

## **SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry**

### *Faculty Governance*

Meeting of the College Faculty

28 April 2004

140 Baker Labs

4 PM

### ***Refreshments courtesy of Friends of Moon Library***

Attending: L. P. Abrahamson\*, D. C. Allen\*, T. E. Amidon\*, M. A. Bennett, P. M. Caluwe\*, A. P. Chatterjee\*, D. J. Daley\*, C. P. Dawson\*, M. Driscoll, C. J. Davis\*; J. C. Ellis\*; K. J. Guerin, C. A. Hall\*, M. H. Hall\*, J. M. Hassett\*, J. P. Hassett\*, R. E. Hoffman\*, D. S. -Keller\*, M. S. Meisner\*, D. A. Morrison\*, C. B. Murphy\*, T. Nakagatsugawa\*, J. F. Palmer\*, L. J. Quackenbush, D. J. Raynal\*, R. M. Schuster\*, S. L. Senecah\*, W. M Shields\*, L. B. Smart\*, A. J. Stipanovic\*, K. J. Tiss, J. S. Turner\*, C. S. Webb, E. H. White\*, W. T. Winter, R. D. Yanai\*, L. Zhang\* (\*denotes voting status)

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

The minutes of the meeting of March 25th were approved as distributed.

### **Kudos**

**To: Scott Shannon** for his election to a three-year term as the Director of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Region Seven, and for his continuing service as SUNY Senator

**To: Bill Porter**, who recently received the Adirondack Park Agency Earth Day Award.

**To: Mike Bridgen**, who received the 2004 Earle R. Wilcox Memorial National Award for significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry.

**To: Susan Anagnost**, who was named Associate Editor of the International Association of Wood Anatomists Journal (IAWA journal).

**To: Bill Smith**, to whom the New England Kiln Drying Association presented the Bill Rice Achievement Award, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the lumber drying industry.

In addition, in my last meeting as Chair of the College Faculty, I want to thank the following individuals and committees for their fine service to Faculty Governance.

**To: René Germain**, who has served for two years as Chair of the Committee on Public Service and Outreach

**To: John View, Doug Morrison, Art Stipanovic, Lee Herrington, Dylan Parry, Bill Smith and Kim Adams**, for their two years service on the Committee on Public Service and Outreach

**To: Rick Smardon**, for his two-year service on the Committee on Instruction

**To: James Gibbs and Dave Johnson**, for their two years of service on the Committee on Research

**To: Don Floyd and Brenda Nordenstam**, for their service as SU Senators.

**To: Rudy Schuster and the members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Student Affairs:**

**To: Bill Shields, and the members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Promotion & Tenure**

**Elen Deming, and the members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Professional Development**

**To: Craig Davis and the members of the Committee on Instruction** for their continuing service to ESF's education mission

**To: Chris Nowak and the members of the Committee on Research** for their continuing service to ESF's research mission.

**To: Ruth Yanai, Allen Drew, Ross Jacobs, Angie Eddy and Liz Reif** for their service on the nominating committee for Chancellor's Awards

**To: Ray Francis** who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities

**To: Steve Stehman** who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

**To: Chris Westbrook** who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

**To: Guy Baldassarre** who was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor

#### **Information items from the floor**

Nominations for President's Awards for Quality of Worklife and Public/Community Service are due 30 April to Peter Marschall.

Graduate students need to have everything in by next Wednesday for graduation in May. (Marla Bennet)

#### **Friends of Moon Library: Steve Keller**

The Friends of Moon Library is a service organization established in 1986 to promote the cause of the F. Franklin Moon Library by stimulating awareness about the Library, giving visibility to its services, and augmenting current programs. The Friends' activities have included recognition of student workers, small grants for graduate student research, purchase of special library materials as well as recognition of campus authors, journal editors, and distinguished faculty members.

All faculty members are encouraged to join the organization. You can give more or less than the suggested annual membership fee of \$20.

#### **Committee on Instruction: Craig Davis**

- a. Curriculum Proposals:
  - i. Revision of the Forest Engineering undergraduate curriculum: passed.
  - ii. New AAS in Surveying Technology, which converts an existing concentration into a degree program: passed.
  - iii. Revision of the BLA curriculum, which adds two new courses, revises 14 courses, and reduces the hours required for degree completion from 160 to 150 (this is a 5-year program): passed.
- b. New or Revised Courses:
  - i. ERE 296 Special Topics in Engineering: passed.  
The following two courses are related to the changes in the new AAS degree program at the Ranger School.
  - ii. FTC 223 Introduction to Water Resources:
  - iii. FTC 259 Introduction to Computer Aided Drafting and Design  
Both courses passed.
- c. The BLA changes involved three new courses and many revisions to existing courses. Some are changes to prefix or title, some are more significant. All of the following were passed.
  - iv. LSA 205 Art, Culture, And Landscape I
  - v. LSA 206 Art, Culture, And Landscape II
  - vi. LSA 226 Foundation Design Studio I
  - vii. LSA 227 Foundation Design Studio II
  - viii. LSA 300 Computer Graphics I
  - ix. LSA 301 Computer Graphics II
  - x. LSA 326 Landscape Architectural Design Studio I
  - xi. LSA 327 Landscape Architectural Design Studio II
  - xii. LSA 405 History of Landscape Architecture
  - xiii. LSA 422 Landscape Architectural Design Studio III
  - xiv. LSA 423 Landscape Architectural Design Studio IV
  - xv. LSA 424 Preparation For Off-Campus Design Thesis
  - xvi. LSA 425 Orientation For Off-Campus Design Thesis
  - xvii. LSA 460 Off-Campus Design Thesis Studio

- xviii. LSA 461 Off-Campus Final Presentation Seminar
  - xix. LSA 470 Thematic Landscape Design Studio
  - xx. LSA 496 Special Topics In Landscape Architecture
  - xxi. LSA 500 Computer Graphics I
  - xxii. LSA 501 Computer Graphics II
  - xxiii. LSA 510 Creative Problem-Solving Seminar
  - xxiv. LSA 605 History Of Landscape Architecture
  - xxv. LSA 670 Thematic Landscape Design Studio
  - xxvi. LSA 696 Special Topics In Landscape Architecture
- d. Proposal for Part-time Graduate Study  
 This proposal was discussed at an earlier faculty meeting and was sent back to the committee. The current proposal applies only to MPS and MF students. Faculties are encouraged to develop proposals to include other categories of students.  
 Discussion: We do have part-time students in other degree programs. They were not initially accepted as part-time students. There is nothing to prohibit students from going part-time after they matriculate. The proposal should probably say that the steering committee consists of the major professor and "at least" one other person. The main benefit of this policy is that students would get some advising, rather than taking continuing education courses and matriculating later.  
 The proposal passed.
- e. Proposals for 2004-05  
 For next year, there are already 12 course proposals, 2 proposals dealing with minors, 1 curriculum revision proposal, and 1 graduate certificate proposal.
- f. Update on Web access to COI proposals  
 Sometime this summer, all COI proposals will be available on the internet through the secure faculty website.

**The Faculty Governance Officers Election:** Scott Turner

This year, we conducted an election as specified by our by-laws, although we had failed to find candidates for most of the positions. Of 142 ballots sent out, 29 were returned, of which 27 were valid. There were also a variety of write-in candidates.

- For the office of Executive Chair, six write-in candidates received one vote each.
- For the position of Chair of Committee on Public Service and Outreach, three write-in candidates emerged. Two received two votes each, and the third received one vote.
- For the position of Acting SU Senator, there were three write-in candidates that received one vote each.
- For the position of SU Senator Alternate, there were two write-in candidates that received one vote each.
- For the three open positions of At-large representative, there were two named candidates on the ballot, each of whom received virtually unanimous votes of the ballots received, and three write-in candidates that received one vote each.

Scott followed up with the write-in candidates, because Larry Abrahamson was away. The write-in names were not submitted with the nominees' permission, rendering those write-in votes invalid. Some did agree to serve if elected in a runoff election. Some have yet to respond, including Scott Turner, one of the write-in candidates for Executive Chair.

The Executive Committee put up the following three resolutions for discussion.

**A Resolution to Affirm the Results of the Faculty Governance Election of April 2004**  
**Be it resolved:**

The ESF Faculty affirm the outcome of the April 2004 election of Faculty Governance Officers.

**A Resolution for Expedited Appointment to Vacant Positions on the ESF Faculty Governance Executive Committee**

**Whereas**

... the Faculty of ESF has determined that the recent election for faculty governance failed to provide clear indication of the faculty's preference for its officers

... as a result, there will be several vacant posts in Faculty Governance

... it would be a detriment to the interests of the Faculty to leave these posts vacant until they can be filled according to procedures in the By-Laws

**Be it resolved:**

The ESF Faculty authorize the Faculty Governance Executive Committee to expedite appointment of officers to vacant posts, with approval of their choices to be sought at the first faculty meeting of the 2004-2005 academic year.

**A Resolution for Establishing a Plenary Committee on Campus Governance**

**Whereas:**

Governance at ESF is in need of a critical assessment by the entire campus community

**Be it resolved:**

The Executive Committee empanel a Plenary Committee on Campus Governance, to be composed of members drawn from faculty, professional staff, administration and the student body, and that will be charged with undertaking a critical assessment of campus governance, with recommendations to be brought before the faculty in Spring 2005.

Discussion:

Chad Dawson: Could the current Executive Committee propose a revised governance structure for us to vote on?

Scott Turner: We would like a more inclusive process.

Sue Senecah: All kinds of agency officials fail to engage public participation, and incorrectly conclude that people don't care. Alternatively, we might explain a lack of participation in governance by people's impression that their participation would make a difference. There are cultural issues on this campus, such as our fear of confrontation. Similar issues may explain lack of faculty involvement in other areas.

Scott Turner: It's not that we think there is a lack of public spiritedness, but whether there is a better way to harness it.

Charlie Hall: A lot of things have changed in my 16 years here. We used to have state funds to support our research; our state funding has gone from 70% to 30%. I am teaching twice what my contract is for, and this seems more important than faculty governance. We want to have power for important things when we need it.

Dudley Raynal gave many examples of effective actions of faculty governance on our campus this academic year. It's not true that we need to restructure governance.

Scott Turner: Yes, a lot of people are doing a lot of hard work and they deserve all our praise.

Ruth Yanai: We can't say that it's not broken, when we don't have anyone willing to serve.

Doug Daley: Would it help us to discuss the resolutions on the floor one by one? [No, Scott wants to discuss them as a group.] The first one says that the process we followed was appropriate, and you want us to vote this down? [No, it's about the outcome of the election: do we accept the outcome?]

Tom Amidon: The problem is not the structure of governance, but the substance. It has to be significant for people to see the importance and dig in and do the work. They do that on the committees and the subcommittees. Perhaps we need to address the workload.

Chad Dawson: Why don't we affirm the positive outcomes of our election?

Neil Murphy: The proposal is to fill out a slate, with our willing write-in candidates, such that people could vote on the slate in September. Then the new slate of officers would appoint the

committee to review faculty governance. With all these burdens on people, do we allocate enough time to allow those who participate to do their jobs? The committee would need to look at whether changes like this could make the jobs more attractive.

Bill Shields: If we accept the election as valid, we have a bunch of empty positions.

Doug Daley: Why is it so important to have candidates before August? We don't need to violate our by-laws. The Executive Committee has to provide a slate for us either way.

Craig Davis: I recommend approving Resolution 1. Our bylaws do cover this situation. It's true that we don't like the outcome of the election, but that happens.

Bill Shields: Is any part of our election valid, when only 29 people voted?

Scott Turner moved for Resolution 1.

Ted Dibble: If we affirm this resolution, the Executive Committee could still empanel the committee we need, before they leave office on July 1.

Doug Daley: It's not clear whether we have a slate, because we need to know who the write-ins are that agreed to serve. [Scott Turner would not say whether or not he would agree to serve; he wanted to make his decision contingent on the outcome of this meeting.]

Chad Dawson called the question.

The resolution was accepted.

Note: Your Secretary failed to capture some contributions to the discussion, especially where she was involved as a participant, as in reading the outcome of the election when it was pointed out that the faculty didn't know whether there were zero, one, or more viable write-in candidates, and when it was pointed out that in the absence of an Executive Chair, the Secretary is required by the by-laws to fill that position. Sorry; maybe as Chair I'll appoint a better Secretary!

**President's report:** Neil Murphy

I want to congratulate Israel Cabasso, who recently was awarded a competitive grant on hydrogen storage in activated carbon by the U.S. Department of Energy.

I won't put up my slides on faculty governance. I want to recognize the accomplishments of this year, without repeating Dudley Raynal's list.

Everyone was engaged in the revision of curricula and programs; thanks are due to Faculty Chairs, the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies and the Committee on Instruction

We have a balanced operating budget. Support from the state was about 95% when Ross Whaley took the job, it's 45% now. It has been a difficult year from the financial standpoint, but we got through it with everyone's help.

Our freshmen are giving us rave reviews, thanks to the Freshman Evolutions Program to Enhance 1st Year Retention.

We have increased our Backlog of Research, which is our unspent new awards.

We have completed the concept design for the renovation of Baker Laboratory.

The endowment of our College Foundation increased to \$10.4 million, up from \$7.4 million a year ago. We're ahead of our track to achieve the 2020 objective of \$100 million.

Our graduating students have a mean GPA of 2.9%, and 55% have received honors.

Federal appropriations directed to the College in FY 2004 totaled \$2.85 million, up significantly over FY 3003.

Extramural funds will be used to upgrade the Thousand Islands Biological Station and Huntington Forest, for a total of \$550K.

The first round of NYSTAR funding has been acquired, and about \$0.5 million spent.

Recruitment of the fall class: We expect to achieve our goals of 450 undergraduate and 100 graduate students, with a 5% increase in quality over last year.

We initiated five faculty searches and a search for Provost.

We are expanding ESF in the High School to Rochester, Rome, and Oswego.

Our rankings continue to increase: we are 49th best value of doctoral granting institutions. Thank you Maureen Fellows and all of you who give us this distinction.

We initiated training programs for supervisors, thanks to Human Resources.

We initiated a Presidential Scholars Program for undergraduates.

We began a more formalized recruitment program and accepted student reception for graduate students.

We have two cooperative programs with Upstate Medical University: the MD/Ph.D. Program in Environmental Medicine and the Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

The EnSpire program, jointly sponsored by ESF and SU, has supported several research initiatives involving faculty from both campuses.

We are going to have a 250 KW fuel cell system within the next 9 months, as part of the SUNY Center for Sustainable and Renewable Energy.

As for faculty governance, I do have concerns about faculty engagement. We rarely have a quorum at faculty meetings. We have to find the energy for people to be here.

List of accomplishments:

Substantial Program and Curriculum Updates

Analysis of the Impediments to Research at ESF

Discussion of Promotion and Tenure Policies

Organization of Spotlight on Research

Initiation of Dialogue on Graduate Education at ESF

Symposium on Teaching and Learning

Review of Value Added General Education Assessment

Do we need to provide release from teaching? We need you to develop recommendations for us. We need to review the by-laws, the committee structure, and the need for incentives or rewards.

I think this has been a very positive year. I'm proud of every one of you and what you've done, and I don't want you to leave on a negative note. Have a great summer.

### **Old business**

Israel Cabasso: This month in Academe is the annual report of the American Association of American Professors. It's about 75 pages of all the universities in the United States, from doctoral granting institutions on down. We are the lowest paid faculty of all the doctoral granting institutions in the United States. This is especially remarkable considering that we are almost all scientists and engineers.

Discussion: You can read this report on line at the UUP web site.

**New business:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.