

**University at Albany, State University of New York  
Governance Council**

**Friday, October 30, 2009**  
Eric Lifshin, Chair

**Minutes**

**Present:** Erin Bell, Nan Carroll, Richard Collier, Jane Domaracki, Reed Hoyt, Sung Bok Kim, Eric Lifshin, John Pipkin, John Schmidt, Lawrence Snyder, Daniel White

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of October 16, 2009 were approved.

**CHAIR'S REPORT BY ERIC LIFSHIN**

Chair Lifshin received notice from Provost Phillips that Richard Zitomer and Melinda Larsen have accepted their nominations for the position on the Honors College Governing Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Selection Process for Choosing Nominees:**

GOV has received several requests for recommendations and Chair Lifshin expressed discomfort with having to make them as quickly as requested. While GOV members are familiar with many people on campus who are qualified to meet these requests, he would like to employ a process that would be more inclusive.

Chair Lifshin cited, as an example, the request for someone to serve on the Safety Advisory Committee. The Chair read the criteria for being on the committee but there was missing information that would have been helpful to GOV members in forming their decisions. This opened a discussion about how the process for a request might be better conducted. Chair Lifshin reiterated the question he had posed to GOV members at an earlier meeting about whether the person making the request should meet with GOV to provide answers to questions that might arise. There was also the discussion of possibly providing a form on the GOV web page with a profile of the request and any special considerations.

The conversation then turned to the process for obtaining names of nominees and the broadest exposure beyond people that GOV members already know. Council members expressed uneasiness with the haste that has been required and brainstorming at the end of the week in making these decisions. Chair Lifshin suggested that GOV could reach out to department chairs for suggestions of someone who needs to build their service record or have the Provost reach out to the deans for the

same purpose. It was also pointed out that people don't get involved unless they are asked to do so. Senate Secretary Collier suggested consulting the surplus of volunteers for the Senate councils who did not get assigned. It would be helpful to know who already serves on the committees in question. GOV would act as the facilitator for providing information to nominees about the time commitment and for getting them in touch with the committee chair. In the case of the Safety Committee, where it appears that the request is being made for a substitute while another member is on sabbatical, GOV members felt that it should not be the Council's responsibility to come up with a short term or temporary nominee, but the responsibility should fall to the person who is leaving.

GOV members discussed that they would not become involved if a chair or administrator did not want to work with someone it has recommend. GOV needs to demonstrate that it has confidence in its recommendations and that it is following the *By-laws* in the appointment being made.

To resolve the Safety Advisory Committee request, Jane Domaracki volunteered to serve if the appointment would be for two months only. Chair Lifshin will make the recommendation to Thomas Gebhardt and ask for clarification of the request.

### **GOV Sub-Structure:**

There was a review of GOV's standing committees:

The Council Formation Committee (CFC) was set up at the end of the last academic year for the purpose of selecting council members from the list of volunteers. This council is chaired by the GOV Chair. Secretary Collier would like to have the call for CFC to be separate from that of the volunteer call which is conducted through the website.

The Committee on Liaison and Elections is automatically chaired by the Senate Secretary and will become active in the spring when the call for volunteers goes out.

The Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation exists to evaluate university governance for proper functioning. The Committee did not exist last year but there were discussions of resuscitating it if something were to arise from the Middle States Self-study. There is a Middle States committee, chaired by David McCaffrey, that is reviewing governance. GOV will wait for Middle States final report before taking any further steps at resuscitating the Committee.

A fourth committee is the Mediation Committee which only exists if there is a cause.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Provost's Request for Strategic Plan:**

Chair Lifshin asked GOV members to consider, in their nominations, people who think in terms of strategic as opposed to operational planning as their activities should relate to writing a mission statement. GOV members provided a substantial list of names but will forward further recommendations to Gail Cameron by Wednesday, November 4. Chair Lifshin asked for a special meeting on November 6 and will send a request to the Provost asking for additional time, stating that these decisions are too important to rush.

**SIRF Advisory Council:**

GOV selected four names to serve on the SIRF Advisory Council. Chair Lifshin will forward the names to Bruce Szelest along with back up recommendations. He will also forward the chairs' names of CAA, CPCA and UPPC.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Gail Cameron, Recorder