

University Senate Executive Committee

Monday, February 22, 2017
2:45 PM
UNH 306

Jim Collins, Senate Chair

Minutes

Present: Collins, James; Durio, Saben; Fabris, Daniele; Fossett, James; Fox, Cynthia; Hamilton, Diane; Jewell, Carol; King, Ekow; Little, Walter; Mamorella, David; McNutt, Louise-Anne; Poehlmann, Christian; Reinhold, Karin; Skebe, Alifair; Smith, Christy; Spencer, Latonia; Wheeler, Darrell

Guests: Rosenmayer, Michaela; Szelest, Bruce; Brennan, Joe; Taylor, Lisa

The meeting convened at 2:48 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 30 were unanimously approved, with minor changes.

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT – DARRELL WHEELER

Interim Provost Wheeler reported having enjoyed the Shared Governance forum on 2/21 and thanked Vice Chair Karin Reinhold for moderating. He underscored that work would continue on updating the University Handbook and other University policies, procedures and documents to ensure consistency and alignment with SUNY practices. He announced that dean searches also continue to move forward. An RFA would soon be out for the School of Public Health, as would names of candidates for the School of Business, he stated. The Interim Provost highlighted that the University at Albany welcomed [Paul Grondahl](#) as the new Director of the New York State Writers Institute, and [Robert Griffin](#) as Dean of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC).

SEC CHAIR'S REPORT – James Collins

I. Informational

1. On February 3, Chair Collins received texts of two resolutions on the Executive Order travel ban and affirming support for an inclusive, diverse campus, from Gov Chair Karin Reinhold and GAC Chair James Fossett, along with confirmation that the Liaisons and Elections Committee of GOV voted to support both.
2. On February 3, Chair Collins tallied an electronic vote from SEC endorsing the Resolution, discussed at its January 30 meeting: "UAlbany's Commitment to a Safe, Diverse, and Inclusive Multicultural Campus." The vote was 10 in favor, 1 opposed.
3. On February 6, Chair Collins attended a meeting of the University Executive Committee discussing SUNY Provost Cartwright's response to the University's presentation (on January 18) about Performance Improvement Planning. At this meeting Harvey Charles, Dean of International Studies, gave a report of the effects of the Executive Order/Travel Ban on the University.
4. On February 9, Chair Collins confirmed GSA President Saben Durio's appointment of Amanda Aykanian as the GSA representative to COR.
5. On February 9, Chair Collins discussed with GOV Chair Karin Reinhold and GAC Chair James Fossett the order of presentation of two resolutions for the Senate Meeting on February 13.
6. On February 9, Chair Collins clarified with Vice Chair Reinhold and Immediate Past Chair Fox the non-existence of an Independent Review Committee for Undergraduate Programs and confirmed the need to remove reference to it from the Senate Handbook.
7. On February 10, Chair Collins accepted an invitation to participate in the February 21 Forum on Shared Governance.

8. On February 11, Chair Collins issued invitations to participants for the March 21 Forum on Contingent Concerns.
9. On February 11, Chair Collins contacted the current Communications Director and President of the Emeritus Center, following up on previous inquiries about the status of a non-voting Senator from the Emeritus Center.

II. **Actions taken**

- a. On February 6, 2017, Chair Collins referred to the Senate two resolutions:
 - i. UALBANY'S COMMITMENT TO A SAFE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE MULTICULTURAL CAMPUS
 - ii. CONDEMNATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRANTS
- b. On February 10, Chair Collins confirmed the invitation of Vice President Joe Brennan to attend the February 22 SEC Meeting.

III. **Recommendations for actions**

In order to provide an accessible written record of important Council practices and procedures, the SEC should encourage each Council Chair to develop written procedures for their Councils and Committees, to be kept in a Council Handbook compiled and curated by the Governance Council, as a supplement to the more general Senate Handbook.

Senate Chair Collins explained that GOV's Elections and Liaisons Committee has the overall responsibility to revise the Senate Handbook, an item also on the long-term SEC agenda. The Chair noted that he would be distributing templates to assist Council Chairs in documenting written procedures. He asked Council Chairs to submit those procedures via e-mail to him, copying Senate Secretary Chris Poehlmann. He and the Senate Secretary, Chair Collins added, had been revising a Senate timeline outlining such items as the elections schedule. Senate Chair Collins stated that he was informed of opposition to the Commencement changes recently announced. SEC members discussed comments and potential issues, noting that Events had been very responsive in listening and thinking creatively to address issues. Provost Wheeler also addressed concerns and welcomed critiques for consideration in future planning.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senate) – Diane Hamilton, Walter Little & Latonia Spencer, SUNY Senators

- Nothing to report

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Seban Durio, GSA President

- Graduate Student Assembly has created a Sanctuary Campus Task Force
 - Taskforce responsibilities involve: Postcard, letter writing campaign; working through our Student Assembly at their bi-annual conference; working with Interim President Stellar to learn of his commitment; advocacy via social media, listserv, etc.

GSA President Durio reported that though executive orders had been halted, the task force would continue to ask that the administration and Board of Directors communicate information to any affected students. Chair Collins suggested that Sabin connect with Karen Reinhold to share information.

SA (Student Association) – Felix Abreu, Student Association President

- Nothing reported.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Alifair Skebe, Chair

- Nothing reported

Chair Skebe added that CAA had met on Tuesday and reviewed the role of student evaluations in the assessment of faculty teaching. Most members, she explained, had felt that this was not in CAA's purview, but SIRF could be amended to have a more academic focus. She noted that APRC was still completing program review. Regarding CAA procedures, Chair Skebe stated that CAA has orientation documents on Middle States self-study.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

Informational

- a) CAFFECoR had a very abbreviated meeting 2/13/2017, largely due to inclement weather and a delayed start.

Reports of Actions

- b) N/A

Recommendations for Actions

- c) Jewell will reschedule the meeting.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

- Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

- Nothing reported

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Louise-Anne McNutt, Chair

- Nothing to report

CPCA Chair McNutt pointed out that the UUP contracts suggest that SIRFs have a minimal role in evaluating faculty. She added that the council would draft a proposal to change procedures, as CPCA was overwhelmed with 24 cases to review. The Chair promised to forward draft ideas to the SEC for consideration.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – James Fossett, Chair

- Nothing reported

Chair Fossett reported that at GAC's last meeting members discussed further involvement and advocacy around executive orders of the Trump administration. GAC would be asking the university administration to perhaps develop a brief report highlighting the importance of international students and would encourage that the report be made available to the media and to government. Senate Chair Collins encouraged GAC to informally connect with Institutional Research and Harvey Charles of the Office of International and Global Education, in addition to any formal reporting or legislation requests.

GOV (Governance Council) – Karin Reinhold, Chair

Governance voted on two resolutions as follows:

1) RESOLUTION: AFFIRMATION OF UALBANY'S COMMITMENT TO A SAFE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE MULTICULTURAL CAMPUS

6 Yes, 2 Abstain, 1 No

2) RESOLUTION: CONDEMNATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRANTS.

7 Yes, 1 Abstain, 1 No

GOV Chair Reinhold stated that as there had been a lot of feedback at the Senate meeting, GOV had split the resolution into two, outlined in her report above. She stated that GOV was working on a bylaws amendment to allow part-time

faculty to elect their own representative. The Chair provided information to share with individuals having immigration issues, in response to questions raised at the last Senate meeting. SEC members suggested ways to make such information available. Lastly, Chair Reinhold solicited nominations for the 2017-18 At-large Senators and Senate Vice Chair.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

- **Educational Technology Center (ETC).** Test Scanning services moved from the Computer Center to LC 27. The call center portion of the Help Desk relocated from LC 27 to MSC 209. The Help Desk will move to the library with the students in a few months. LC 27/SB 31 plans to be turned into an Educational Technology Center, a faculty-centered facility for ITS Teaching and Learning services. FTR, Classroom Technology, Test Scanning, and the Lecture Capture Room will offer one-stop shopping to bring customers and services together.
- **Student Advisory Board.** Many of the concerns that the Student Advisory Board discussed this past fall had to do with the cost of printing. Many transfer and graduate students come from institutions that don't charge for printing or give each student a certain amount of free printing every semester (e.g., 200 sheets, or \$30 worth). Some benchmarking was done with other SUNY institutions, and most seem to have more liberal printing options than UAlbany. The Libraries would like to work with ITS to consider and evaluate other printing solutions.
- **Science Library.** The proposed renovation of the 3rd floor of the University Library will not happen. Instead, the Office of Campus Planning is looking to renovate the 2nd floor of the Science Library. That space contains book stacks filled with bound journals that are very lightly used. The Libraries are working with the Office of Campus Planning to move the bound journals to compact shelving on the basement level so the University can re-purpose the 2nd floor space to house other units (Advisement, the Writing Center, ITLAL, and the Center for Achievement, Retention, and Student Success). Access to the 16 group study rooms and offices on that floor will most likely be lost at the end of the spring semester. The Libraries are going to appoint a task force to review library space to provide alternate group study areas. The goal is to not have a net loss of space dedicated to student use, especially group study rooms which are very popular.
- **Combined circulation, reference, and IT help desk.** Plans to re-build the circulation desk so that it's more welcoming as well as accessible to people in wheelchairs in in development. It will be about 10-12 feet further back from the door so the size of the lobby area will be increased and seating will be provided. Circulation, reference, and IT support will be offered at one consolidated desk. The current reference desk will be dismantled and replaced with additional student workstations.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

- Nothing reported

Co-Chair Smith indicated that UAC had met the day before and a report was pending.

ULC (University Life Council) – Ekow King, Chair

- Nothing reported

Chair King noted that ULC was scheduled to meet.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

- a) The Council met on February 8. The agenda included several reports:
 - i) Interim Provost Wheeler provided updates on the Strategic Planning process and various Dean searches, and announced that he had discussed with the Deans changes in fiscal planning that will have move budget planning into to the spring semester;
 - ii) VP Van Voorst updated us on the status of report on the assessment of the Division of Finance and Administration that took place in December and described the status of current budget negotiations in the NYS legislature.
 - iii) Director of Sustainability Mary Ellen Mallia presented an overview of the history and current sustainability efforts on campus.
 - iv) Sandra Starke, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; -Kevin Williams, Vice Provost and

Dean of Graduate Education, and Harvey Charles, Dean and Vice Provost for International Education, presented information about current enrollments and future trends.

- b) The Council also considered a proposal to rename the Department of Computer Engineering as the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- c) Consideration of proposals from Rockefeller College to couple undergraduate majors in Political Science and in Public Policy with the Master's in International Affairs have been placed on the agenda of our next meeting, March 8.

II. Actions Taken

- a) The Council approved proposal to rename the Department of Computer Engineering as the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

III. Recommendations.

- a) None at this time.

Chair Fox added that she would be sending a reminder to UPPC about the Conversation on Arts and Humanities scheduled for Monday, February 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and she encouraged attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Collins reported that he had conferred with the parliamentarian to simplify 1617-04R: Resolution on UALBANY'S COMMITMENT TO A SAFE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE MULTICULTURAL CAMPUS. The resolution would be considered at the March 6 Senate meeting.

At the Chair's request, a motion was made and unanimously approved to table the remaining unfinished business and move to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on Branding by Joe Brennan Vice President for Communications and Marketing

Vice President Brennan reminded that the University at Albany had hired Maguire Associates to assist with brand development, and he shared an overview of their findings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder