outreach Office, the Environmental Challenge (Science fair for high school students) and ESF in the High School.

President's Report (Neil Murphy)

Good News: We continue to make progress in the rankings by US News & World Report. We are solidly in the middle of the second tier, which hadn't previously been ranked. We have moved from 39th to 36th to 35th Best Public National University. From a recruiting standpoint, the best news is that we are the 39th Best Value National University. UC Berkeley was 40th!

EPA Compliance Audit. EFB, PSE, and CHEM had a significant number of laboratories that had to be brought into compliance before our EPA inspection on August 18-19. The lead auditor, who happened to be an ESF alum, said we were in "overall phenomenal shape." There were only 6 minor violations. Thank John Wasiel and Becky Corbin for their efforts over the last two years to put us in this position.

Recent Program Accreditations. Other good news includes accreditation of the Wood Science option of the BS in Wood Products Engineering by the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST) and the Engineering option of the PSE program by the Accrediting Board of Engineering Technology (ABET). Congratulate Gary Scott for this effort.

Undergraduate Recruiting and Admissions. Applications were up about 2%, acceptances up 5%, deposits up 11%, and enrollment is up 12% compared to last year (we have 460 new students). Thank the Admissions team and all who helped them.

The mean HS GPA is 89, where it has been for a long time; SAT is still at 1131. Under-represented groups are only 5.5%; out-of-state students are 13.5%, which is very high. International students are nearly 1%.

Transfer students have a mean GPA of 3.02. Under-represented groups are 8.3%; out-of-state students are 7.8%, and international students are 2%.

For 2004, we are looking for 1350 applications and 450 enrolled students. We can't go higher until we have residence space and Baker is renovated.

The Admissions Office will be reorganized to have Beth Minard in charge of recruiting first-year students and Tom Fletcher on transfer students.

Student Affairs has developed a program they call Evolutions: ESF's First Year Experience. We have 30 orientation leaders that have volunteered to be mentors. Alcohol and Drug Awareness is a focus; one student last year nearly lost his life as a result of injuries sustained as a result of a fall after excessive alcohol consumption.

Graduate Student enrollment: Our target was 100; we have 81 and they are still trickling in. The returning number (204) is inflated because it includes 13 students who started already this summer. Budgets constrain how many more we can take.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2003/04

The budget was not as bad as we expected, but no better than last year.

The proposal to involve faculty in the budgeting process is worthy but difficult to implement. This time, we didn't get our numbers from SUNY until July and we had only two weeks to provide a budget.

The budget for 2003/04 had a base allocation from SUNY of \$22 million (down \$1.9 million); tuition revenue was \$6.9 million (up \$1.7 million). Total projected revenue includes student services fees, graduate tuition waivers, and stabilization fund reserve, for a total of \$30.7 million, down only \$0.07 million from last year.

On the expense side, our regular personnel services is \$18.3 million, down because of retirements and conservative hiring, but this is offset by temporary appointments, temporary service, and graduate student stipends. Other expenses include graduate tuition waivers (\$924K), undergraduate financial aid (\$346K) and minority scholarships (\$40K). Accessory Instruction is expected to be about \$4.4 million, higher than last year because of a larger incoming class. Utilities are up about \$0.2 million from \$2.2 million last year.

Advertising is budgeted at \$50K. We have a contingency of \$358K, which protects us from a possible midyear cut of 2-5%. Stabilization fund commitments from last year are \$144K. Total \$30.7 million.

Strategic Planning Convocation on September 26, 1:30-2:30, Marshall Auditorium, followed by a reception 2:30 - 3:30, Alumni Lounge.

Old business

Dudley Raynal: The office of Multicultural Affairs has issued an announcement of the vacancy left by Carmen McCoy Harrison. John Turboville is operating the tutoring program. Contact him in 110 Bray Hall if you have students who need or could offer tutoring. Tutoring occurs in both private and group sessions. Tiffany Rush is our part-time Multicultural Advisor this fall, working 8-10 hours/week as an advocate for underrepresented students.

New business

There is a proposal to reschedule classes at SU, which we responded to last March. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to air their views at Forums today and on the 17th and 18th. Syracuse University has problems because their classes do not all follow the official class schedule, which causes problems for

student schedules and room scheduling. Leslie Rutkowsky and Ray Blaskeiweicz have already tried applying the new paradigm (with an alteration of the plan for Wednesday afternoons).

Don Floyd: This is part of a national movement to increase the proportion of classes that meet for 80 minutes as opposed to 50 minutes. SU Senate will vote on this but their vote is not binding on the administration. Brenda Nordenstam and Don Floyd are our Senators; the vote will take place on October 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.