

**UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL
2010-11 CHAIR: R. MICHAEL RANGE**

**OCTOBER 29, 2010
MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: R. Bangert-Drowns, S. Beditz, T. Bessette, S. Birge, E. Eisenbraun, N. Fahrenkopf, P. Ferlo, J. Fossett, R. Johnson, K. Lahiri, C. Lenart, E. Lifshin, T. Price, R. Michael Range, B. Shaw, D. Wagner, J. Welch, G. Williams

GUESTS: Sanjay Goel, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management
Ray Bromley, Vice Provost for International Education

MINUTES: Minutes of October 15, 2010 approved as written

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

No report was given

CHAIR'S REPORT

Theatre department has put a petition on line to Senate higher ed committee, President, Provost, etc. <http://www.petitiononline.com/SaveThr/petition.html>

OLD BUSINESS

CERTIFICATE ON INFORMATION SECURITY

Dr. Goel and Vice Provost Bromley attended the meeting to address questions about additional supporting materials they had submitted after their last UPPC appearance on 9/17/10. Dr. Fossett requested clarification about the grant – funds from FIPSY will assist with program development. The goal is for tuition from overseas students to cover actual program expenses. The program will not be run if they cannot break even, with a minimum enrollment of twelve. Dr. Bromley said that lower enrollment in this program as opposed to regular School of Business offerings is possible because the target audience will be paying out of state tuition. Dr. Range asked a question about title – it will remain as originally stated. Dr. Range also posed a question about the financial plan, grant, and proposal. Dr. Goel and Vice Provost Bromley clarified that the program is a blended program that takes place partly on-line and partly in person. The first part of the program is completed in person so that the instructors know students and students know each other. Dr. Range asked if this can be offered to existing students – it will be offered if funding is provided from NYS, or other grant sources. UA students can enroll in the summer program. The development grant will allow course materials to be translated into Russian for the first cohort.

Dr. Wagner asked if funding dries up, will the courses still be offered, but not as frequently? Yes. Dr. Lifshin complimented the business plan, and asked if there are any potential down sides of this program. Dr. Goel responded that there is a potential for too much intellectual burden on the faculty, but believes that it is manageable at this point. Dr. Lahiri questioned whether this type of activity is where we want the faculty to spend time. He perceives a lack of

leadership, and would rather see the faculty researching and publishing during the summer. Dr. Goel replied that this engagement also helps us to understand practices in a part of the world where many of the electronic threats originate. Vice Provost Bromley added that many University staff are underused in the middle of the summer. A concentrated summer program can be a revenue source and a rationalization for the use of our staff during the 'off season'. Dr. Lahiri reiterated his concern about young faculty moving in this direction as they are the future of the institution. Dr. Lifshin brought up the budget crisis and lauded this program as a creative way to bring in much needed revenue, noting that as much we love academic excellence, it is critical that we are creative about bringing in revenue from sources that don't compromise us and offer an opportunity to stimulate research. Dr. Lahiri doesn't see how this program will be a great revenue generator. Dr. Goel clarified that this is a \$400k Federal grant with full overhead. Dr. Wagner motioned to approve the certificate, which was seconded. The council approved the motion unanimously. The proposal for the certificate in Information Security will move forward to the Senate.

DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Provost Phillips distributed strategic plan materials to the council. The short version provides background regarding the process and articulates the mission and values. The full document was also distributed, which includes action steps for all goals and completion timelines. Identifying implementation priorities is an ongoing process; undergraduate education will be a top focus. Provost Phillips also distributed a 'crosswalk' document that fleshes out how many of our strategic goals connect to the overall SUNY strategic plan. The Provost invited questions regarding the documents. Dr. Lifshin inquired about the tactical plan. Provost Phillips replied that the plan now is to put together a steering committee with task forces for each of the directives to formulate an action plan, hopefully by January. Dr. Lifshin asked how we are going to reconcile the tactical plan with the sad state of the budget. Dr. Phillips does have rough estimates of implementation costs, but obviously we can only do what we can fund. Dr. Range feels that the next phase where UPPC should weigh in is when the implementation priorities and corresponding details are put forth. Provost Phillips emphasized that a decision to work first on one goal does not diminish the importance of any of the other goals. A prioritization document will be forthcoming on the wiki. (<https://wiki.albany.edu/display/ustrat/Strategic+Planning+-+Campus+Community+Home>).

Dr. Fossett expressed concern about moving forward with implementation with finances in such an unsettled state. Mr. Beditz responded that we need to be flexible and dynamic; capital funding is anticipated to finance some of the initiatives. Dr. Wagner and Dean Bangert-Drowns agreed that we need inspiration in times like these, and we need to be ready when opportunities do arise again. Mr. Bessette commented that cementing our goals now will help us maintain continuity in the future. Mr. Beditz commended the level of specificity in this plan, and added that we tied a lot of our Middle States review goals to the strategic plan, so it is to our benefit to follow this road map looking ahead to our midterm review.

DEACTIVATION OF PROGRAMS

Dr. Range invited any additional comments regarding the President's announcement regarding program deactivations. He proposed that we may look back to the comments recorded in the 10/15/10 UPPC minutes.

Provost Phillips offered additional information to the council to clarify how the reductions have spread out among the humanities and arts, social sciences and professional schools, and hard sciences over the last two years. The loss of faculty lines have been roughly 11% in the Arts and Humanities, 72% in the Social Sciences (12% in CAS and 60% in the professional schools), and 17% in the Sciences/Mathematics. After considering the (few) hires during those two years, the resulting profile of faculty losses is, roughly: 4% in the Arts and Humanities, 87% in the Social Sciences (13% in CAS and 73% in the professional schools), and 10% in the Sciences/Mathematics.

Dean Bangert-Drowns reiterated points he had made at the last meeting, e.g., he is convinced that the university is desperately poor and in financial peril. He didn't hear anyone talk pejoratively about humanities and classics in all of the discussions. Discussions should more appropriately focus on the lack of State support rather than on the university's lack of support for these programs. Every unit has some justification for its existence; what is our response when the State does not fund its public institutions at a level that ensures quality? We need to be honest about that.

Dr. Range invited council members to reflect on our discussions and the comments of Dean Bangert-Drowns. Dr. Lahiri inquired about the response of other SUNY centers. We should know what they are doing, as we are all in the same boat. Provost Phillips replied that we are not all in the same boat: the other centers are in a much better position, either because of their size or longer history, or because of differences in the structure of their academic programs. For example, Binghamton's 4 x 4 course delivery requires fewer faculty. Other centers have millions in cash. So far, they have not had to cut programs. Dr. Range commented about the discrepancy between the reality that UAlbany is so poor and the public's perception outside of Albany that UAlbany has greatly benefited from the State's investments at the Nanocomplex. Dr. Range encouraged members to contribute further comments by e-mail before the Council finalizes a document for the Senate and the President.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Stern