

151st Winter Plenary
Hosted by State University College of Agriculture & Technology at Morrisville
Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee
2008-2009 Academic Year
Plenary Report: February 2009

The Committee has met twice since the fall planning meeting – once on 14 November 2008 in Albany and again in January 30 by phone – and has made considerable progress on each of the four agenda items that the committee has selected for this academic year. We were fortunate to have two guest speakers from SUNY system administration to add to our discussions.

1. Contact / Credit Hour Relationship (MP Vol. 76 No. 8).

A subcommittee of members drafted modifications to the existing SUNY policy. Work continues with the goal of submitting a resolution at the 2009 Spring Plenary. We plan to work with senior members of SUNY administration during the revision process to ensure that the future/final version adopted by the Faculty Senate is also one that works for SUNY administration. Given the potential impact that changes to the policy might have on many aspects of SUNY business, we're being cautious at this stage of the process vis-à-vis distribution of potential modifications. Assistant Provost Gary Blose, who presented at the November 14 meeting on international education also participated in the discussion regarding the contact / credit hour relationship. Dr. Blose had been a guest presenter at a Committee meeting in 2007-08 regarding the contact / credit hour relationship, and the Committee was thankful that he was able to also participate in the committee discussion in November.

2. Undergraduate Research. This agenda item is presented in three phases (creation of a resource website; coordination of a poster session; and compilation of a journal of proceedings) to last two academic years. The Committee has made significant progress on the first phase including a survey of existing campus resources, of which the subcommittee will present a summary of its work at a future committee meeting.

3. Guide for the Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Programs. This widely-used booklet was written in 1983, reissued in 1990, and revised by the Undergrad Committee in 1999-2001. The revised version was adopted by the Senate in October, 2001, at which time the authors committed to a review in 2007.

To guide the committee on updating the *Guide*, the committee invited Nancy Willie-Schiff, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and Assessment to join us on 14 November. Dr. Willie-Schiff lent her expertise on the subject and advised the Committee on developments in assessment practices. This subsequently led to a thoughtful discussion among the Committee. We are pleased to have Dr. Willie-Schiff as a resource at SUNY System, and that she has agreed to join the subcommittee that is working on the *Guide*.

4. International Education has been a topic of interest at many levels of SUNY in recent years, and the committee wishes to learn more about this topic during the coming year with the possibility of pursuing a project in 2009-10. The Committee invited Gary Blose, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research to present data analyses on international education. Dr. Blose presented a thoughtful report on international students who attend SUNY schools, and a vigorous discussion ensued. Based on the presentation and discussion, the subcommittee on international education has drafted a white paper to catalyze discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

Undergraduate Committee Membership - 2008-09

Chair - Kane Gillespie - Stony Brook University
Meg Knowles - Buffalo State College
Marwan El Nasser - SUNY Fredonia
Howard Reid - Buffalo State College
Rose Rudnitski - SUNY New Paltz
Anne Bongiorno - Plattsburgh State College
Jim Nichols - SUNY Oswego
Michelle Gonzalez, University at Buffalo
Ziya Arnavut, SUNY Fredonia
Bill Godfrey, Stony Brook University
William White, Buffalo State College
Kathryn Van Arnam - System Administration Liaison
Margaret M. Murphy, Monroe Community College - Community College Liaison
Kellen Raquet - Student Assembly Liaison

Committee Meeting schedule - 2008-09

November 14, January 30, February 27, and April 3