

2007-2008 University Senate Executive Committee

October 8, 2007

Reed Hoyt, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Richard Collier, John Delano, Sanjay Goel, Reed Hoyt,
William Lanford, Zai Liang, Eric Lifshin, Lawrence Raffalovich,
Michael Range, Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Junru Ruan, Joan Savitt,
Lawrence Schell

Minutes: The Minutes of September 10, 2007 were approved with amendments.

Chair Hoyt's Report:

- Administrative Committees: Chair Hoyt spoke about the distinction between administrative committees and governance committees, quoting the Senate Bylaws. After some discussion on new committees being formed without consultation, it was noted that Project Renaissance began without following the proper governance process. It was agreed that increased vigilance on the part of governance is the only way to try to prevent this from happening again, and that UPC will have to be strict with committees when discussing budget information.
- Senate Calendar: There was discussion about legislation not getting to the Senate before the end of the school year. The possibility that Senate could set up a group to convene over the summer (maybe the Senate Executive Committee) to review any last minute bills was mentioned. (One member noted that faculty members are not paid to work over the summer.) Another suggestion to help ensure legislation is presented on time; is to have Senate create a calendar noting specific dates on all curricular proposals – indicating the dates the proposals should be in the pipeline in order to be implemented the next fall. After lengthy discussion on a change of the Charter item, the members agreed that the development of a Senate calendar should be announced at the next Faculty Meeting, allowing for faculty input on the matter. It was further suggested that members of GAC, UAC and UPC could develop a flow chart making the steps to course approval more clear (including interdisciplinary courses).
- Concern in CPCA: The issue of non-tenured faculty voting on tenure cases has been discussed in CPCA. Chair Hoyt suggested that CPCA look at that issue, and also look at the issue of the non-tenured faculty voting in the departments.

Council and Committee Chair Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment), William Lanford, Chair. CAA had an organizational meeting September 20. CAA adopted a council operating procedure that attempts to avoid inappropriate disclosure of assessment documents and conflicts of interest involving CAA members. CAA elected Peter Duchessi Chair of the Program Review Committee, and Seth Chaiken Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee. After polling CAA members, the Chair of CAA working with the Chairs of the subcommittees will propose committee membership. At the request of its Dean, the assessment of the College of Computing Information has been postponed from 2007/8 to 2008/9. The first program assessments expected to be reviewed are: Accounting, and Communication.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments), Eric Lifshin, Chair. CPCA had its first meeting last Tuesday. The Council members had a chance to meet each other and go over their responsibilities and the operation of the Council. The first three cases for the semester were distributed and the plan is to discuss them at meetings that have been scheduled to take place over the next few weeks.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council), Sally Friedman, Chair. GAC will meet on 10/18 and 10/25 to kick off this academic year. Council wants to inform the Senate of two actions GAC took at the end of last semester (to be brought up at this or the November SEC meeting): to require (with a couple of exceptions) a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (written exam or equivalent) for all international student applications and a program name change from “Master of Arts, Latin American and Caribbean Studies” to “Master of Arts, Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies”. Other items on the upcoming agenda include consideration and evaluation (as required by the Senate bill) of the Ombuds Program. The Chair also noted that GAC hopes that the proposed suspension of the graduate program in Geology will be dealt with at its October 18th meeting.

GOV (Governance Council), John Delano, Chair. The Governance Council approved a proposal to revise procedures for the nomination of faculty to the rank of Distinguish Service Professor and Distinguished Teaching Professor. Because of its lengthy agenda, the Council members have agreed to expand the time of the biweekly meetings and are searching for a time block when the Council might meet on “off” weeks.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing), Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair. LISC held its first meeting on 9/28. The Council received reports from CIO Christine Haile and Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia. Members are in the process of forming the Council's two standing committees: The Library Committee and the Information Technology Usage Committee. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 26.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council), Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair. The UAC met September 20th. Minor in Informatics: A minor in Informatics was proposed by faculty from Computer Science, Informatics, Information Studies, and Information Technology Management, and approved in spring 2006. The original proposal was for a *general option* – four core courses and two upper-division courses – that would be available to students in any major outside the College of Computing and Information. The new proposal expands the minor with 3 new cognate areas where the students will apply informatics in the discipline of their major: Criminal Justice, Geography and Communications. The proposal consists of four core courses in informatics and two upper-division courses in the corresponding concentration option of their major. UAC approved these new cognate options of the Minor in Informatics with the recommendation that the bulletin description be changed from “variations” to “concentrations”.

ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC met last Monday with Estela Rivera to learn about the services provided by her office. ULC also discussed some concerns raised by graduate students, several of which will be directed to other councils.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council), Diane Dewar, Chair. The UPC met on Friday, Oct 5th, to discuss the suspension of the graduate geology program in the DEAS. It has invited Dean Peter Bloniarz to present some of the new planning and curricular developments of the CCI so that UPC will have a better understanding of new developments that may need to be vetted through this Council. Other business included a discussion of the resolution to start a dialogue between the task force on environmental sustainability and other planning entities on campus so that both sets of goals can be worked out in a mutually beneficial way.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility), Sanjay Goel, Chair. The committee had an organizational meeting to plan the agenda for 2007-2008 activities. The committee reviewed the outstanding issues from the previous year that needed to be completed. Specifically the committee was interested in reviewing the Diversity Committee Report and the Honor Code being created at UAlbany and the "Freedom in the Classroom Report" issued by AAUP in 2007. There was also some sentiment that the issue of performance enhancing drugs in academics needs to be examined by the committee since misuse of drugs like Ritalin, Adderall, and Dexedrine is becoming rampant. There are both medical and ethical issues associated with the misuse of these drugs.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship), Zai Liang, Chair. CERS met on September 25. The Committee went over main responsibilities of CERS. Then the Committee discussed suggestions for possible changes in CERS policy and agenda for the new academic year.

New Business:

Senate Bill No. 0708-03: Proposed Amendment of Charter Section X.1.4.3.2. / Senator Elections. The Bill was introduced by Governance Council Chair, Delano and Secretary Collier. A motion was made to adopt it; it passed unanimously, and will go to the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 0708-04: Proposed Name Change for CETL / ITLAL. The Bill was introduced by Governance Council Chair, Delano and Secretary Collier. A motion was made to adopt it; it passed unanimously, and will go to the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 0708-05: Proposed Guidelines for the UAlbany Selection Committee for Distinguished Teaching Professors and Distinguished Service Professors. The Bill was introduced by Governance Council Chair, Delano and Senator Range explained its history. After discussion, a motion was made to adopt it; it passed unanimously, and will go to the Senate.

UAC – Minor in Informatics: Chair Hoyt introduced the proposal and noted that it will need to be written in Bill form to go to Senate. Professor Reinhold-Larsson agreed to provide the bill and rationale. A motion was made to bring it to the Senate in bill form. That motion was approved, with one abstention.

UPC- Environmental Sustainability Planning Resolution: Chair Hoyt introduced the Resolution. It was unanimously approved and will go to Senate.

UPC- Suspension of the Geology Major: Chair Hoyt introduced the proposal. It was explained by Professor Delano. The motion to bring it to Senate passed with one opposition and one abstention.

SEC-Resolution Commending Susan Herbst: Introduced by Chair Hoyt. It was unanimously approved and will go to Senate.

SEC-Resolution Support RPI Faculty Senate: Introduced by Chair Hoyt. There was discussion on amending the wording of the Resolution. Chair Hoyt agreed to reword the Resolution, send it around to members via email for approval. It was unanimously approved and will go to Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder