



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

Academic Governance Meeting Minutes 9/19/2017

In attendance

Faculty: Neal Abrams, Tom Amidon, Gregory Boyer, Douglas Daley, Janine DeBaise, Theodore Dibble, Klaus Doelle, Kelley Donaghy, Martin Dovciak, Mark Driscoll, Joanne Ellis, Nosa Egibor, John Hassett, Doug Johnston, Bob Meyer, Douglas Morrison, Andrea Parker, Roxanne Razavi, Neil Ringler, Theresa Selfa, Scott Shannon, David Sonnenfeld, Mark Teece, Mary Thompson, Ruth Yanai

AG Staff: Ray Appleby, Christopher Baycura, Brian Boothroyd, Anthony Chefelo, Casey Duffy, Claire Dunn, Heather Engelman, Sophie Gublo-Jantzen, Christopher Maroney, Karen Moore, Joe Pagcaliwagan, Susan Sanford, Katherina Searing, Mark Storrings, Mary Triano, Heidi Webb

Student Reps: **GSA** - Ryan Scheel, Jenny Frank, Rez Manderino, Taylor Patterson
USA - Ben Taylor, Gabrielle Donnelly, Richard Monaco

Guests and MC – Quentin Wheeler, Malika Carter, Joe Rufo, Nosa Egiebor, John Turbeville, Paul Otteson, Jeffrey Freloz

The meeting was called to order at 11:06

Minutes of May 11 and Sept 19th were approved.

Housekeeping – Microphones will be brought around to speakers, please wait until they arrive to speak.

New Employees were introduced: No new employees introduced this meeting.

President's Comments – Dr Wheeler

- Thank you to Paul Otteson for college website revisions, notably improving the sustainability attributes clarity. This strengthens the SUNY showcase of sustainability profile for ESF.
- Commended Malika's efforts and diligence to increase diversity at ESF.
- Met with Admissions seeking to improve the profile of our undergraduate and graduate programs.
- We are hiring in our development office to increase fundraising.
- Significant effort going in to increasing our national visibility.
- The sustainability summit at ESF was an exciting event with the new SUNY Chancellor as the keynote speaker.
- Working with SU Chancellor to grow the future for both institutions.
- Financial Aid and potential changes are an ongoing discussion.
- Storytelling remains an important and valuable connection to Planet Forward. ESF might grow to become a branch of that effort.
- Quentin and Nosa met with Senator Schumer and staff pursuing funding for Lime Disease and N. Properties use as long term environmental observatory.
- Tuition, we are having a narrative problem. We are already an 83% cut in tuition cost as we are SUNY. We need to tell people what the actual sticker price is.
- Creating an Asimov scholarship (\$1,000) to first year students in respect for the prolific writer's dedication to productivity his craft.



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- Working with SUNY Chancellor to emphasize the uniqueness of ESF to enhance the ability to obtain needed capital investments.
- ARB is still in the que, but near term focus is on renovating, so we will focus on renovating labs in Illick and then pursue funds for renovating Marshall.
- We could move significantly towards a fully sustainable campus easier than others as we have (only) 7 buildings on campus.

Question from the floor:

- Is moving ARB to the previous site back under consideration? Answer – Not, too much money spent and, though uncertain, an exchange arrangement for the old site is still under discussion with some hurdles remaining.
- A question was asked relative to rite sizing the student body? Answer – There will be a chicken and egg type of problem as we will need to grow faculty and staff as/if we grow the student body.
- A question about: How are faculty engaged in the discussion of growth, including faculty and staff needs? Answer – These are early growth discussions among staff.

Additional comments from the floor:

Note that both people and space are needed for growth and encourage early engagement of faculty to have a more thorough understanding of needs.

Advising – Ben Taylor A discussion from the student’s perspective:

- Thank you for dedication of many advisors.
- Student moral is very high and positive in many ways.
- A discussion of NNSE data showed some need for advisor availability and for students to be closely listened to. Some issues with a greater need to talk about careers and overall academic progress.
- Parsing the resolution currently on the books: What is a great advisor: connects the students with resources and knows the answers to student questions. Office times – when, how prepared, advice clear, listening, know what you hope to get. Need to work with students to see they are prepared and with faculty to ensure they are ready for a good consultation working together.
- Doelle comment – Advising is more than advising week. Prepare for career issues in addition to academic. The pink sheets with suggestions on advising developed last year are available on the back table help, please pick one up. This will also be emailed to faculty.

Committee Reports – None offered.

ESF Web site – Paul Otteson:

- Gave a quick tour of the new website, which has been launched. It is and will remain, unfinished. There will be continuous additions, upgrades, bug fixes, etc.
- The design motivators were newness with a mobile heart to become more accessible, including to mobile devices. Intent to attract membership, to become more of a thing people want to connect to.



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- Standardize on ESFR turn of phrase, example NY Global Environmental College.
- 5 thematic gateways to make entering more friendly. Home page is a stack of things of interest, scrolling news stories with content behind, for example the Asimov scholarship scroll has information behind it. Sustainability and rankings is a stack of modules which will change. Transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary are connected to faculty and what they are and to students they are marketing what we do (this part is coming along, part of the work in progress).
- The landing pages have a similar look and feel to the past with both large and small content. Start with a full width image and then dive deeper. The home page is and umbrella leading to the landing pages with content mostly as current.
- Menu on all pages stays at the top to allow easy jumps.
- Question from the floor: What was the emphasis on dropping SUNY from? Answer – Doctoral granting have mostly done so.
- A question was asked on how to refer to freshman or first year students who may not be freshman? A larger conversation is probably needed on this question.
- A question on: Will it be communicated how the references change, logos, title of the college and how to refer to it in scholarly publications? There is a uniformity opportunity. Answer – There is a style manual in the works and not all decisions have yet been made. This should address the uniformity need.
- A logo and business card question, a desire for reworking these from some? Style manual may help this.
- A question was asked about the internal use of our website. Answer – Navigation improvement may help the internal uses by speeding up the experience and ability to get the information the user wants.
- There were comments about the difference between new and current students on the main menu and a suggestion that a new seal may need a trademark.

SEFA – Karen Moore and Wendy Osborne:

SEFA is starting tomorrow with taste of ESF. Last year raised 30K and has a goal of 35K this year. The number of raffles and events involved were explained and ended with a quote from Maya Angelou: People don't forget when they are helped.

Adjourned at 1:14

Draft Submitted by Tom Amidon, Acting Secretary Academic Governance