



UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

MINUTES

1. **Call to order**

Professor Marty Ligare, Faculty Chair, called to order the February 2007 meetings of the University Faculty at 12:03 held on February 13, 2007 in the Langone Center Forum.

2. **Amendments to and approval of December 2006 minutes**

No amendments were offered, so the minutes stand as posted.

3. **Announcements and remarks by the President**

The President has started a series of presidential briefings across the country. Each meeting comprises 12-25 people, and there will be a total of 12-15. So far, they've taken place in Palm Beach, Naples, Washington DC, New York, and Lewisburg; coming meetings will include approximately four in New York, as well as northern New Jersey, Connecticut, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The purpose is to test potential campaign themes. Attendees include people who have long-standing relationships with the University or those who have the capacity to give.

President Mitchell also noted that he is in the process of hiring an Executive Assistant. The University has already hired a Chief Diversity Officer, who will assume his position in March. In the Office of Strategic Implementation, Dennis Swank has been filling in since Mark Dillard returned to Georgia.

In Admissions, selectivity has increased markedly this year. We appear to be poised to be one of the two or three most selective universities in the U.S.

4. **Announcements and remarks by the Provost**

The University interviewed people for a total of 31 tenure track positions, 15 of which were associated with the five-course load. Provost Mary DeCredico commented that the candidates represented tremendous diversity and great quality. Five candidates for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences should be coming to campus shortly. In addition, the finalists for the Dean of Students position will be coming to campus during the same time frame. Both of these are critical searches for Bucknell, so the Provost encouraged all to attend the public forums.

5. **Announcements and remarks by the President of Bucknell Student Government**

BSG President Sarah Cummings introduced the other leaders from BSG: Andy Logan, VP Operations; Cara Jellison, VP Finance; and Lindsey Pierce VP Administration.

6. **Announcements and remarks by the Chair of the Faculty**

Faculty Chair Marty Ligare announced that BSG is still looking for an advisor. Meetings take place on Sunday evenings.

Faculty Council (FC) is in the process of developing a charge for the external review team, and the President's office is working to schedule the review team's visits. Faculty Council has asked department chairs to provide FC with feedback, just as we did the committee chairs. FC is also trying to push forward with the various items recommended by the Peeler Committee.

Writing Program Director Sue Ellen Henry reminded the faculty of the changes made in the Writing Center referral process; she encouraged faculty members to use the Writing Center to help their students develop into better writers.

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (CAFT) has its own Nominating Committee, the members of which are chosen by the current chair of CAFT and the Faculty Chair. This year, the committee comprises Jim Baish, Tulu Bayer, and Abe Feuerstein. They are in the process of identifying nominees for CAFT.

a. URC Nominations

Professor Ligare noted that the faculty handles this election earlier than elections to other committees because a course release is involved; thus the election affects the Fall course schedule. The following nominations were made:

- Natural Sciences (3-year position):
 - Carl Kirby
- Social Sciences (3-year position):
 - Skip McGoun
 - Bill Flack
- Humanities (1-year replacement position):
 - Rosalyn Richards
 - Janet Jones

Elections for these positions will begin immediately after the Faculty Meeting and will run for seven days

b. Motion to amend Faculty Handbook, Section II, Part B regarding the quorum

Professor Marty Ligare read the following motion proposed by Faculty Council:

A quorum in regular or special meetings of the University Faculty shall consist of one hundred (100) members of the Faculty.

The *Faculty Handbook* requires that the motion be announced and tabled one month before it is discussed, therefore no discussion was permitted. Professor Ligare noted that the genesis of this motion was in the Peeler Committee, which pointed out that the quorum had remained the same for many years in spite of the growth of the faculty. Professor Ligare also pointed out that, although we have a quorum for this meeting under the current handbook rules, we would not have a quorum under this proposed rule.

7. Committee Reports

a. Committee on Complementary Activities: Gary Grant

- The written report is available on E-Reserves.

In reviewing the report, Professor Grant focused on those sections most likely to directly affect faculty. He began with the University Pledge of Responsibility, which will be published in the *Student Handbook* following its approval.

Chair of the Committee on Instruction (COI) Steve Guattery noted that the issue has been handled oddly in the governance system. COI found out about the Pledge through the *Bucknellian*. COI is very concerned that the faculty does not know the genesis of this document. Further, COI has some serious reservations about the content of the Pledge. Apparently some revisions took place without the involvement of appropriate people.

Professor Greg Krohn asked whether the last sentence under “Freedom of Expression” implied that student groups could bring in members of hate groups. Professor Grant deferred to General Counsel Wayne Bromfield. GC Bromfield pointed out that the version of the Pledge circulated to faculty was not actually the final document; it is the version that has actually been approved by CCA, but revisions have been made since this initial version was approved. The GC assured the faculty that he has been thoroughly involved in the revisions of this document; the revised document does not conflict with AAUP rules, the *Faculty Handbook*, other university rules, or state and federal laws.

A faculty member requested that the most recent version of the University Pledge of Responsibility be provided to the faculty prior to determining whether it is acceptable or not.

Professor Beth Capaldi, a member of CCA, publicly complimented BSG President Sarah Cummings for her hard work in developing the document.

b. Committee on Instruction: Kevin Myers

Kevin Myers: This report was originally on the December 2006 agenda but was not addressed at that time.

Since 1997, the faculty have not received reports on grades on a department-by-department basis. Professor Myers made the following motion:

Committee on Instruction moves that the Faculty approve the plan for annually disseminating grading statistics to faculty members as described in the attached Report.

- *These statistics will henceforth be tabulated annually after Spring semester grades are submitted and will be accessible to faculty through Banner web.*
- *Statistics will also be tabulated and reported for all years since this type of reporting was discontinued (1997).*
- *Students will not have direct access to these reports. However, faculty who find the data useful for advising (such as for interpreting an advisee's performance and aptitude in other disciplines) may of course discuss relevant data with advisees, as this knowledge may be helpful for students' understanding of their own achievements and aptitudes.*

- *Because the policy discussions for which these data may be useful are also of interest to student government, a member of the BSG Executive Board or the chair of the BSG Academic Committee may submit requests to COI for information contained in the annual tabulations, specifying the data requested and the purpose for which it is to be used. COI is authorized to determine whether a request is to be granted, and to set conditions for release of data and its distribution.*

The motion was seconded. Little discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously. Reports will become available at the end of this academic year.

Steve Guattery: COI has discussed with Dean Robert Midkiff the pilot program that was implemented last semester, allowing athletes to register during the first time slot assigned to their classes. COI will be assessing the program further and will present a report at the March 2007 Faculty Meeting.

c. Committee on Planning and Budget: Tom Solomon

- The brief written report of CPB is included as an appendix to these minutes.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting of the faculty will take place at noon on Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

APPENDIX

CCA Report, February 2007

- Available on E-Reserves

COI Report, February 2007

- Available on E-Reserves

CPB Report, February 2007

The Committee on Planning and Budget continues to discuss the budget for FY 2007/2008. We are also currently discussing funding issues relevant to strategic planning, governance as it relates to CPB, and a motion from BSG to increase the student activities fees.