

Tentative Agenda  
Arts & Sciences Senate  
November 17, 2003

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2003
- III. Report of Arts & Sciences Senate President (J. Kuchner)
- IV. Report of the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (J. Staros)
- V. Report from the Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals (E. Mendieta)
- VI. Report on Space and Equipment (P. Koch)
- VII. Third presentation of proposed amendment to the A&S Constitution (J. Kuchner)-See below
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business

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Proposed amendment to A&S Constitution:

*Arts and Sciences Senate Constitution April 21, 2003*

A.

5 "Membership in the Arts and Sciences Senate constitutes membership in the University senate. All representatives to the Arts and Sciences Senate shall also serve as members of the University Senate."

***Proposed amendment;***

A.

5. Faculty membership in the Arts and Sciences Senate constitutes membership in the University Senate. All faculty representatives to the Arts and Sciences Senate shall also serve as members of the University Senate.

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Arts and Sciences Senate  
Minutes of the 10/20/2003 Meeting

The Arts and Sciences Senate met on Monday 20 October 2003 in the Javits Room. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Senate, Joan Kuchner, at 3:35 PM. Twenty-eight senators, constituting a quorum, and four guests were present.

- I. The tentative agenda was amended and approved by voice vote.
- II. Minor corrections to the minutes of Sept. 22 were offered by Norm Goodman and Hugh Silverman. The minutes were approved as amended.

III. President's report

Joan Kuchner reported that the committees are all active and running. However, there has also been a weak response from departments in selecting departmental senators. She urged departments to complete this process and reminded departments that having an "at large" senator does not eliminate their obligation to provide a departmental representative.

Joan thanked Dean Staros for including A & S senate in his faculty meeting that will be taking place 22 Oct. 12:30-2:00 SAC auditorium.



Joan updated the Senate on several matters in the University Senate and the A & S Senate committees. The University Senate Working Group is in the process of reviewing the University Senate Constitution. The next University Senate meeting will include a discussion of the responsibilities reserved for each academic unit such as personnel policy, academic standing, curriculum, and academic judiciary. The definition of an academic unit is under consideration. A specific issue that has been discussed in the University Senate Executive Committee is whether schools and colleges would be identified as academic units in University Senate.

The A & S Exec as asked CC to come up with guidelines for indicating a specialization within a major on a student's academic transcription. The question is what would constitute a "Specialization."

#### IV. Manny London presented on the campus based assessment process for General Education.

Manny reported that a committee was setup last Spring to pilot the assessment process in a way that enhanced learning outcomes, rather than simply responding to a mandate from SUNY central to assess general education. SUNY administration has pushed for a standardized assessment instrument. The Stony Brook committee favors a course-by-course approach with assessment strategies varying by course and discipline. The goal is to assess each area of the GEN ED curriculum over three years, and then expand to include all DEC courses. Interested faculty have been recruited to participate. The hope is that it will become a permanent process.

#### V. Dean's Report

The Dean reported that \$6.4 million has been lost from base budget over last two years. 14% decrease in base. 5% cut last year, 7% this year. Budget 96% personnel. He has not had to fire personnel, but there have been no searches initiated this year, and many staff positions are not being filled. The College of Arts and Sciences presently has a 3.8 million deficit. The hiring freeze will provide massive backup in hiring.

Dean Staros' focus has been on ways to raise revenue. One strategy has been to consider ways to improve retention in order to boost capitation allocation per student. Upper division students produce more revenue. Grants by faculty have also been encouraged, as have more fund raising initiatives.

He also reported that the components of the Social Science Interdisciplinary Program were redistributed to other departments, as this Program became unstable after the faculty associated with Asian and Asian American Studies moved to the new department and the chair of the department was asked to take over as chair of AFS.

The Dean also reported that the freshman class is very good. The average SAT score has risen by 43 points. This is the highest since recentering of the exam. The SAT scores now approach 1200 for the total class. Retention data for last 6 years is up from a 52% to 55% graduation rate, which improved our ranking to 117th in US News & World Report. Stony Brook was only three points away from the top 50 publics. Since retention (21% of raw score) and reputation (25% of raw score) are a large part of this, we may see further improvement.

Bob Aller asked about the impact of Stony Brook Manhattan on CAS plans. The Dean reported that CAS uses Stony Brook Manhattan selectively when it is an enhancement or it provides options that are not available on campus.

Andrea Tyree asked about whether the college or departments would be rewarded based upon improving retention, grants and fundraising. The Dean responded that while flat budgeting has been necessary for last two years, department performance may be considered in future year budgets. Norm Goodman suggested that enrollments may be better performance measures for big service departments.



## VI. Constitution change

A proposed amendment was considered that seeks to clarify membership in the A & S Senate so as to allow professionals of PEG board and other groups that send representatives to the senate (USG, GSO) to determine their own policies in electing representatives to the University and A & S Senate. Concern was voiced about non-teaching professionals not being represented in any body. The issue will be presented again for a vote at the November A & S Senate meeting.

## VII. Resolution on SUNY-wide assessment.

Norm Goodman reported that a MOU (Memo of Understanding) was developed by SUNY central administration to impose system-wide assessment.

He proposed a resolution that opposes the MOU, and opposes system wide assessment in favor of campus based assessment. Andrea Tyree raised concern that the high costs of system wide assessment may be exaggerated in the resolution. Norm reported data to the contrary.

The resolution passed unanimously.

## VIII. Old Business.

Norm also commented on ACGE stating that some Stony Brook courses do not meet SUNY central guidelines. Twenty-two of these courses were submitted to meet the American History requirement but were deemed to not meet SUNY Trustees criteria. The Curriculum Committee feels that the guidelines limit innovation.

Elaine Kaplan pointed out that these courses are presently being offered, and may not provide DEC credit for students who have taken them. Removing some courses from DEC creates a huge unmet demand in others. Graduation problems may also be evident this year as students try to apply unapproved courses toward upcoming graduation dates.

Norm offered possible solutions for this group that might involve the President and Provost in negotiating an interim solution.

A motion to adjourn being made and seconded, and the Arts and Sciences Senate adjourned at 5:05 PM.

October 20th, 2003

Recorded by John Robinson  
Secretary



CASA Report Spring and Fall 2003

Submitted by Eduardo Mendieta

DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEE:

The *Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals [CASA]* shall interpret the regulations concerning the academic standing and enrollment of undergraduate students enrolled in majors in the Senate Constituencies and consider appeals from individual students. It shall also review these regulations and submit any necessary proposed changes to the Senate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Humanities and Fine Arts:

Martin Levine	Art	2-1049	9/05
Eduardo Mendieta	Philosophy	2-7577	9/04

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

Kenneth A. Feldman	Sociology	2-7743	9/03
Javier Auyero	Sociology	2-4884	9/05

Natural Sciences:

Nancy Hollingsworth	Biochemistry	2-8581	9/05
Daniel Davis	Geosciences	2-8217	9/04

Professionals Elected:

Owen Evans	Registrar	2-8061	9/03
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Ex-Officio:

Clifford Huffman	English	2-7385	
Cheryl Hamilton	EOP/AIM		
Brian McConnell	Academic Advising Center		

Appeals Processed in Spring, Summer and early Part of Fall 2003

Total: 139

Approved: 39

Denied: 98

Tabled: 2

