

University at Albany  
State University of New York

University Council

Minutes  
August 29, 2013

A special meeting of the University Council was held on August 29, 2013 in University Hall Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana (Chairman), Pierre Alric, Robert Balachandran (phone/web video), Patricia Caldwell (phone/web video), John Fallon (phone/web video), Michael Stein (phone/web video); and Gary Roth (Graduate Student Representative).

Also present were President Robert Jones; Vice Presidents Susan Phillips, Christine Bouchard and Stephen Beditz; John Reilly and Janet Thayer, Counsel's Office; also Vincent Delio, Chief of Staff; and guest Peter Wohl, SEFCU. Chairman Castellana asked if a quorum was present. Mr. Beditz confirmed that six statutory members were present in person and by phone/web, which constituted a quorum.

Chairman Castellana then called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2013 meeting. Moved and seconded (Alric/Caldwell), the minutes were approved without exception. Chairman Castellana then gave the floor to President Jones for his report.

Dr. Jones welcomed the Council and gave an update on the beginning of the 2013 – 2014 academic year. This year there are 2550 students in the incoming freshman class from an applicant pool of over 21,500. The average SAT score is 1141 (up one point). Two hundred of these freshmen are Presidential and Frederick Douglass scholars. Our overall enrollment is 17,740 students; 13,145 of these are undergraduate students, up from 12,875 last year; 4600 are graduate students, up over 300 from last year.

Some 55 new full-time faculty joined our campus community for the fall term, and these hires reach every school in college. Gov. Cuomo's NYSUNY 2020 challenge grant is the foundation for this expansion. Other notable developments include the opening of a new School of Business; our new football stadium is nearly complete, with the first home game scheduled for September 14; the acquisition of the Schuyler High School building, proximate to the downtown campus, is now near completion; the water tower and main fountain rehabilitation will be finished this fall; our new Data Center will open in March of next year; and finally we will begin design on our \$165 million ETEC facility on October 1. President Jones mentioned that Start Up New York legislation was recently enacted, which was the Governor's number one priority. This program provides a tax free environment to incentivize companies to start up, relocate or expand on a SUNY campus, and holds exciting prospects for UAlbany. The rules and regulations of

the program will be promulgated sometime this fall at which time we will develop a local plan to implement the program. Nevertheless, we're having preliminary conversations with several businesses that sought us out.

Other notable Items include the announcement of Coach Bob Ford's intention to retire. We're now forming a broad-based search committee that will include community and alumni representation. We have also named our 2013 Citizen Laureates. The academic Laureate will be Holocaust scholar and Union College professor Stephen M. Berk, Ph.D.; our Community Laureate will be Albany Medical Center President and CEO James J. Barba. The awards dinner and ceremony will take place on October 24, 2013 in the SEFCU arena for the second year in a row. The Council is invited to participate in both the Citizen Laureate ceremony as well as Inauguration Week, which will be a weeklong celebration from September 21 to September 28, 2013. There will be an exciting array of events throughout the week culminating in the President's installation ceremony on Saturday, September 28, 2013. More detailed information will be provided to the Council.

At the conclusion of Pres. Jones' report, Chairman Castellana moved to the next item on the agenda, the revised Code of Student Conduct, and asked for and received a motion to approve the revised Code (Stein/Alric). Before opening discussion the Chair thanked Council members Stein, JeanPierre and Roth for their efforts over the summer in working with the Vice President for Student Success in revising the Code.

Vice President Bouchard introduced the item and again thanked the Council members for working with her, the Office of Conflict Resolution, and Counsel's Office for their efforts in revising the Code. She noted that every line of the existing Code of Conduct was examined with the intent of making the document clearer and more cohesive. This was a laborious undertaking that took the entire summer. Mr. Stein lauded the collaborative approach the working group used in revising the Code. He made particular mention of a new section that permits a student to be disciplined not only for acts occurring on campus but for acts occurring off campus as well. Vice President Bouchard noted that we have been working much more closely with the City of Albany in addressing unacceptable student behaviors wherever they occur, which has greatly enhanced our relationship with the City and its residents.

The second revision pertains to the academic integrity language, driven by changes arising in the Faculty Senate to address this matter. The Code was amended to comport with the new Senate rules. Vice President Bouchard noted that the new Code also adds endangerment as a prohibited conduct.

One other notable change is a requirement that students personally file appeals in disciplinary cases, as opposed to having a representative file on the student's behalf. Students are of course still entitled to representation by counsel or others - this has not changed. However, students are now required to initiate their own appeals. Discussion

regarding representation, standard of proof, methods of distribution of the Code, and procedures in cases of academic integrity followed. (Balachandran, Castellana, Stein, Alric and Phillips). At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Castellana moved the matter to a vote, which carried unanimously. Following the vote, Mr. Alric suggested that the document be shared with other SUNY campuses so that they may benefit from the work done at the University of Albany. Vice President Bouchard agreed, and noted that the document will be made available across the State University on several channels.

Discussion then moved Naming Rights, the next item on the agenda. Mr.'s Beditz and Riley noted that the SUNY Board of Trustees is currently addressing the practice of naming campus buildings and venues for commercial, as opposed to philanthropic, purposes. Philanthropic naming is generally done in recognition of a gift, with the donating party having no commercial or financial interest in the building or venue. In a commercial naming, there is a marketing interest and compensation paid in return for naming a building or venue for a fixed period. SUNY Counsel's Office is now crafting a commercial naming rights policy which is expected to be adopted by the SUNY Board of Trustees at its September meeting. In view of UAlbany's immediate plans to market the naming rights of the new football venue, Counsel's Office has suggested that the University at Albany Council formally identify those venues that the Campus is or will consider marketing so that the Trustees resolution, if adopted, will enable the Campus to move forward expeditiously in its efforts. Of note, such identification of these venues will not bind the Campus in any way and will not preclude the option of philanthropic naming should the opportunity arise.

After discussion regarding which facilities should be initially identified for potential commercial marketing (Castellana, Jones, Beditz, Reilly, Alric, Phillips) a motion was made and seconded (Alric/Caldwell) that the Council identify and approve the following athletics facilities as those the University might choose to commercially name, pursuant to State finance law, rule and regulation:

- Football Stadium
- Track and Field Venue
- Softball Field
- Baseball Field
- SEFCU Arena

The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Castellana abstaining.

Moving on to other business, Mr. Alric noted that this year's ACT conference will occur during the same weekend as Homecoming. The agenda for that meeting, including speakers, will be distributed to Council members. Mr. Alric remarked that UAlbany has a nominee for an ACT student scholarship, and noted that one of our students successfully completed for the scholarship two years ago.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Beditz  
University Liaison to the Council