

# Meeting of the ESF Faculty

December 9th, 2004

Moon Library Conference Room

Attending: Marla Bennett, Eddie Bevilacqua, Peter Black, Greg Boyer, Craig Davis, Ted Dibble, Allan Drew, Elizabeth Elkins, Danilo Fernando, Leah Flynn, Rene Germain, Lynda Hanrahan, James Hassett, Richard Hawks, Diane Kuehn, Charles Maynard, Mark Meisner, Jim Nakas, James Palmer, Dudley Raynal, Neil Ringler, Rudy Schuster, Scott Shannon, Yongwei Sheng, Rick Smardon, Larry Smart, Leonard Smith, Chuck Spuches, Arthur Stipanovich, Suzy Tankersley, Ken Tiss, William Tully, John Turbeville, Maureen Wakefield, John Wasiel, Ed White, Ruth Yanai.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 by Scott Shannon.

The **minutes** of the November 4th meeting 2004 were approved as posted.

## **Announcements**

Leah Flynn, advisor to the Undergraduate Student Association, announced the TGIOver party in Nifkin Lounge after this meeting. Faculty are always welcome to attend USA TGIFs; this one is conveniently timed. We would love to see you there.

## **Report of the Executive Chair** (Scott Shannon)

A reporter from the Albany Newspapers (at the apparent prompting of SUNY Trustee Candace DeReussy) has filed under the Freedom of Information Act for test scores across the SUNY campuses that could be used to assess General Education outcomes. This is in direct contradiction with the Campus-Based Assessment agreements reached between the SUNY Senate and the SUNY administration last year. Many campuses are angry, and there is cause to be concerned that the results will be used to compare schools out of context. Our campus uses few nationally normed tests, and general education is not that central to our mission. Our students have taken the ACT "critical thinking" exam and scored well compared to the national norm; we have little to worry about.

## **Report of the Committee on Instruction** (Craig Davis)

Announcements: A representative from ProQuest will make a presentation on Electronic Theses and Dissertations on February 8, 2005, 11-12:20 and 2:25-3:45, Moon Conference Room.

Grades are due Wednesday, December 22.

Course actions: comments were received and addressed and the following course proposals are recommended by the committee. The motion was carried with none opposed.

- o APM 104 College Algebra and Pre-Calculus
- o EST 201 American History: Reconstruction to Present
- o EST 426 Concepts in Sustainable Development
- o ENS 626 Concepts in Sustainable Development

Seven courses were proposed for dropping; they have not been taught in the last 3 to 9 years. The motion was carried with none opposed.

- o CMN 380 Technical Drawing I
- o CMN 521 Communication for Design and Planning Professions
- o CMN 531 Environmental Communications
- o ENS 602 Environmental Decision Making
- o ENS 631 Uncertainty and Environmental Assessment
- o EST 300 Introduction to Environmental Studies
- o EST 311 Natural Processes in Planning and Design

A proposal for a new graduate certificate: Advanced Certificate in Advanced Engineering Tools was also approved with none opposed.

**President's Report** (Neil Murphy)

We have been operating under Mission Review I, a memorandum of understanding that outlines SUNY's expectations of us and our aspirations. We are working towards a new MOU, Mission Review II, which will apply from 2005 to 2010. We submitted a draft document on November 12th, with the expectation that we would be modifying it in a series of negotiations with the SUNY Provost's office beginning next spring and continuing through next fall if necessary.

Mission Review I was driven for growth of students, undergraduate and graduate, and growth of research. The next 5 years, we will focus on improving quality, which is a change in emphasis.

Mission Review II has to address 8 categories; we added the 9th.

*1. Enrollment/Admissions*

We met the 15% growth targeted in Mission Review I. We project a lower rate, about 1.5% per year, for 2005-2010, for both undergraduate and graduate students. International students will be 25% of these graduate students. We aim to increase non-degree students at 5%/year; we have programs for them, and they demand less of our resources.

We hope to continue to increase the out-of-state student pool by 10% over Mission Review I. We will maintain a 50-50 ratio of female to male students for our freshmen; transfer students tend to be 70-30 male-female. We want more students from culturally underrepresented populations. We want our students to be more academically talented. We had 75% Group 1 and 2 students entering ESF this year; we hope to achieve 80% by 2010 and 90% by 2020.

## *2. Faculty*

We plan to increase full-time faculty by 30 positions (27%) by 2010; 14 of them to fill positions lost due to financial considerations, 8 supported by extramurally raised funds, and 8 funded by SUNY. This is more ambitious than the assumption of constant resources. So far, we have one endowed chair soon to be announced in LA, one that we're working on in Forest Engineering, and another to be bequeathed. The objective is for each faculty to ultimately have at least 1 endowed position. Faculty diversity will also be enhanced.

Research conducted by ESF faculty will be about \$12 million this year and is projected to be \$16 million by 2010. This target is lower than the sum of individual faculty projections. The Spring 2002 HERI Survey of faculty has been included in the Mission Review II document.

## *3. Academic Program Directions*

**Undergraduate Programs:** We currently have the 4th highest graduation rate in SUNY; our goal is to be the highest, at 80%. Among other goals, we also want to increase to 80% the admission of freshmen from Tier 1 and 2.

**Graduate Programs:** We have 4 multi-disciplinary cross-cutting intellectual themes.

We want 5 of our academic programs to be ranked in the top 5 of their kind nationally.

It is the aspiration of our combined faculties to increase the graduate student population by 25%.

Professional programs include the MLA, MF, and MPS degrees; a Masters of Engineering is under development.

Our international programs need a 1/2-time administrator and programmatic funding.

#### *4. Student Outcomes*

Our undergraduate 6-year graduation rate is 71%, compared to a SUNY average of 58% and a national average of 43%. We aim to have the highest graduation rate in SUNY (85%) by 2020.

We exceeded 80% retention of freshmen and sophomores.

We have goals for post-graduation success.

Student Life: 75% of students are engaged in service learning.

We were ranked 1st among the SUNY doctoral institutions on 58 of 102 items in the SOS.

#### *5. Technology*

Instructional: Begin on-line offerings in Fall 2005, and bring wireless capability to the library. Enroll 500 distance-learning students by 2010.

Informational Technology: We need \$7 million to support our requirements over the next 5 years, of which \$0.5 million/year will need to come from outside sources.

There are significant Opportunities for Resource Sharing (with SU and UMU).

#### *6. Facilities*

Overall campus facilities planning includes Baker Laboratory Phase III renovation.

Educational Facilities: We need another building as "surge space" before renovating Illick. We need a student center. The Biotechnology Research Center is approaching reality. We need additional parking space, expanded dining facilities, and conference facilities.

Energy: 250 KW Molten Carbonate Fuel Cell

Residence: Dedicated ESF housing through ESF College Foundation LLC.

#### *7. Administrative Structure and Resources Management*

Search for a Vice President for Marketing and External Relations.

We have \$12 million in the College Foundation, with the goal of increasing the endowment to \$100 million.

8. *Community Relations and Service*

9. *Overall Institutional Reputation*

The full report is 49 pages and has been distributed electronically to all of you.

**Discussion:**

Marla Bennett asked about international programs, thinking that this point pertained to our students coming from overseas. A: The position to support international study and research would take some of the burden from our faculty who organize international study for our students; funding could also be improved.

Larry Smart has a student in the SU study abroad program, which is very expensive for us, because of accessory instruction. Bill Tully: We should have their students participating in our international programs, and call the tuition a wash.

Rick Smardon: We can't aim to grow when SUNY is promising no new resources. A: Our approach is to educate them about our aspirations and let them know what we need. We don't want to work within their stated constraints; they don't know the future any better than we do. 17% of state revenues come from Wall Street, so our resources are very dependent on the stock market. There should be discretionary resources available sometime after 2006. We also expect that the budget allocation model could reflect quality measures, so we could get an increment when other institutions do not.

Neil Ringler: There is more detail on undergraduate programs than graduate and research programs. A: Yes, it would be helpful to add detail in those areas; please contribute your ideas to Ed White.

Betsy Elkins: What does it mean that this is a draft document and whose court is it in now? A: It's in SUNY's court, Ann Hewitt has acknowledged it and offered that the review team can come whenever we like after the 1st of the year. We said we weren't in any hurry.

Scott Shannon: Assuming we reach an understanding, what will the metrics be that determine whether we get what we're promised from SUNY? A: We met about 80 or 85% of our targets from Mission Review 1. SUNY didn't do as well with us. As we negotiate, they will be putting in obligations to us to improve our programs, we will be putting in resource requirements to meet those aspirations.

Greg Boyer: Will we be growing support personnel along with faculty? What about the cleaning staff, the technical staff? A: We don't address that, except for some administrative support. Tully: We collected that information, but SUNY didn't ask us for it. We could add it, rather than assuming that we would add support positions commensurate with our faculty positions.

Larry Smart: Israel Cabasso has drawn attention to faculty salaries. A: This issue is addressed in our Strategic Plan: we want to be in the top 10% of publicly supported universities. It's not in our Mission Review. We have improved somewhat since Israel made his report. But we have to balance our compensation to existing staff with our need to add and replace positions.

Jim Palmer: We need to improve our graduate student stipends if we want to compete for the best students. A: We did have money for "toppers" in Mission Review 1. Dudley Raynal is looking at the graduate programs as a whole and proposed a \$50K incremental fund to improve stipends. Bill Tully: We have received 3 years of topper support as a result of a proposal developed and supported by SUNY. Neil Murphy: We have students who are funded directly by agencies such as NSF, we would like to have more of that support. Tully: Three units have raised endowed funds for this purpose.

**Old Business** (None)

**New Business** (Jim Hassett)

I would like to introduce our new colleague, **Junwae Feng**, who comes to us from UC Berkeley and UCLA. **Junwae** will teach photogrammetry this spring, which brings us up to 5.9 FTE faculty in our unit.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Ruth Yanai