

2007-2008 University Senate Executive Committee

October 6, 2008

John Delano, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Richard Collier, John Delano, Reed Hoyt, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Susan Phillips, Glenn Pichardo, Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Daniel Truchan

The meeting was convened at 3:32 PM.

Minutes:

A motion to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2008 as written was made, seconded and passed.

A motion to approve the Minutes of May 2, 2008 as written was made, seconded and passed.

Chairs Report by John Delano:

- The Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Task Force is scheduled to release its interim report at the end of October.
- The President has indicated that a budget advisory task force will be formed when the State's budget is better known. This will be a small, intimate group to discuss budgetary matter. It was strongly recommended that someone from UPC be a part of the task force. It was also recommended that names be considered by the Governance Council.
- The selection committee for DTP and DSP is meeting within the next week.
- The retention standards for the Honors College are being explored by Chair Delano in his interviews with individuals on the campus. The issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Honors College Governing Board. As noted in Senate Minutes of November 21, 2005, the proposed retention standards need to be reviewed by the UAC and the Senate.
- Chair Delano asked members to think about whether or not absentees should be listed on the minutes for the Senate meetings.
- Senate Bill 0708-23 continues to be a contentious item among some members of the Senate Executive Committee since its passage by the Senate on May 12, 2008. Chair Delano wants the issue resolved. The Interim President has been advised by Chair Delano that Senate input on the question raised in mid-May of comparable programs at other institutions will reach him by Monday, October 20, and then he should no longer feel obliged to wait for additional Senate input and proceed with his own independent assessment of the Bill's merits.

Interim President's Report by Susan Phillips:

- The recent visit of Dr. Luis Pedraja to the campus as the Campus' liaison for the Middle States Self-Study went well.
- The launch of Globalization studies has occurred.
- The Governor General of Jamaica spoke to a large crowd filling the Campus Center Ballroom. The event was also accompanied by enjoyable music.
- Budget: The President announced earlier this month that a hiring freeze would take effect immediately. Although on-going faculty searches will continue, it is unknown whether offers can ultimately be made.

While the Governor has called for an additional 7% spending reduction, it is unclear at this time what the dollar amount would be for UAlbany. Although the Board of Trustees had hoped to reduce the estimated \$96M cut to the SUNY system, their efforts appear to have been not as successful as they had hoped. The Board will meet again on November 3.

Interim Provost's Report by Susan Phillips:

- The Going Forward Plan (GFP) has completed three of its conferences, with about 300 people attending. The Writing Proposal and the importance of critical thinking have been common themes that have emerged during the GFP conferences.
- The Dean of the School of Criminal Justice will step down at the end of the year. There will be a search to fill the position.
- The agreement with Albany Medical Center to agree to talk completed its first conversation. It was agreed to learn more about active, common research between the two institutions, and to explore how a BS/MD program might work. Interim Provost Phillip has put out a call to pre-med advisors to explore what models might work for UAlbany.
- Miriam Trementozzi and Lynn Videka have been leading a steering committee since summer 2008 to document the University's outreach activities and have completed a draft report.
- A multi-cultural coordinating group is working with International Education to serve a multi-cultural agenda. Ray Bromley has been working in collaboration with representatives from the Office of Student Success on this project.
- Interim Provost Phillips is working with the University at Binghamton on a faculty retirement transition program. The program at Binghamton, which is known the Bartel Professorship, would allow faculty to move into a professorship following their retirement. It is a way to honor those who have made substantial career contributions. UAlbany has a working draft called the Dane Professorship. Former UAlbany President Vincent O'Leary will be contacted to see if his name can be used.

SUNY Senator's Report:

- Bill Lanford: The first plenary meeting will take place in a week and half. There will be discussion of the budget. The search for a new SUNY Chancellor is still open in spite of reports of the contrary that have appeared in the New York Times.
- Michael Range gave an update on the UAlbany Presidential search.

Student Association Report by Daniel Truchan:

Student Association (SA) President Truchan reported that the SA goal is to become more involved in fostering a community-based environment and developing a three-way conversation among faculty, undergraduates and graduate students. SA is partnering with the Alumni Association in events and for a better mentoring program. Monthly town hall meetings will be held and department chairs have been invited to speak. SA hopes to be able to provide financial support to other student groups for their activities.

Dan Truchan is the student representative on the SUNY Provost's Task Force that is dealing with the issue of articulation and transfer agreements among the 64 SUNY campuses that will meet again on October 17.

Graduate Student Organization Report by Glenn Pichardo:

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) President Pichardo reported that GSO is working to bridge the gap between graduates and undergraduates. GSO initiatives include trying to involve graduate assistants to be more active on campus; working on student housing with international students to provide better services to that group; working with the administration to obtain an off campus housing coordinator; a health insurance initiative; and engage students in social activities.

Council and Committee Chair's Reports

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

The Council met Wednesday, 24 September 2008. Members discussed the Program Review Schedule for the period 2009-2016. Kristina Bendikas explained to Council members the logic behind the sequencing as presented; after some discussion and minor adjustments to the schedule, it was approved. There was discussion of the planned work by both the Program Review Committee and the General Education Assessment Committee; even though both need to add members to bring them up to mandated strength, they would nonetheless begin their work right away. This led to a broader discussion of assessment, with some ideas put forward at our initial meeting being further fleshed out. The Council viewed favorably an initiative suggested by Bill Robeson to form a small task force dealing with program reviews, one that would be able to provide assistance on assessment to units scheduled for review in Cycle II 2009-2016, and would, in general, help departments and individual faculty better to come to grips with assessment methodology. It was noted that a seminar on assessment, backed by the Provost, is scheduled October 30th.

The Council began to discuss the three GEAC reports left over from the previous year, which once again led to an exchange of ideas regarding the goals and mechanics of General Education assessment. It was noted that with SUNY Central changing its policies in this area, there is room for individual campuses to be more creative, to shape assessment of General Education courses so that it is better connected to what is taking place in the classroom and so it can be maximally helpful to faculty teaching the courses being assessed. Work on reviewing the three GEAC reports was not completed, but will be at our next meeting.

In reviewing CAA minutes from last year, it was observed that some colleges and departments did not hold elections for membership in the Senate by the end of the spring semester. It was agreed that this issue be brought to the attention of the SEC/Senate Chair, with a request to try to avoid a repetition of such a situation this year. Delays in elections leave the Senate and its councils without an adequate pool of candidates to fill the available slots, and this in turn hampers their ability to begin work right from the start of the fall semester.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

Nothing to report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The first meeting of the Council on Research was held on Wednesday, September 17. The Council reviewed accomplishments of last year, discussed the report of the Vice President for Research and considered issues raised last year still to be resolved.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on September 23 and voted to approve membership of its three standing committees for 2008-09. The Council was briefed by the GAC Chair on the current status of the IRCAP Charter amendment as well as the proposed Senate Charter amendment by GAC that it be vested with the authority to review and act upon proposed new or revised University-wide graduate courses. Previously, the Council was charged by the Senate Executive Committee with reviewing the issue of cross-disciplinary MA/PhD degrees and determining whether to adopt uniform guidelines or criteria. This task was relegated to the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure. Several other agenda items for the coming year were mentioned in anticipation of full discussion at a later date.

(Comment by Senate Chair Delano: The sentence that I have underlined comprises part of the issue to address concerns of the Senate officers upon receiving new information that SUNY Senator Michael Range had obtained after the Senate had approved Senate Bill 0708-23 on May 12, 2008. The Senate officers agreed to have Senate Chair Hoyt ask Interim President Philip to hold off signing the bill until the GAC had explored the implications of the new information. The concerns relate to the fact that there are no comparable combined degree programs in the SUNY system, and that consequently the 100% double counting formalized in the proposal would establish a questionable SUNY-wide precedent. Since the ensuing 5-month delay in this Senate Bill being considered by the President was considered problematic by me, I asked that information be gathered expeditiously by the GAC and forwarded to the President quickly. While the GAC is welcome to consider the matter of “*adopting uniform guidelines or criteria*”, that was not part of the original concerns raised after May 12, 2008, and should not further delay the President’s independent consideration of this Bill. However, if the President decided that this component of “*uniform guidelines or criteria*” was important, he could decide to not sign the Bill and return it to the Senate for revision.)

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

As reported at the last senate meeting, GOV discussed possible restrictions for individuals to chair councils/committees. More in detail:

1. GOV concluded that currently there are no restrictions for chairs of departments to chair a governance council/committee. Furthermore, GOV agreed that there is NO need to introduce an amendment that would impose any such restrictions. It is expected that council chairs would recuse themselves in case of real or apparent conflict of interest.

2. There is strong support among GOV's members to propose a charter amendment that would explicitly prevent non-elected senators (i.e., *ex-officio* by virtue of an administrative position) to serve as chair of a governance council/committee. GOV would like to receive feedback on this matter from the SEC before proceeding further.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

CIO Chris Haile was elected chair of the ITUPC. Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia is chair of the Library Committee. Minutes from May 2 were approved by those who attended. Among the issues discussed:

- Simplifying and consolidating the process through which graduate students purchase University licensed software;
- IT anti-phishing procedures
- Budgeting for ICPSR membership

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC has approved three bills concerning modification of the Syllabus Requirement and changes in the Dean’s List and Dean’s Commendation for Part-time Students. The bills have been forwarded to the SEC.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

No new business to report, but we will be meeting next week to discuss some business already announced and to provide some advice (and no legislation action) to a group that has approached us with a challenge.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

The UPC met on 16 September and has established its two committees. We should be bringing legislation to the Senate at the November meeting regarding name changes. We shall be meeting on 16 October to finalize language on the pending proposals and to discuss a new certificate proposal.

New Business:

UAC introduced three new bills to the Committee:

1. The first bill would modify syllabus requirements in which instructors would need to clearly define the grading system to be employed. A motion was made to move this forward to the Senate.
2. A second bill would allow an additional condition for placement on the Dean's List for both full- and part-time students. A student may appeal for placement on the Dean's List once an I grade has been changed to a grade not lower than a C. The discussion that followed was whether the appeal should go to a committee or to the Dean's Office. However, there was strong support for the burden *not* being on the student being forced to appeal, but rather the institution routinely running the audits following grade-changes to determine when students are eligible for the Dean's List. A motion was made to move this forward to the Senate.
3. The third bill would allow a student to appeal for graduation with honors if they have received a grade change following graduation. The appeal would be made through the Registrar's Office. The discussion centered on whether the responsibility is that of the student or the institution. This bill was referred back to the UAC, which will rewrite that portion to clarify before moving to the Senate.

Old Business:

IRCAP Proposal:

Additional responses have been received from the Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse, in response to Chair Delano's e-mail sent on August 6 to Marjorie Pryse and Sue Faerman encouraging their input on the proposed IRCAP review process that was postponed in May 2008 for further consideration in Fall 2008. Based on the input received from Marjorie Pryse on August 20, GOV will be able to resume discussion of the IRCAP proposal.

Proposed Combined M.A. WSS/Ph.D. SOC Program (Senate Bill 0708-23):

There was debate about the two-week time-frame (deadline of October 20) that Chair Delano announced for interested parties to provide additional information to the President in advance of his own independent assessment of the Bill's merits. GAC Chair stated that since these degrees are being granted on an *ad hoc* basis, he did not see it as pressing and urgent. Senate Chair countered that since the proposed academic program must go to SUNY Central, its being delayed on the President's desk since May 2008 made this a time-sensitive issue. Senate Chair would urge the President wait no longer for Senate input beyond October 20, although the SEC was clearly divided on this matter. Since this Bill was one among many considered by the Senate in May 2008, concerns were expressed among SEC members regarding legislation being rushed through the governance process late in the academic year, which can result in a low-quality of review. The 5-month delay in the President considering Bill 0708-23 gave the appearance of hidden agendas and dishonesty in the highest levels of the Senate that undermine trust and confidence in this body.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Cameron (Senate Office)