

Academic Governance
November 18, 2015

In attendance:

Faculty: Neal Abrams, Eddie Bevilacqua, Mary Bryant, Jessica Clemons, Jonathan Cohen, Mary Collins, Janine Debase, Ted Dibble, Mark Driscoll, Joanne Ellis, Ted Endreny, Shannon Farrell, John Hassett, Richard Hawks, Robin Hoffman, Ivan Ivanov, Dawnelle Jager, Doug Johnston, David Kieber, Valerie Luzadis, Huiting Mao, Greg McGee, Robert Meyer, Sharon Moran, Doug Morrison, Ruth Owens, Lindi Quackenbush, Dayton Reuter, Gary Scott, Bill Smith, David Sonnenfeld, Art Stipanovic, Mark Teece, Kenneth Tiss, Scot Turner, Sarah Vonhoff, Chris Whipps, Benette Whitmore

Professional Staff: Caroline Bailey, Rick Beal, Scott Blair, Brian Boothroyd, Marlene Braun, Debbie Caviness, Laura Crandall, Casey Duffy, Claire Dunn, Terry Ettinger, Tom Fletcher, Kevin Guerin, Mark Hill, Mike Kelleher, Aaron Knight, Michele McNeill, Karen Moore, Mary Triano, John Turbeville, Suzette Vandeburg, John View, Heidi Webb

Management Confidential: Quentin Wheeler, Bob French, Bruce Bongarten, Maureen Fellows, Mark Lichtenstein, Anne Lombard, Neil Ringler, Tom LeRoy

Students: Ben Taylor, Denali Trimble, Erika Sykes, Tyler Shields, Sam McVey, Makayla Comas, Margaret Foley, Jordan C'Dealva-Lenik, Emily Arctruc, Sasha Batosky, Terrance Caviness, Scot Bergey, Eugene Law

1. Opening Remarks/Minutes/Announcements (Donaghy)

Overview of diversity issues – There is currently a Stand-In happening on the ESF quad.

Read the Baobab Society statement:

We members of The Baobab Society and our supporters are standing in solidarity with the students at University of Missouri, Ithaca, Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth, UCONN, and other universities. We recognize these series of events that have happened on these campuses in terms of racial tension. ESF has had its own racial issues and it has not been addressed. There are cases of cultural appropriation, derogatory terms, prejudice, and inappropriate statements made by faculty and students alike. It is time for this university to take ownership of these problems and do better to make this campus safe mentally, physically, and emotionally for all. Our demands for begin with the following:

- *Better programming for incoming students that relate to diversity inclusion topics.*
- *Improving campus to make it more accessible for persons with disabilities (parapelegic, deaf, blind, mute, etc.).*
- *Required diversity training for faculty and student leaders to improve communication skills at ESF. Faculty and students alike have said inappropriate statements involving students of different backgrounds and these incidents go unaddressed. This school should be educated on how to appropriately and effectively convey ideas without offending or degrading others.*
- *Increasing outreach to minority students and international. There are many organizations and programs across this country geared towards international students and students of color in stem related fields. Utilize these programs as a way to reach out to these students.*

There are many other problems that this campus has that should be addressed, but we're starting here.

Whitehouse Climate Change Statement for ESF is under development and will be available for us to read and support.

Read last lines of ESF Pledge to acknowledge we are on Native lands.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee - Meet on Monday and there's a lot going today. Met 4 times. 9/15 draft is set aside, but this does not mean it won't be used at some point. They will use Vision 20/20 as a launching off point. Using Google Docs to pull this all together. Considering adding members, Chuck Spuches, and will be asking Neil Ringer and Scot Shannon as well. They've developed a timeline (see PPT). Items in red are where they want to engage the larger campus. Reserve and hold open college hours on 3/23 and 4/20 for strategic planning.

Sue – mention why they are adding... holes in expertise (science in the community and the graduate experience). Art – partnerships (especially research-based).

3rd Party Consultation - partnership with ESF, SUNY system, and University Faculty Senate. Met with Core Team for 4.5 hrs. Overview of timeline. 3 consulting firms were brought forward and core team considered them. Core team formed. Sears & Associates were engaged. Met with them 11/17. They are a 3 person team and bring a lot of experience and expertise. Phase 1 will start soon. An ESF project team will be formed with 2 admin, 2 faculty, 2 staff, 2 students, and 2 CEAS representatives. On site interviews will start on Friday. From there, they will interview and engage the entire campus based on what is organically generated from the first rounds of discussions. Not focusing strictly on problems, but also on opportunities.

Ben – what was the consideration for restricting the #s

Val – Statement about diversity and wanted to ask if it's appropriate to make a response.

K - Yes – new business.

Scot T. – danger that a small group will recommend like-minded individuals.

K – there are no guarantees – that's the job of the consultants – this is not intended to be an all survey, but for them to figure out how to move forward.

Denali – concerned over the fact that with the small group steering committee for the strategic plan, admin will be dominant.

Chuck – was a part of the 20/20 plan and feels admin was added to bring expertise to the committee that was lacking. He's not at the table because of his admin rank.

Bob – there were student reps at the table and they did not bring up concerns that this was an issue.

Mark – who is the core group?

K – Richard Hawks (25 yr chair and on EC), Melissa (EC secretary), Kelley (AG Chair), Quentin, Valerie, Mark L., Elizabeth Bringsjord, SUNY Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Pete Kneiffer, UFS President.

Art – update on the Provost search?

K – it was her understanding that the search was moving forward, but at the next meeting

Q – the search is advancing in determining the committee and writing the job description, he worries that it would be good to have a strategic plan in place to guide the search. With the idea that we'll have this by May, he would like to put off the search until that comes out.

Art – who should ideas be sent to for this?

Q – send to him.

Q – he did say earlier that it would be decoupled, but upon further thought, it seems to be the best way to go.

2. Applied Learning Initiatives (John Turbeville)

Applied learning is the same as experiential education – focus on the application of learning to a particular audience. Increases persistence, employment, and educating a global citizenry.

Conference held in Syracuse. Reviewed definitions and made commitments.

The grand vision is that all students will have an opportunity to engage in experiential learning by graduation. Three pieces: SUNY Works, SUNY Serves, & SUNY Discovers.

Each campus must create an Applied Learning Plan by particular due dates.

Art – any talk about expanding #s of credits student have to take?

J – he thinks we have a shot at doing this well in a vast majority of the programs, however, there may have to be adjustments within particular programs.

Gary – would capstone projects and honors programs fall into this?

J – yes, the coordinators would need to make sure they do. Counting labs was brought up, but they don't count – it must be an application of something they've learned. We will be the validators of what works.

Makayla – challenge to make activities outside of ESF norms (forestry/biology), to include social sciences. Also, to address how they can be offered to students that are disabled.

J - agrees and expects that we can work to making both of these happen. We may have to work at it a little harder, but it can happen. Given the broad opportunities that every student would be able to have options.

3. Schedule Reset Update (Bruce Bongarten)

Check out the slides on the AG website...

Leading plan with a group of people. Draft is completed and will be shared soon.

Leslie, Scott, and Bruce discussed and chose to mimic SU schedule to jumpstart process. They hope to minimize conflicts for students. Ex: Can enforce prerequisites: schedule the courses at the same time. They also tried to keep lecture length the same as current practices so faculty don't have to adjust the length of their lectures. Some of the considerations for courses taught by adjuncts included that they only be able to teach at night due to other work schedules. Draft has only a schedule, it does not have rooms so that teaching habits and instructional needs can be addressed. When draft released, need people to review to catch conflicts and provide other input.

Timeline: end of January for final draft

Leslie jumped in with clarification on 80 min or 55 min class MWF or WF starting at 8 am or 8:25, MWF in the afternoon goes to 55 min

Doug – are we running out of time?

KD we are over anyway

Bongarten continued - college hour – try to avoid an “offset” problem, today is a good example that 55 min isn't enough. Only about 2-3 courses a semester would be added to the 8am timeframe to accommodate two periods.

Ben Taylor- how will the college hour be enforced? That doesn't happen now.

BB – nothing will be scheduled

BT - Nothing scheduled?

BB - Nothing

Laura Crandall - Some question about physics labs in conflict?

BB – responded that they wouldn't be a problem

Bob French – Can you put the grid back up? Concerned about # of labs in afternoon – how many from 5-620

BB – mostly classes by adjuncts

LR – some labs are scheduled from 5-8

J. Debaise – I like having two labs twice a week

Jordon – when is this happening

BB – responded – (didn't catch the timeline – it was in the slides though)

4. UFS Meeting Report and Resolutions (Donaghy)

Post-Plenary Report is available at: <http://www.esf.edu/facgov/meetings.htm>

Old Business

- Resolution on Academic Freedom
- Resolution Requesting Modification of Family Medical Leave Policy
- Resolution on Changes to the Policies of the Board of Trustees with respect to Officers of UFS
- Graduate Student Bill of Rights (not an action item)
 - Resolution from GSA available at: <http://www.esf.edu/facgov/meetings.htm>

New Business

President reads a statement about the Stand In:

On quad with students, that's why I'm late. Students protesting unwelcoming campus and we want a welcoming campus. Trying to schedule a meeting to correct this problem – as early as Fri. Working with SUNY for new position to help with diversity. We need to engage with society as a whole and all of society has the opportunity and responsibility to protect environment therefore we all need to be involved – what can be done, what should be done, we need everyone's help for addressing the students concerns.

Grad student resolution

BT motioned

Seconded by Searing

Passed unanimously

