

Report by the 2016-2017 Chair of the University Senate

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Strengthening shared governance

During the 2016-17 year, Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs) and the administration continued to work to strengthen and institutionalize shared governance and “formal consultation” as defined by the Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany, Article I. Section 2—Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculty.

1. After several years of negotiations on the issue, further progress was made on the nature of Senate involvement in administrative review. It was agreed that three Senate representatives, one each from the University Planning and Policy Council, Governance Council, and Council on Assessment, would serve on the newly-formed Administrative Assessment Advisory Council (AAAC). Joette Stefl-Mabry, Associate Professor of Information Studies (CEHCS; UPPC), Ilke Kressner, Associate Professor of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (CAS; Governance) and Penny Ng, Manager of Finance and Operations, School of Education (SOE; Council on Assessment) were appointed to two-year terms as Senate representatives on the AAAC, beginning the 2017-2018 academic year.
2. Resumed regular, monthly CGL/Administration meetings, after a semester and summer of ad-hoc scheduling in 2015-16. Regular meetings allow for a timely discussion of the myriad governance issues that arise at an evolving R1 research university.
3. Further progress was made in defining the Senate’s consultative role in the creation, renaming, major re-organization, or dissolution of academic units and programs. Progress involved distinguishing clearly between administrative implementation and review of proposals for academic programs, and identifying which administrative offices and Senate councils needed to be communicating in order to strike the right balance between expedited process and due deliberation.
4. Progress was also made in clarify the difference between and responsibilities for the University and the Senate Handbooks. The former is a document maintained by the Office of President, the latter is a document maintained by the Senate. Both were confusing referred to and not reliably locatable on the Senate or other University websites. The Executive Committee of the Senate and the Office of the President have taken responsibility for updating their respective documents, while sharing information and consulting with each other.
5. The Senate and Governance Chairs worked with the University Council to define, poll for nominees, and elect faculty representatives to the 2016-2017 Presidential Search

Committee. They also organized a “listening meeting” between Part-Time Faculty and the Search Committee Chair. The Search Committee was central to the process which identified President Rodriguez for nomination and selection by the SUNY Chancellor and Board of Trustees.

Fostering open communication

In an effort to keep the campus informed of the many campus initiatives, Senate meetings included presentations and reports from special task forces and panels, and from administrators appointed to newly-created positions:

- Presentation on the University at Albany Foundation (W. Landon, Faculty Representative)
- Presentation on results of the University at Albany Faculty and Professional Staff and Student Reports on the 2016 Survey on Shared Governance (Karin Reinhold, Governance)
- Presentation on the recent Albany Law School/University at Albany affiliation (Dean Ouellette, Albany Law School)
- Presentation of research on University branding campaign (J. Brennan, Vice President for Office of Strategic Communication and Marketing)
- Report from Faculty Representative to Athletics (R. Fogarty)

Promoting campus wide dialogue

In addition, the Senate organized and/or co-sponsored activities that worked to promote campus wide dialogue on matters of common, critical concern. All three were recommendations made in the Faculty and Staff and Student Reports on the 2016 Survey of Shared Governance:

- Forum on **Shared Governance**, co-sponsored by the Senate Executive Committee and Governance Council.
- Second Forum on **Contingent Faculty Concerns**, co-sponsored by the Governance Council of the University Senate and the Albany Chapter of United University Professions
- Forum on **University Identity**, co-sponsored by the Governance Council and the Office of Strategic Communication and Marketing

Improving Senate capacity for and knowledge of shared governance

- In accordance with Senate Charter X.1.3.3, reports of the second bi-annual **Surveys of Shared Governance** were prepared, announced and made available to the Voting Faculty in Fall 2016, and presented to the Senate in Spring 2017. Reports are at:

- o Faculty and Professional Staff:
[http://www.albany.edu/aims/assets/FinalReportFacSff16\(1\).pdf](http://www.albany.edu/aims/assets/FinalReportFacSff16(1).pdf)
- o Student:
[http://www.albany.edu/aims/assets/FinalReport_SurveyStudents16\(1\).pdf](http://www.albany.edu/aims/assets/FinalReport_SurveyStudents16(1).pdf)
- Reports were prepared by members of the Governance subcommittee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation, the Governance Chair, and the Chair of Senate, and presented to the Senate in Spring 2017.
- Three Senate Forums were organized to discuss and debate recommendations made in reports.
- Responding to recommendations made in the reports that constituents need to be better informed about Senate work, the Chair of the Senate resumed the practice of notifying the Senate constituents – the Voting Faculty – of the date, time and location of each (monthly) Meeting of the Senate, along with providing t meeting agendas.
- Responding to recommendations about improving the compensation, working conditions and job security of Part-Time Faculty, Campus Governance Leaders continue to discuss with the Office of the Provost and the President progress made by teams that are charged with implementing recommendations from the 2015 Provost’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent and Part-Time Faculty and Professional Staff:
 - o [http:// www.albany.edu/.../Contingent_Faculty_Committee_Report_10-1-2015.pdf](http://www.albany.edu/.../Contingent_Faculty_Committee_Report_10-1-2015.pdf)
- In order to improve the transmission of information and practical knowledge about how the Councils and Committees of the Senate function, the Chair of the Executive Committee collected information from each Council or Committee Chair and its support staff on their operating procedures documents. The SEC and Governance Council worked with ITS and the Office of the President to establish group OneDrives for each Council and Committee, so that files can be stored and transmitted annually to successive Councils or Committees, thereby preserving an organization record that has previously been inconsistently preserved and transmitted. The procedures files have been organized into folders for distribution to each Council or Committee for 2017-2018 so that they can be stored, updated, and available in the OneDrive accounts assigned to each Council and Committee.
- The Chairs of the Executive Committee and the Governance Council initiated contacts with the Graduate Student Association and the Student Assembly Senate, in order to communicate with GSA and SA leaders and Senators the importance of appointing representatives from their organization to the University Senate, along with providing additional graduate and undergraduate members to serve on University Senate Councils.

Legislation

The Senate approved proposals for six new academic programs or certificates, two amendments to the Senate Charter, and five resolutions on academic freedom, graduate student representation in shared governance, and support for immigrant and foreign students.

Bill 1617-01

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MANAGEMENT](#)

Approved by the Senate, September 26, 2016;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, October 4, 2016

Bill 1617-02

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF SCIENCE \(M.S.\) PROGRAM IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE](#)

Approved by the Senate, March 6, 2017;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, March 13, 2017

Bill 1617-03

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH B.A. / M.I.A. PROGRAMS](#)

Approved by the Senate, April 24, 2017;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, May 4, 2017

Bill 1617-04

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF SCIENCE \(M.S.\) PROGRAM IN DATA SCIENCE](#)

Approved by the Senate, May 8, 2016;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, May 9, 2016

Bill 1617-05

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP](#)

Approved by the Senate, May 8, 2016;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, May 9, 2016

Bill 1617-06

[PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MINOR IN LEADERSHIP](#)

Approved by the Senate, May 8, 2016;
Approved by Interim President Stellar, May 9, 2016

Charter Amendment 1617-01A

[AMENDMENT RE SECTION IX OF THE CHARTER](#)

Approved by the Senate, May 8, 2017

Charter Amendment 1617-02A

[AMENDMENT RE UPDATES TO SECTION X.7 \(CPCA\)](#)

Approved by the Senate, May 8, 2017

Resolution 1617-01R

[RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY](#)

Approved by the Senate, September 26, 2016

Resolution 1617-02R

[RESOLUTION ON ATTACKS ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM](#)

Approved by the Senate, October 13, 2016

Resolution 1617-03R

[RESOLUTION ON STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE](#)

Approved by the Senate, October 13, 2016

Resolution 1617-04R

[RESOLUTION: CONDEMNATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRANTS](#)

Approved by the Senate, February 13, 2017

Resolution 1617-05R

[RESOLUTION: AFFIRMATION OF UALBANY'S SUPPORT OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AND](#)

IMMIGRANTS

Approved by the Senate, March 6, 2017

Acknowledgements

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Additional thanks to **Karin Reinhold** and to **Cynthia Fox** in their additional respective leadership roles as Senate Vice-Chair and Immediate Past Chair, and to Senate Secretary **Chris Poehlmann** who began his first term of Senate service, and to **Elisa Lopez** who serves as Senate Support in the very best sense of the word.

The complete record of Senate activities for the 2016-17 year is reported on the Senate website:

<http://www.albany.edu/senate/>.