

Arts & Sciences Senate  
Tentative Agenda  
February 26, 2007

- I. Approval of Tentative Agenda
- II. Approval of minutes of November 20, 2006 meeting
- III. Discussion of inclusion of Dean's pre-tenure review letter in the tenure dossier and the number of letters required in the promotion dossier (J. Davila)
- IV. Report of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policy Committee/Discussion of Establishing an Arts and Sciences Senate "Senior Lecturer – Promotion Review Committee (H. Silverman)
- V. Report of the A&S Senate President (G. Fouron)
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business

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Arts & Sciences Senate  
November 20, 2006

- I. Approval of Agenda – approved with Student Affairs report to be moved
- II. Approval of minutes from October 23, 2006 – approved
- III. Report on transfer students (E. Thomas, R. Gattaueu)

Emily Thomas – Director of Institutional Research:

- Stony Brook has a lot of transfer students both academically and demographically
- 37% entered as transfer and 61% entered as freshmen in Fall 2006
- 2,500 new transfer students last year
- 39% new transfers last year and dropped to 36% this fall. Not out of range in comparison to other SUNY centers
- 30% came to Stony Brook with an Associates degree
- Transfer students have transferred 78,000 credits (avg. 53 credits a piece)
- Transferred from 462 different schools
- Largest sources of transfers came from Nassau and Suffolk Community Colleges

Demographics:

- Relatively more are women
- Fewer Asians, more Black and more unknown
- Transfer students are a bit older than freshmen
- Less resident than freshmen

How is the Graduation Rate:

- Six-year graduation rate is almost as high for transfer students entering Fall 1999 (60% freshmen, 58% transfer)
- BA degree recipients for 2004-2005 – Average GPA Cum for transfer students is slightly higher than freshman entrants
- Average last semester GPA transfer students is statistically the same as freshman entrants
- One-year retention rate for transfers is 79% and for freshmen it is 89%
- Four year students tend to do better.

On the last bullet, Hugh Silverman said that it depended on whether students know what their major is – if they do, they do much better. R. Gatteau: there are different levels of students being undecided. Hugh Silverman believes that transfer students need better advisement. Perhaps they should declare a major right away.



Rick Gatteau – Director of Academic Advising:

Common academic and social experiences of Transfer Students:

- Students who take a course at a community college and then transfer to a 4-year college find that when they get to the next level course they feel they don't have quite the same level of knowledge had they taken that course at Stony Brook.
- Many transfer students come from smaller classes.
- More demanding and challenging work at SB.
- Students come to SB with approximately 53 credits and that is the time they should declare a major.
- Fall 2005 entering transfer students, 25% earned the dean's list at the end of the semester yet on the opposite end of the spectrum 24% earn less than a 2.0.
- Change negative perceptions about coming to SB from a Community College by having support structures in place.
- Transfer students receive a publication called the Transfer Registration Guide with valuable information on the registration process.
- Students given on-line placement exams in Math and English.
- Attend Orientation where they register, speak with advisors, etc.
- Attend a host of fun activities on orientation day

IV. Report on Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat – Jerry Stein, Associate VP Student Affairs & Dean of Students:

- For the last 22 years, the Office of the VP for Student Affairs has facilitated the Student/Faculty/Staff Retreat.
- Two goals for this year's retreat titled "Enhancing the Transfer Student Experience" (which was held in November 2006). One was to work on a particular content area which was the transfer student experience and the other goal was to build bridges between faculty/staff and students.
- The SFS Retreat Steering Committee put the retreat together and it will bring together recommendations that will be circulated.
- 65 people attended with half of them transfer students
- Pre-retreat was held to get to know one another
- The retreat focused on academic integration and social integration of transfer students

A few Draft recommendations:

- Pre-admission transfer credit evaluation with acceptance packages
- Develop with students an academic plan and course request plan in advance or at the Summer Orientation Program
- Mentoring Programs at Summer Orientation
- More academic advisors and access to courses at Summer Orientation
- Have more support services in place
- Mandatory first-year courses

V. Report on Student Affairs – Peter Baigent – VP for Student Affairs

- Discussion with the A&S Executive Committee on where we are going as an institution on issues of diversity
- 10% of the transfer population is international
- Ethnicity is far greater – more students live on the Island, more commute, more are working and slightly older
- Historically, the University was engaged in a "pastoral" approach to counseling in admissions. Students were told that they wouldn't fit in here so why not go to the school down the road
- We shouldn't be admitting students who are not going to succeed
- The current leadership of Admissions is superb. Focused on advising, the Undergraduate Colleges, Admissions. Set of safety nets whether it be tutorial or mentoring, etc. Take the student through to graduation



Georges Fouron brought up the issue of fully-veiled students and the fact that the University should have in place some policy for faculty/staff to address before this becomes a problem. How do you know who is under the veil when there is an exam being taken or how do you know who you are talking to when advising.

Peter Baigent agreed that the time is right to address this. This is a big issue in Europe with a heavy Muslim population at Universities.

Joan Kuchner suggested having "reasonable accommodations" for this.

Agenda Item VI (question and answer period with Dean Staros) was tabled.

VII. Old Business – None

VIII. New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Laurie Theobalt  
Secretary  
University Senate

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**THE ARTS AND SCIENCES SENATE "SENIOR LECTURER PROMOTION REVIEW COMMITTEE" (SLPRC)** shall be a Standing Committee of the Arts and Sciences Senate. It shall review all cases of promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer as recommended by Departments or Programs. Its decisions shall be submitted to the appropriate Dean who makes a recommendation to the Provost and President. The SLPRC will follow specific Guidelines as formulated by the Arts and Sciences Senate Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policy Committee.

The SLPRC shall include two members from each of the three areas:

(1) Humanities and Fine Arts (including Journalism), (2) Social and Behavioral Sciences (including Stony Brook Southampton), and (3) Natural Sciences and Math (including the Marine Sciences Research Center). From each area, one of these members shall be a Senior Lecturer. In the absence of available Senior Lecturers, these positions shall be filled by tenured faculty members from the respective areas.

