

152nd Spring Plenary
Hosted by University at Buffalo
Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee
2008-2009 Academic Year
Plenary Report: April 2009

The Committee met five times during 2008-09 including the fall planning meeting and made considerable progress on each of the four agenda items that the committee selected for the academic year. We were fortunate to have several guest speakers from SUNY system administration to join our spirited discussions.

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

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted by the Senate at the April 2008 Plenary, the committee has conducted a policy review of MP Vol. 76 No. 8, also known as the Dearing Memo on the contact /credit hour relationship or SUNY Academic Affairs Policy Document 1305. The committee found the 1976 policy valid but in need of updating. The committee has prepared recommended revisions and is ready to promote a draft to the next stage of the policy review process. Instead of presenting a resolution at the April 2009 Plenary, the committee proposes a continued implementation of the resolution from April 2008, which supports collaboration between the committee and appropriate offices at SUNY as designated by the Chancellor to finalize the policy. The ideal team would include principals from the Academic Affairs, IR and Finance, along with faculty senate representatives.

It should be noted that over the course of the two years that have been devoted to the policy revision process, the committee has worked with SUNY administration to ensure that the future/final version is also one that benefits SUNY administration as well as the University Faculty Senate. In addition to the invaluable guidance from the committee's SUNY Liaison, Kathryn Van Arnam, the Committee consulted System IR (Gary Blose), System Office of Finance (Wendy Gilman), and the NYS Education Department (Byron Connell).

2. Undergraduate Research. This agenda item was planned 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 first phase was abandoned due to the existence of other respected resource websites. The Committee continues work on phase two and plans to present a poster session in Albany, February 1-3, 2010 in the Legislative Office Building. The members of the subcommittee, most of who are from the Buffalo area, have offered to convene meetings over the summer to make as much progress as possible on this project.

A summary concept of the poster session: we would invite each campus to participate by selecting a few of their own students to present projects to legislators and other Albany dignitaries. We hope this will be a rewarding experience for undergraduates to showcase their research and creative work as well as an opportunity for SUNY to boast its successes and impact across the state. Following the poster session, the committee plans to compile a journal of proceedings.

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 the subcommittee that is working on the *Guide*. Progress on this project has been slow but steady, and the committee plans to continue work into the next academic year.

4. International Education has been a topic of interest at many levels of SUNY in recent years, and the committee made opportunities to learn more about this topic during the 2008-09. The Committee invited two guests to present at meetings: Gary Blose, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research to present data analyses on international education and John Ryder, Director, Office of International Programs at SUNY. The topic of International Education will likely be considered by the future committee for further research work during 2009-10, with the possibility of selecting a project that would benefit SUNY students.

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 Murphy - Monroe Community College
Henry Durand - University at Buffalo

Meeting schedule - 2008-09

November 14 Albany
January 30 phone conference
February 27 Albany-Buffalo-Stony Brook video conference
April 3 Syracuse-Buffalo video conference