

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report on Activities

(Sept. 2007 – Apr. 2008)

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UB Engineering Faculty Meeting
April 30, 2008

Overview

- **New Initiatives**
 - UB Believers
 - Internationalization of Education
 - Research University Network
 - Comprehensive Physical Plan
- **Graduate/Postgraduate Education**
 - Postdoctoral Scholars
 - Other Graduate School Matters

Overview (Cont.)

- Undergraduate Education
 - Honors College
 - Add/Drop Policy
 - Latin Honors Policy
 - Final Exam Scheduling
 - GenEd Program Review
 - 2007 Freshman Survey
- Miscellaneous
 - SUNY and UB
 - Conflict of Interest Issues
 - Safety Issues
 - Academic Integrity and Grievance Policies
 - Computing Initiatives
 - Athletics and Recreation
 - Recruiting/Fundraising

New Initiatives (President/Provost's office)

- **UB Believers** : <https://ubbelievers.buffalo.edu>

Marsha Hederson, Vice President for External Affairs

- Community support group that, hopefully, will advocate effectively to State officials that UB growth plans are an investment for the community (today \$1.5 billion of UB annual expenditures have direct impact to the community; in 2020, if plans are fulfilled, it will be \$2.6 billion in today's dollars.)

● Internationalization of Education

- Major priority by many leading research universities.
- President/Provost charged a task group to examine International Education.
- Findings and recommendations:

“The Global Imperative: Making UB an International University.”

[http://www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/overview/files/international strategy report.pdf](http://www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/overview/files/international_strategy_report.pdf)

- ✓ **Student experience:** Internationalize curriculum (GenEd, foreign language); integrate UB curricula with programs abroad; create incentives and provide formal recognition for students going abroad.
- ✓ **The faculty:** Create incentives and provide recognition for international partnerships and international research/education activities; develop infrastructure for area studies.
- ✓ **The Institution:** Make UB’s location and international programs a key part of its identity and brand; prepare a long-range international enrollment plan and recruitment strategy; become a significant international resource for the local community.

- **Internationalization of Education (Cont.)**

- Data (Chronicle of Higher Education)

UB: #1 public University in % of international students
(2006-07: 15.4% from 110 countries)

UB: 13th in absolute number of international students



- **Research University Network**

- Cross border partnership with Canadian Universities

(U of Toronto, McMaster, Waterloo, York, Queens; UB, Albany, Rochester, RIT, Syracuse, Cornell).

- Build relationships for research, student/faculty exchanges, joint programs, shared resources, etc.



- **The Comprehensive Physical Plan** (Prof. R. Shibley)

(www.buffalo.edu/ub2020/plan/)

- Objective: Make campus something that people want to be in.
- UB-Space Management and Facilities Planning Committee:
A planning group to oversee/examine whether capital projects are worthy of financial expenditure, faculty/staff/student support, alumni/donor participation.
- Dialogue across campus:
Capital projects that come forward never surprise anyone anymore.
(e.g. > 100 presentations to faculty, Deans, VPs, Chairs, students, community;
interactive presentation of Master Plan on 3/24/08 in Alumni arena.)

Graduate/Postgraduate Education

• Postdoctoral Scholars

(M. Morris, Assoc. Dean for Grad. & Post Grad Ed, Grad. School Exec. Committee)

➤ **Data/Statistics**

UB Total number: 305

Roswell Park: 29.9%; CAS: 24.6%; School of Med. & Biomed: 21%;
School of Eng.: 8.2%.... International: 222.

➤ **Office of Postdoctoral Scholars**

(www.grad.buffalo.edu/postdocs)

- ✓ Postdoctoral Association (www.grad.buffalo.edu/pda):
provides a sense of community for postdocs, organizes social and career-related events etc.
- ✓ Policies and Procedures (recommendations)

1. Definition of a Postdoctoral Scholar (NIH/NSF)

“An individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence needed to pursue his or her chosen career path.”

• Postdoctoral Scholars (Cont.)

2. **Appointment limits:** 5 years (+2 with justification) after Ph.D.
3. **Designated titles:** Postdoctoral Associate (RF/UBF/NYS) or Postdoctoral Fellow* (RF/UBF).
(*under a fellowship outside UB or through training grant).
4. **Recruitment and hiring:** All positions must be posted through UBJobs.
5. **Compensation:** 30,000 (min. full time, annual); if less, approval is needed.
6. **Obligations of Postdoctoral Scholars:** Responsibilities/duties/ expectations defined in appointment/renewal letters; timely discussions with mentor regarding research progress.
7. **Obligations of Institution:** Faculty provides formal discussion of Postdoc progress (faculty responsibilities = extension of those for grad. students; Office of Postdoc Scholars monitors all the above).
8. **Individual development plan and progress reports.**
9. **Leaves.**
10. **Dispute resolution/complaints.**

• Postdoctoral Scholars (Cont.)

- FSEC comments/concerns
 - ✓ For some disciplines, grad. students cost more than postdocs.
 - ✓ Excessive formalization of faculty-postdoc relationship might be detrimental.
 - ✓ NIH/NSF definition of a Postdoc may not apply as is to all disciplines.

• Other Graduate School Matters

- Institutional approval required before faculty legally commits UB to any overseas initiative.
- Several professional schools permit graduate students to take UG language and culture courses for graduate level credit (preparation for international careers).
- Office of Institutional Analysis adds “customer satisfaction” question in (AAU) survey of exiting Ph.D.’s (also, pursues survey of incoming graduate students on recruitment experience).

Undergraduate Education

- **Honors College**

- FSEC met on June 20, 2007 and voted on a proposal to change the University Honors Program to an “Honors College.” It is expected that this change will facilitate student recruitment and fundraising.

- **Add/Drop Policy Change**

- Fall/Spring: Add → 7 days; Drop → 6 days.
(drop in 2nd week still possible; proportional days for summer semester)
- FS concerns: Impact of changes to graduate students and/or international students.
- Different add/drop periods for UG/Grad was also suggested (the new system could support that).

- **Latin Honors Policy**

- The Latin Honors Policy has been revised (e.g. 60 UB credit hours are needed for Honors) .
- Revisions address also non-matriculated students, visiting students, and certificate program students.

- **Final Exam Scheduling**

- Final exam scheduling will change by 2010 from student-centric (which results in conflicts) to course-centric (exam schedule will be available during course registration).
- 3-hr time slot allocated for final exam may change to 2-hr slots.

- **GenEd Program Review**

- Begin rethinking the purpose and goals of our general education program (focus on the value, the aim, the learning outcomes of GenEd.)

- **2007 Freshman Survey** (Provost Tripathi)
 - Q: “What influences you to come to UB?”
 - ✓ National ranking: 47% (2005: 15%, 2003: 10%)
(UB’s ranking -> same, perception -> changed)
 - ✓ Family Advice: 43% (2005: 10%, 2003: 10%)
 - ✓ Teacher’s/Advisor’s advice: 37% (2005: 12%)
 - ✓ Academic reputation: 75% (2005: 65%)
 - ✓ Cost: 65%, but not the #1 reason (2005: 62%)
 - Q: Student self evaluation
 - ✓ Much more self confident (creativity: 10% jump, math preparation: 7% jump)
 - Q: Satisfaction with UB?
 - ✓ 80% (2005: 50%)

Miscellaneous

- **SUNY and UB**

- Tuition rate differentiation among SUNY campuses is an issue that UB favors (so that tuition reflects the level of education provided).

- **Conflict of Interest Issues (AAU Provost Meeting)**

- Student loans, study abroad, and use of third parties to facilitate such programs (e.g. some universities use third parties to send students abroad in exchange for...).
- Selection of textbooks and campus royalties (books written by the faculty who teaches a course or by a colleague). Types of deals bookstores and vendors give to University.

Miscellaneous (Cont.)

• Safety Issues

- Formal training program available for faculty to understand how to handle safety in classroom, identify students in crisis, who to contact, what to do/to say/not to say.

<http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu>

<http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/shs/training.shtml>

- Student Wellness Team (www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/shs)

- ✓ Counseling services
- ✓ Wellness education services

• Academic Integrity and Grievance Policies

- ✓ Student health services
- New policy proposed not allowing lawyers/attorneys to participate in grievance hearing which are purely academic processes.

Miscellaneous (Cont.)

- **Computing Initiatives** (<http://cio.buffalo.edu/>)
 - The Office of the Chief Information Officer is working on various research computing initiatives on campus such as purchasing software (e.g. Matlab), working with CCR to make computing recourses available (e.g. Condor program).
- **FS Athletics & Recreation Committee**
 - Proposes the inclusion of a fitness component into UG curriculum as GenEd requirement (e.g. 3 credit hour gym 😊).
- **Recruiting/Fundraising help from our artists ...**
 - Center for the Arts (Tom Burrows, Director)
 - ✓ Video production services available (e.g. video piece for CAS fundraising and recruiting purposes).