

# University at Albany, State University of New York

## Governance Council

R. Michael Range, Chair

November 10, 2008

### Minutes

**Present:** Ray Bromley, Nan Carroll, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Jane Domaracki, Virginia Eubanks, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Candace Merbler, John Monfasani, Michael Range, John Schmidt

The meeting convened at 3:31 pm.

New Council member Jane Domaracki was introduced and welcomed.

Prior to the discussion of agenda topics, Council members viewed a live webcast of a meeting of the SUNY Board of Trustees' University Research Centers Committee. Of particular interest was a resolution potentially changing the administrative relationship between the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and the University. Chair Range stated that there may be items for GOV to consider in the future, given the parallel situation GOV dealt with in Fall 2004 in response to another BoT Resolution.

### **Agenda topics:**

**Minutes:** The Minutes of October 27, 2008 were approved.

### **New Business:**

#### **Recommendations for Budget Advisory Group:**

Interim President Philip has requested a list of approximately twelve names from whom he may choose members for the Budget Advisory Group that will advise him with upcoming difficult budget decisions. A list of nominations that had been received from members of the Council and the Senate Executive Committee was reviewed and additional suggestions were discussed in response to concerns that women were not sufficiently represented on the list, and that there was the need for representation of UPC's Resource Allocation Committee. A request would be made for inclusion of at least one of the members from that committee on the BAG. It is important that all stakeholders are represented and GOV members added additional nominees to ensure such broad representation. GOV members discussed that recommendations could be submitted by category, and agreed, with one abstention, to hold a ballot by e-mail, selecting individuals in three different groups: all Non-CAS units, CAS, and Professional Faculty. The Council's recommendation would go to SEC before going to the President.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Feedback on Amendment re: Eligibility to Chair:**

The proposed amendment that the Council had approved at its last meeting was sent for their comments to the Director of Libraries, Frank D'Andraia, and the Chief Information Officer, Chris Haile. Mr. D'Andraia had suggested changing the membership of the Council on Libraries to an odd numbered composition to prevent a tie in voting. GOV did not feel that particular issue needed to be addressed. Chris Haile did not raise any issues with the proposal, but she suggested a friendly amendment to simply change the name of

the relevant LISC Committee to Information Technology Committee (IT Committee). That change was approved. The amendment will be introduced to the Senate at its next meeting on November 17, 2008.

### **Clarifying Amendment re: Graduate Courses:**

Dean of Graduate Studies Marjorie Pryse joined the meeting to discuss the proposed amendment on graduate courses that GOV had formulated at its last meeting, in response to a proposal from GAC. GAC Chair Kranich had also been invited but was not able to join. GOV Chair Range reviewed the history of the proposal. He explained that the intention of the amended language being introduced by GOV is not to limit innovative and interdisciplinary academic course proposals, but to ensure that all graduate courses originate from one or more schools or colleges, and be part of a graduate program.

Dean Pryse explained that there is rarely a need for UNI prefix courses at the graduate level. Graduate students directly enter a program, unlike undergraduates who typically do not until later. Graduate students may find the need for courses that do not fit into an existing program. This was the situation last year when ITLAL and the Office of Graduate Studies proposed the first of three UNI Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Programs. At that time, the UNI prefix was believed to be appropriate because such courses would be housed on campus within the Learning Center. GAC approved the courses, but the SEC agreed that that GAC did not have the authority to approve such new courses that did not originate from a school or college. Dean Pryse continued, explaining that it had been difficult getting one of the schools to host the program and offer the courses.

Dean Pryse concluded by suggesting that GAC assume the role of a graduate advisory council and become more of a consultative body.

GOV Chair Range will send the proposed amendment to GAC Chair Laurence Kranich for further input and comments. He asked GOV members to consider the information presented by Dean Pryse for further discussion at the next meeting.

### **New Business not on Agenda**

Chair Range reported about a request for activating the Mediation Committee of GOV that had been forwarded to him by Senate Chair Delano. Two senators were concerned that GOV had not properly addressed the question of eligibility of department chairs to chair governance councils and committees in its earlier discussions of the proposed amendment referenced above under Old Business. During the ensuing discussion, Ed Cupoli suggested that the Council invite the senators asking for mediation to meet with the Council. After further discussion the Council concluded that it had to recuse itself from any such mediation proceedings, as the matter clearly concerned actions of GOV. The Chair will inform the two senators of other avenues available to them to bring their concerns to the SEC and/or the senate. Ed suggested that the Council should continue discussing the issue of conflict of interest in a more comprehensive way.

Due to time restrictions, Item 2 under Old Business was tabled until the November 24 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Recorded and submitted by  
Gail Cameron