

State University of New York
University Faculty Senate

University Operations Committee

Report to the Senate
Fall Plenary
October 17-18, 2008
Potsdam State College

The Operations Committee met at the Fall Planning Meeting in Syracuse on September 18-19 and adopted the following agenda for the year:

1. Faculty Diversity Profile - to include description of the professoriate by gender, race, discipline, length of service, salary, campus type. Successful completion of this study, particularly if salary is included, depends upon the cooperation of UUP. UFS President Carl Wiezalis will make inquiries to determine UUP's willingness to work with the UFS on this issue. Data may be obtainable from System Administration in the event that UUP elects not to participate. Individual salary data is already web-accessible. There are divisions within the committee with respect to what corrective recommendations might be appropriate in the event that the profile reveals homogeneity. Runi Mukherji and Nancy Battaglia will be the lead committee members on this project.
2. Rational Fiscal Policy - the committee will review the previous report in light of changes in the state's fiscal climate. Committee chair Ron Sarner will try to enlist the services of retired Professor Ram Chugh, the lead author on the earlier report. If a revised report is necessary, the aim is to complete it by January, 2009. Subcommittee members working on this project will be Eugene Katz and Malcolm Sherman.
3. Fringe Benefit Study - fringe benefit costs continue to rise and have budgetary and programmatic consequences that are not always obvious. The committee will prepare a white paper on fringe benefit costs, perhaps incorporating suggestions on more equitable methods of calculation. Liaison Wendy Gilman will assist with this project. Subcommittee members working on the project will be Malcolm Sherman, Nancy Battaglia, and Runi Mukherji.
4. Library Issues and funding - libraries are often the first area to be cut when fiscal challenges emerge. The Senate has repeatedly passed resolutions urging preservation of library funding but without effect. The committee will develop a position paper that suggests a line-item set aside, augmentation of library budgets through a mandated fee, some combination, or alternative fiscal approaches. Subcommittee members working on this project will be Mike Yeomans, Werner Sbaschnik, and Joe Petrick.

5. Workplace Violence/Civility - there are substantial costs to failure to maintain civility in the workplace. Productivity suffers and employees exhibit higher rates of psychological and physical ailments when supervisors treat subordinates in inappropriate ways. A subcommittee consisting of Tom Hoey and Mike Schlict will examine what campuses are doing to ensure workplace civility and will develop a white paper that highlights training needs.

6. Cyber Security - a recent directive from the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination requires all state agencies to insure encryption of all laptops, USB flash drives, and PDAs accessing or containing agency data by December 31, 2008. The committee, while concerned with maintaining the privacy and security of sensitive data, is concerned that there is a very substantial unfunded mandate and, in the extreme, if extended to students, is entirely unworkable. Ron Sarner and Nancy Battaglia will make inquiries to see how SUNY is responding, and if the policy appears to have wide impact a subcommittee consisting of Tom Hoey and Werner Sbaschnik will work on a white paper.

7. Sector Designation - The committee will prepare a resolution for the Fall plenary that moves Farmingdale from its current placement in the Univeristy Faculty Senate structure, as a member of the Specialized and Statutory group into the Colleges of Technology group. Ron Sarner will prepare a draft resolution and circulate it for approval.