

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, March 5, 2012
As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna Fessler, Chair

A special meeting of the full Senate was called on February 22nd in order to give senators a chance to meet with representatives of Isaacson, Miller, the search firm retained for the Presidential Search. Attendance was low, at just over a dozen senators.

The SEC also met on Wednesday, February 22nd (Monday was a holiday for professional faculty, so the meeting was moved to a Wednesday). The first agenda item was a 30-minute session with Michael Baer and Pam Pezzoli of Isaacson, Miller. The president recused himself from this portion of the meeting and there were no SEC minutes taken. The conversation revolved around what characteristics the SEC members felt would be important for the next university president. The Senate Chair and Vice Chair, obligated to attend a Presidential Search Committee meeting that overlapped the SEC meeting, left shortly thereafter and the Chair of CPCA presided over the remainder of the SEC meeting. The remaining agenda items were: follow up on Resolution 1112-04 and 1112-05, and also a number of bills from UAC. The bills from UAC were all approved to be moved to the Senate floor. After a long discussion about Resolution 1112-04, the SEC concluded that, as noted in the resolutions, a procedure for formal inclusive consultation at the “earliest possible stages” already existed, and further since the Senate is defined as a consultative body, no mechanism for enforcement or requirement could be constructed by this body, so that further action was not within its purview. On Resolution 1112-05, the SEC decided to delegate the forming of the committee to the Governance Council.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The University Faculty Senate Report was sent under separate cover. The Spring plenary meeting is scheduled for April 19-21 at Geneseo University

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative

At our last GSO Assembly Meeting, a committee was formed and has already had their first meeting, addressing the fundamental flaws of our Constitution. Upon adjournment, our Assembly Speaker stepped down from his position. President Nicholls was charged with the role of appointing a new speaker by the March Assembly Meeting. GSO recently held their monthly social mixer at Jillians and is revving up for the big Mardi Gras celebration to be done Casino Style and the movie screening of Piled Higher Deeper. Also coming up in the end of the month is the next of the Graduate Student Speaker Series showcasing School of Social Welfare Doctoral Candidates YiYi Chen and Yong Li, discussing the development of support systems for supervisors in public child welfare. Currently in the office we have been coordinating with the non-uptown campuses on concerns of how better to serve those particular graduate student populations such as emailing in event reservations, required flyers, voucher pick-ups etc. On a larger scale we are looking at the possibility of establishing a downtown campus GSO office and have been meeting with SWSA and SWARE as RGSOs to spearhead this project.

SA (Student Association) – Bryant Barksdale, Student Association President Designee

The Student Association recently held mid-term elections to fill all Student Senate vacancies along with the open Vice Presidential spot. The current administration is in the process of filing all open executive board positions.

On Friday February 17th SA kicked off its “Student to Student Initiative”. This is a five week program that will have high school students working with five of our student groups in workshops and mentoring

activities. Student Association and university administration are currently working with Albany High School and city officials to allow the students to perform with the groups at an event planned for April.

ParkFest, our annual spring event, is currently being planned. We are considering looking at three different locations for the event and are still in the process of deciding on performers. Since there will be no Fountain Day this year SA is looking to do more with this one event for the student body.

Other events that we have planned for this semester are the Culture Carnival, Outstanding Faculty Award, Purple and Gold Awards, and various co-sponsorships for speaker events. We are also looking to collaborate with the SUNY Student Assembly to participate in SUNY Palooza.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair

In its meeting on February 1 the CAA approved the PRC reports for the program reviews of Africana Studies and Music. The reports have been forwarded to the respective department chairs.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Aran Mull, Chair

In its meeting on February 1 the CAA approved the PRC reports for the program reviews of Africana Studies and Music. The reports have been forwarded to the respective department chairs.

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

CERS has passed a revised version of the policy document to be brought to the senate at its next meeting.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on February 2nd and considered multiple agenda items:

VPR Dias provided a Research Foundation (RF) update which included the UAlbany Research Activity report for the second half of 2011 and the 2012 RF Operating Plan.

The FRAP-A subcommittee held its proposal review meeting on January 19th and scored the 15 applications. Based on application quality, 11 applications were recommended for funding totaling ~\$105,000. These recommendations were unanimously endorsed by COR and forwarded to the VPR for final decision. A discussion ensued to determine the causes/solutions for the marked decline in applications seen over the past 2-3 years.

The Researcher's Liaison subcommittee presented its initial report on the establishment of an Early Career Achievement Award similar to the existing Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award. The Early Career award is designed to recognize an outstanding early trajectory of junior faculty. The draft guidelines were discussed by COR and the sub-committee is working on modifications to the proposed procedures. The revised version will be considered at the next COR meeting on March 1st.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair

CPCA has now completed the review of eighteen cases this year. The next meeting will occur March 2, 2012.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

The GAC met on February 6. The policies and practices for dealing with academic dishonesty were discussed. The GAC members have submitted recommendations for updates to the language appearing in the Graduate Bulletin. This will be coordinated with the UAC for a joint Senate bill. There are presently no bills pending from GAC.

GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair

The Governance Council met on February 13 to discuss Senate Resolution 1112-03R. At the GOV Chair's request, Provost Phillips attended the meeting to answer questions and provide narrative on the upper administration's perspective. Dan White has agreed to lead GOV's task force as we proceed with this investigation and the work of developing procedures for the future. The Council also discussed strategies for bringing the work of the Administrative Review Committee into line with the needs of the administration. A meeting to discuss President Philip's concerns, outlined in the memo read at the February 6 Senate meeting, is planned for the near future. The next meeting of the GOV Council is scheduled for February 27.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair

The majority of our Feb. 6 meeting was devoted to Counsel John Reilly's presentation by on UAlbany's protocol for handling FOIL requests. All NY State agencies are subject to FOIL requests, and all agency records are potentially accessible. There are, however, nine categories of exemptions (such as records covered by FERPA). Requests are handled by Counsel on a case-by-case basis to determine the applicability of FOIL and its exemptions. New York's "Intra-Agency Exemption," which protects the "deliberative process of government," offers some safeguards against wholesale requisition of faculty records, and might have been applicable in the UWisconsin case that was discussed at UFS. Counsel Reilly's presentation provoked lively discussion, and details are available in LISC's published minutes.

The Library Committee heard from Associate Librarian Karen Brown about the "Digital Content Task Force" on Feb. 10. This group is developing a long-term plan for archiving, preserving, and expanding access to electronic materials created within the University.

The IT Committee, which met twice in January, plans to review a draft of the "Responsible Use" policy by the end of February in anticipation of its presentation at the next LISC meeting, March 5.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on January 30th and February 13th to review a series of departmental proposals. We will meet again on the 27th to review additional proposals from Music and Informatics. UAC approved the following proposals and is now forwarding them on to the Senate for review:

- Senate Bill 1112-09 End Admissions to GEO Concentration of Env. Science BS & GEO Minor in DAES
- RPUB to PRAD Program Proposal
- Senate Bill 1112-11 ECO Revisions to BA
- Senate Bill 1112-12 EAS 2011 Curriculum Revision
- Senate Bill 1112-13 POS Concentrations

The General Education proposal was forwarded to UPPC for review on February 13th.

ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

ULC met on February 2nd. We discussed new topics we'd like to focus on in the Spring semester, such as international students, student engagement, and employee satisfaction. Furthermore, we reviewed the letter recommending President Philip to form a task force in order to further study our campus smoking policy and the implementation of a Tobacco-Free campus. Since not all the members were present at the meeting, we decided to vote on its approval via email. The letter was approved by ULC members and has been sent. Our next meeting is on March 1st with guest speaker, Margaret Reich from the Office of International Education.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

UPPC met on Friday February 17. The Provost provided an extensive report on a variety of topics including new Federal reporting regulations, the status of strategic plan implementation, SUNY 2020 and the Chancellors

report. Details of the presentation can be found in the minutes as well as in other support documents provided by the Provost. UAC reported on the proposal for new General Education requirements and their implementation. UPPC evaluated resource implications and voted to forward the proposal to the full SEC.

Time was not available to discuss the current effort of UPPC to develop a campus impact statement that will accompany proposed legislation and help UPPC and other councils in establishing their position for proposed legislation or other items put forward for discussion or a vote. A draft of the proposed form will be circulated to the membership for their consideration the process can be expedited prior to the next meeting.