

University at Albany
State University of New York

University Council

Minutes

March 28, 2013

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on March 28, 2013 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana (Chairman), Pierre Alric, Robert Balachandran (initially by teleconference, arrived @ 3pm), Patricia Caldwell, James Clancy, John Fallon, James Jackson (by teleconference), Abner JeanPierre, and Michael Stein; also Gary Roth (Graduate Student Representative), Christine Wagner (Faculty Representative), and Canon Kay Hotaling (Alumni Representative).

Also present were: President Robert Jones, Vice Presidents Stephen Beditz, Christine Bouchard, Catherine Herman, Lee McElroy and Fardin Sanai; John Reilly (SUNY Counsel) and Vincent Delio (Chief of Staff).

Prior to the formal meeting being called to order, Mr. Alric and Mr. Fallon welcomed both President Jones and Chairman Castellana to their first Council meeting. Gary Roth symbolically handed the gavel to Mr. Castellana and each Council member and campus officer who was present introduced themselves.

Mr. Castellana formally called the meeting to order at 2:10pm. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Stein/Caldwell), the minutes were approved as submitted.

Moving to the President's Report, Dr. Jones noted that he and Mr. Castellana had met at an earlier time to discuss the Council and the scope of its responsibilities. He then asked the Secretary to read a letter that SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher sent to the Council commending Daniel Tomson for his 16 years of service as a member of the Council and as acting chair. The Secretary read the letter aloud and it will be formally entered into the Council minutes and record.

Continuing with his report, President Jones highlighted an array of activities and meetings that he has undertaken during his first eighty-six days including meetings with various campus constituencies. He emphasized the importance of increasing the visibility of the University both locally and nationally to better reflect the high quality of the institution. He noted the approval of our NYSUNY2020 proposal which promises to be a significant addition to the development of the institution by building the ranks of our faculty, generating new research and development, spurring commercialization, innovation, and new strategic partnerships, and by building a state of the art Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship Complex (E-TEC).

He said that he had been appointed to co-chair the Capital Region Economic Development Council with James Barba of Albany Medical Center. He reported the launch of a search for the

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position of Vice President for Finance and Business to be co-chaired by Vice President Sanai and School of Business Dean Donald Siegel. He complimented Mr. Beditz for his dedicated service as Interim Vice President. The President announced that the University at Albany Foundation, The University and the Albany Institute of History and Art are exploring a possible collaboration that builds on prior joint initiatives.

President Jones commented on reports of a possible realignment between the University and CNSE noting that such an action, if it materialized, would seek to capitalize on the strengths of both and would be mutually beneficial to each.

Noting UAlbany's institutional quality, the President referred to a handout which highlighted the high levels of ranking of many of our colleges/schools and departments, as is often reported in U.S. News and World Report.

The President commended the University's Athletic Programs, and the extraordinary publicity we received by the achievements of both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams in the NCAA tournaments. Additional comments were offered relating to UAlbany's athletics with Ms. Caldwell, Mr. Stein, Dr. McElroy, and Vice President Sanai commenting.

In response to a question about the use of the Harriman Campus by Ms. Caldwell, Dr. Jones said that this matter had been under consideration and does offer opportunities for expansion. Mr. Castellana noted that a Retreat-type meeting would allow for a broader discussion of the Council and its role and such a gathering might be scheduled at the end of the academic year.

Moving to the Faculty Updates, Professor Wagner reported that University Senate elections will be underway for the coming year as is the formation of various working committees. Mr. Roth provided a report on the Graduate Student Organization and its structure and finances. He said that their elections are in process and there is a proposal to increase the student fee, pending appropriate approvals. He pointed to several GSO-sponsored campus activities and stated that GSO had developed a report on growing student debt, a topic that had been discussed at prior Council meetings. Mr. Castellana suggested that the report be shared with the Council since this issue is on the agenda for the May 10 meeting.

Moving to the Alumni Update, Canon Hotaling presented Chairman Castellana with a set of UAlbany cuff-links from the Alumni Association (AA). She distributed a handout detailing numerous AA-sponsored events across the country and an invitation to a forthcoming AA event. She reported that Timothy Murphy will be the new alumni representative to the Council. Canon Hotaling was invited to attend the next Council meeting to be formally recognized for her contributions.

Moving to Old Business, Dr. Chesin reported that Vice President Dias could not attend the meeting but his research report will be added to the May 10 meeting agenda.

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Moving to New Business, Vice President Bouchard described the proposed change to the Student Code of Conduct. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Clancy/Caldwell) a discussion ensued with Mr. Roth, Mr. Fallon, and Mr. Reilly commenting. The proposed change was approved unanimously. Mr. Alric suggested that since the Council has responsibility in the area of student conduct, a committee of the Council might work with the Vice President for Student Success on those matters.

Moving to the next agenda item and upon motion duly made and seconded (Clancy/Alric), the Resolution recognizing Daniel Tomson for his service on and leadership of the Council was unanimously endorsed. Mr. Balachandran added comment on Mr. Tomson's leadership. Mr. Alric briefly reported on the numerous vacancies of Council positions across SUNY campuses.

Moving to the Athletics Report, Dr. McElroy provided a power-point presentation of the University's athletic programs including an overview of its components - facilities, management, funding, student-athlete academic achievement, community involvement by student-athletes, and adherence to NCAA regulations, copy to be included with formal record. He distributed the record of sports tournaments in which the various women's and men's teams had participated over the years based on their accomplishments. Comments were offered by Ms. Caldwell, Vice President Herman, Mr. Stein, Mr. JeanPierre, Mr. Balachandran and Mr. Fallon.

Moving to the 2013-2014 Executive Budget, Vice President Beditz offered a power-point presentation showing the campus budget including revenue and expenditures, the tuition component and special initiatives including the NYSUNY2020 plan, capital allocations and maintenance needs, copy to be included with formal record. He reported on the situation and effect of the SUNY Downstate Long Island College Hospital fiscal gap. A discussion ensued with Mr. Alric, Mr. Stein and Mr. Castellana commenting.

Moving to the next agenda item, using a power-point presentation, Vice President Herman outlined elements of campus communication and marketing activity. She noted, for example, the numerous meetings that involved President Jones in different venues; efforts to promote UAlbany and its key research initiatives, e.g. biodiversity, forensics, and atmospheric sciences, and showed a new video which features several faculty scientists in the Atmospheric Sciences. She was able to show some data on a sizable number of "hits" or other contacts from our publicity including brief ads, many associated with the recent UAlbany basketball teams on television.

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Alric briefly spoke about ACT, the organization of SUNY campus Council members and its programs including the annual fall conference.

Moving to the final agenda item, Vice President Sanai provided an update on development activity. He noted changes in measuring staff performance metrics and an increase in major gifts over the past year and an upswing in the number of donors overall. He said that President Jones had attended a several development events in Albany, New York City, Florida and other areas

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and a similar event will soon be held in Boston. He reported that the UAlbany Magazine is being printed and will be distributed to some 122,000 alumni. As the meeting came to conclusion, Dr. Jackson asked if a report could be made on the status of the Albany High School acquisition. Mr. Castellana asked that it be added to the May meeting agenda along with a Smart Track report.

There being no further business and upon motion duly made and seconded (Alric/Clancy), and unanimously endorsed, the meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sorrell E. Chesin, Ph.D.
Secretary to the University Council