

Minutes of the General Faculty Meeting 31 October 2002

President Reagan convened the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2002, was duly made and seconded. The minutes were amended to include the results of the election of the General Faculty. The minutes were approved.

The proposed agenda of the meeting was adopted upon approval of a motion to do so, duly made and seconded.

The President began his report by announcing that the spring meeting of the General Faculty would take place on April 15, 2003.

President Reagan continued by giving a progress report on the College's mission statement and strategic planning process. Each of the administrative units is currently working on their own documents in response to the College's current draft. Professor Fred Lane, who is guiding the process, has met with each of the school deans. The Zicklin School and the School of Public Affairs have each adopted their own new mission statements. The President called for guidance on what ultimately will be included in the College's mission and plan. He stressed that the final document will be a decision-making tool, guide resource allocations, etc. He asked for questions or comments; none were put forth.

The president then turned to the current budget climate, and said there was no good news to report and, in fact, very little news at all. He stressed his commitment to avoiding retrenchment of faculty. He reported that a few months earlier the College had been instructed not to spend 2% of our allocated budget because after the November elections, cuts are expected. Unfortunately, the University has already had to spend the 2% to cover unanticipated healthcare costs and underfunded energy budget items.

The president went on to discuss a tuition and/or fee increase as a way to make up for a decrease in state support. He said he discussed the issue with student leaders at a recent student leadership conference. He pointed out that our tuition and fees are considerably lower than those of our peers. Although Baruch just recently enacted a roughly 60% increase in MBA, tuition in general has not been raised in seven years. Estimating a 3% inflation rate, the president said an increase of 20% would just begin to address inflation. He also reported that as New York State law is written now, an increase in tuition automatically triggers an increase in TAP. President Reagan said that lots of research has been done nationally on the lack of state support for higher education.

Professor Peterson asked if a tuition increase would necessarily be CUNY-wide, or if it could be college-specific. President Reagan responded that the University had accepted, if reluctantly, an MBA tuition increase that was specific to our program. Professor Peterson asked if the president was considering a unilateral increase. The president said that wasn't

possible on the tuition side, but possibly with fees, which would also require Board of Trustees approval.

The President reported that the search for a Vice President for Administration and Finance was proceeding and that interviews would begin early Thanksgiving week.

The president then reported on his recent experience of guest-lecturing in four classes on corporate governance issues in the post-Enron corporate environment. The world our students aspire to enter is changing rapidly and the president wondered if these front-page issues were making their way into classroom discussions. He said his sense, especially at the undergraduate level, was that they were not. He proposed that the College try to do more outside the classroom to make students more aware of current events in the business world that will have significant impacts on their careers. He announced he is working with Professors Christine Tan and Donald Schepers to try to set up biweekly seminars or roundtables. He invited any interested faculty to join in.

The president also reported, in a similar vein, that he had requested that the tv monitors in the Vertical Campus be tuned to CNBC with captions, to encourage students to be more aware. Professor Hansen raised an objection, saying he didn't think the College should be bombarding student with soundbites and focusing so heavily on careers; he said he thinks as a College, we need to more seriously encourage a life of the mind. Professor Peterson disagreed, saying he thought that we have a responsibility to prepare students for the world of work. Mr. Kaslofsky advocated controlling the quality of programming broadcast on the public monitors. Another faculty member pointed out that although we may perceive a big change in the current environment, our students do not. They have a more cynical view, and to them, little, if anything, has changed.

The President concluded his report by turning the floor over to Thor Kaslofsky, President of the Graduate Student Assembly, who delivered a brief oral report on the activities of the graduate student government. The organization has begun publishing a long-dormant handbook, is sponsoring round-table career discussion, has set up a business card service for students, and established a mentoring system and other increased contact with alumni.

Provost Dannenbring then reported that the new faculty handbook is now available online.

The provost also reported that Professor Abraham Goldstein of the Law Department passed away this week, just shy of his 104th birthday; Professor Goldstein served Baruch College for 73 years.

A question was asked from the floor about the faculty and staff lounge on the 14th floor of the Vertical Campus; although refreshments and newspapers are supposed to be available, sometimes they are not. Associate Provost Slavin explained that the food does run out early in the day, but that coffee can be refreshed by phoning the food service number posted in the room.

He went on to announce that a faculty seminar will be held tomorrow in the faculty lounge. The topic will be academic integrity; a guest speaker, D. McCabe of Rutgers will be presenting.

The president took a question from the floor about the written report submitted by Vice President Gallagher, who was not in attendance. Professor Peterson asked why none of the major initiatives outlined were related to the Arts & Sciences. The president asked Dean Altman of Public Affairs if he felt the same way. Dean Altman said that although the Public Affairs School was included this year, generally there is a lack of discussion over plans and priorities. The president said he hoped that further development of the mission and strategic plan would help address this issue, as the College would have a central set of priorities into which the Advancement operation, as well as all others, would have to fit.

The president raised a question about the course schedule grid and the changes we are making in response to the Chancellor's request that we "open up the grid." Assistant Vice President Murphy explained that students have difficulty graduating in a timely fashion because of class availability. We hope to expand the number of classes on Friday, and make sure the faculty and buildings are being scheduled most efficiently throughout the week. The provost and deans are working to encourage departments to assist with this process.

With all business of the meeting having been transacted, it was adjourned by acclamation at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Parker
Secretary, General Faculty