

## 2008-2009 University Senate

**Monday, February 9, 2009**  
**3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall**

John Delano, Chair  
**Minutes**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, Sandra Austin, Hassaram Bakhru, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Zakhar Berkovich, Tom Bessette, R. Scott Birge, Lance Bosart, Ray Bromley, Daryl Bullis, Andrew Byon, Sairam Chinnam, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, John Delano, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Sally Friedman, Robert Gibson, Andrew Haas, Eric Hardiman, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Jean McLaughlin, Candace Merbler, George Philip, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Alex Rias, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Morton Schoolman, Benjamin Shaw, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Daniel Truchan, III, Lynn Videka

**Guests:** Jon Bartow, Bruce Szelest, Sheila Mahan, Bill Roberson, Vince Delio

The meeting convened at 3:34 pm.

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes of December 15, 2008 were approved with minor revisions.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY INTERIM PRESIDENT GEORGE PHILIP:**

#### **Budget:**

The budget continues to be in a state of turmoil. The impact with the three budget cuts appears to be approximately \$11.5M. This does not take in account the tuition increase. The University will receive only 10% of the increase during the 2008-09 budget, and will receive 20% in the 2009-10 budget but with additional proposed cuts. These additional cuts could total \$18.2 M or 20% of state assessments. If this happens, there will be significant consequences which will include job reductions, enrollment decreases, and possible department closures. The University Administration continues efforts to reduce the cuts.

On campus, the Budget Advisory Group is providing advisement at a high level on how to implement cuts, and will provide guidance on how to move forward.

The legislation being proposed in Washington, DC to address the economic crisis has money allocated to higher education. This would not be on-going money but could provide a bridge during the crisis.

#### **Other News:**

- **Chancellor's Search:** The SUNY Board of Trustees will vote and make a selection on Tuesday (February 10) of this week. There is a good chance that Nancy Zimpher will become the new Chancellor. She is currently the President of the University of Cincinnati, and is highly regarded for her no nonsense approach. This will be a good move to have stabilization at the SUNY Central level.

- **The UAlbany Presidential search** has progressed quite far.
- **Other legislation:** The University at Buffalo has submitted a pilot program called UB 2020 for enhanced autonomy.
- **Enrollment:** There has been an increase in the number of applications and it is expected there will be a record number of admissions for the fall semester. Undergraduate, graduate and transfer applications are all up.
- **UAlbany Day** is Tuesday, February 10. There are 52 legislative officials who have accepted invitations to attend the rally or participate during the day. UAlbany will be the first of the SUNY schools to participate in advocacy and the message the University is sending is that we are not an expenditure but an investment. The President encouraged everyone to participate. He thanked UUP which has been instrumental in its monetary support.
- **NCAA Infractions:** There was a change in the rules regarding text messaging to recruits during August of 2007. The illegal messages went out after that date. The software has since been changed and the University is mindful of computer issues. UAlbany has not lost any stature as a result of these incidents.
- **New Ice Cream:** UAlbany has a new signature ice cream called **UA U KNOW U WANT SOME, a black raspberry ice cream with French vanilla swirl and chocolate chunks.**

The President had a brief question and answer period.

Q: Are the negotiated salary increases included in the budget cuts?

A: The University is expecting to be reimbursed for salary increases.

Q: Do you have any information on the **Intersession Energy Savings Initiative**?

A: The University exceeded its goal of \$250,000, saving \$280,000. The President said he wasn't aware of many problems that weren't able to be addressed. He expects that this will be done again in the future. He also reported that the University has done a good job reducing its carbon footprint.

The President was also asked about the recent announcements regarding those serving as interims. He stated that two of the positions serve at the pleasure of the President (Provost and VP for Advancement), and that the current Provost and VP for Advancement will continue in those positions only if the next President wants that to occur. He stated that it is also difficult to secure endowments, etc when the VP for Advancement was listed as an interim. Interim President Philip stated that all of the recent Presidential candidates were aware of this information.

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT - JOHN DELANO**

At the request of a SEC member, the Chair sought more information pertaining to an upcoming Writing Initiative that is soon to begin in the Department of History. As noted on the agenda of this SEC meeting, the information that was gathered about this initiative indicated that there seemed to be no basis for Senate action on this matter. An e-mail was sent by the Chair to all SEC members on January 16 reporting this perspective. Although the e-mail offered to include this topic on the SEC agenda if members were not persuaded by the available information, no subsequent requests were received.

On January 6, the Chair received an item for Senate consideration from the School of Education. Following additional correspondence with representatives from the School of Education requesting additional materials to complete that proposal, the proposal was forwarded to the Chairs of GAC and UPC on January 12 for consideration by their councils.

The Chair served on the First Year Experience Task Force that met frequently during the summer and fall of 2008. Its interim report was sent to Provost Phillips in mid-December 2008.

The Chair has been appointed to the Budget Advisory Group. The membership of that group has been officially announced to the campus by Interim President Philip. As of February 9, the Budget Advisory Group has held 4 meetings (~8 hours), and is scheduled to meet weekly for 2-3 hours each.

At the 26 January 2009 meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, an item was raised by Chair Delano that is scheduled to be discussed at a special SEC meeting on Wednesday, February 11.

### **SUNY-WIDE SENATE REPORT – WILLIAM LANFORD AND R. MICHAEL RANGE**

Senators Lanford and Range attended the Winter Plenary Meeting in Morrisville. Senator Lanford reported on the budget summary given by James VanVoorst. According to Mr. VanVoorst, general revenue support for SUNY will

be reduced 25-30 percent over the next two years, a figure which Senator Lanford called stunning. He reported further that students are upset over the tuition increase, especially since they had supported a rational tuition policy. A petition against the increase is being circulated at [www.studentassembly.org](http://www.studentassembly.org) and he urged everyone to take a look at it.

Senator Lanford was asked if UAlbany would be the only SUNY School receiving the 25-30 percent cut. He was unsure but believed that University centers will receive disproportionate cuts because of the research money coming in.

A question was also asked about any new resolutions passed at the meeting. He reported three of many resolutions which included streamlining of assessments, support of graduate education research activities and Senator Range reported that a resolution regarding consultation and collaborations dealing with the budget had been passed.

### **GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) - NICHOLAS FAHRENKOPF, LEAD SENATOR**

The GSO is expecting a strong turnout from its members for tomorrow's UAlbany Day at the State Capitol, as well as the Relay for Life in April. The GSO and the Chinese Student Scholar Association will be celebrating the Chinese New Year tonight from 7:30pm until 10:30pm in the Campus Center Ballroom. The Niu (Ox) Year celebration will include a traditional Chinese performance and food. Tickets are \$4 at the GSO Office or \$6 at the door. The recently organized Student Anti-Violence Council at UAlbany School of Public Health is organizing a benefit production of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer," a companion piece to the Vagina Monologues. This piece is a collection of monologues commissioned by the V-Day Campaign that explores the issue of violence against women and girls. Preceding this event we will host a week of educational activities from March 2nd through the 6th that include brown-bag lunches, guest speakers, speaking panels and movie luncheons collectively entitled, "SPH Spotlight on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls." The culminating event will be held Friday, 6 March 2009, 7:30 PM at the School of Public Health (East campus). Finally, did you know that the GSO awarded 34 Travel and Research Grants to UAlbany graduate students in Fall of 2008 totaling \$7500.00. Reviews for Spring awards are underway. Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to [gso@albany.edu](mailto:gso@albany.edu). More information on GSO: <http://www.albany.edu/~gso>

### **STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT - DANIEL TRUCHAN III**

Mr. Truchan reported that SA has been reviewing its budget and trying to keep students' spirits up. He also reported that he has received many e-mails from students expressing their disgust with the State government. Many students fear they will not be able to finish their educational careers. He encouraged everyone to attend UAlbany Day and informed everyone that Student Day is also coming up.

Mr. Truchan reported that he has received complaints from students that members of the faculty are speaking about the University in a negative manner. He encouraged Senate members that if they are aware of their colleagues doing this, tell them to "Shut up!" and received a round of applause. He will be sending an e-mail to student leaders. He closed by thanking President Philip for his support and dedication to students.

### **MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE**

MSCHE Steering Committee—3 February 2009: Present were C. Anderson, M. Earlywine (Chair of Institutional Assessment and Assessment of Student Learning while P. Duchessi is on sabbatical), S. Faerman (Co-Chair), T. Gage, R. Hoyt, E. Lifshin, S. Messner (Co-Chair), Lana Neveu, D. McCaffrey, C. McNeill, T. Reimers (Special Assistant to the Provost, non-voting observer), M. Sutherland, D. Truchan. The personnel on some of the subcommittees has changed with consultation with M. Range, Chair of GOV.

Dr. Pedraja has consulted with senior administration regarding chairship of the accreditation team. Wiki training is still in the works.

Two surveys have been completed, one to students, one to faculty and staff, with a relatively good response rate. A lengthy discussion on the dissemination of the survey information followed. For the sake of transparency, the data should be made available. At the same time, units most directly affected by the results should be able to contextualize the data; subcommittees should contact the appropriate units for their responses. Both brief summaries and raw data should be disseminated.

Chapter drafts were discussed, with one draft having been received from Institutional Assessment and Assessment of Student Learning. Discussion of various aspects of the chapter drafts took place.

Subcommittee reports followed. It was noted that the Going Forward document obviously relates to many aspects of MSCHE.

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

### **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair**

The Council met on February 4, 2009. After approving the minutes from its December 3, 2008 meeting, it reviewed the report, submitted by the Program Review Committee, of the Philosophy Department's self-study, along with the reviewers' comments and the Department's response. The ensuing discussion raised some broader issues concerning program reviews that will be taken up at a later date. A slightly edited version of the PRC document was approved by CAA and will be passed on as appropriate. There was a discussion how the Council's efficiency might be enhanced; it appears that assuring greater continuity in CAA membership from year to year, if that is possible, would be beneficial. It was agreed that orientation for new CAA members should be strengthened. There was a discussion and agreement concerning draft revisions to CAA- and PRC-related bylaws; a bill amending the bylaws on these matters will be prepared and presented to the Senate this semester. There was also a discussion of the timeline for Cycle II program reviews, covering the period 2009-2018; there was general agreement that a reminder to chairs regarding this timeline should be sent, along with a request that it be shared with faculty in their departments. Finally, CAA began discussion of a proposal to add an action plan to Cycle II, and plans to continue considering this subject at subsequent meetings this semester.

### **CAFFeCoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair**

CAFFeCoR has not yet met this semester. I expect our next meeting will be devoted to planning a faculty forum on campus freedom of expression policies.

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

Nothing to report.

### **COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair**

The Council on Research met on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The main business item was the review of the report and recommendations from the subcommittee on the FRAP A competition. Forty one proposals were reviewed. Together these requested \$378,000, but only \$120,000 was available. The subcommittee's recommendations were approved and the Vice President for Research will notify applicants by letter within 10 days of the meeting. Also, the Vice President's report stated that during the first half of this fiscal year, the university had increased the number of applications and awards over the same period last year. Furthermore, our federal research expenditures increased by 2.8% in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006. In addition, the guidelines for conference support are being revised slightly to increase the clarity of the requirements. The Council's Researcher Liaison subcommittee is being reconstituted to address concerns regarding post-award support for researchers.

### **CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair**

CPCA has resumed processing cases following the winter break.

### **GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair**

At its meeting on January 27, GAC approved a proposal by the School of Education to discontinue its Graduate Certificate in Urban Education. The proposal is now before UPC and will be presented to the Senate for approval at a later date. In the matter of graduate level credit-bearing University-wide (UNI) courses and the proposed Charter amendments by GAC and GOV, the Dean of Graduate Studies raised the point that GINS (graduate instructional) courses for study abroad appear on the transcript and carry 0-18 credits. The Chair briefed the Council on decisions by the SEC on the proposed amendments and the current status of each. There was further discussion of this matter.

### **GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair**

The Governance Council met on February 2, 2009.

- The Council discussed a recent vacancy on the Institutional Resources Subcommittee of the MSCHE Self Study and agreed to recommend to the Steering Group to select a member from the list of potential members that GOV had forwarded last Spring.
- The Council reviewed the latest recommendations of the SEC for the proposed amendment regarding consultation and agreed on a revised version to be resubmitted to the SEC.
- In light of the pending amendment on graduate courses, the Council agreed that the proposed IRCAP amendment from last spring should be revised to just focus on undergraduate courses and programs. A subgroup has been charged to develop such a revision for GOV's next meeting.
- Discussions continued about a case of potential conflict of interest. The lack of applicable policies was noted, and it was suggested that CAFFeCoR may be the more appropriate body to address the matter. The chair will consult with the CAFFeCoR chair.

### **LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair**

At the first meeting of the semester (2/6/09), Dean and Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia, and Chief Information Officer Chris Haile, reported on planning for alternative budget scenarios. Purchase of software formerly available to students only through department accounts are now available for purchase through the University Bookstore (SAS), or through UB Micro (e.g., SPSS). Information is being placed on the IT web page. The LISC IT committee is still short a couple of members. We continue to solicit volunteers. Future meetings will consider implications of IT and digital media for teaching and learning.

### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair**

UAC passed a bill regarding “Second Bachelor’s Degrees” at its February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and the bill is now in the hands of GAC.

### **ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair**

ULC has lost one member, and needs a replacement. ULC will meet Wednesday, February 11.

### **UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair**

Nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Update on Membership of Senate Councils—Richard Collier:**

Senate Secretary Collier reported changes in council and committee memberships. CPCA has had one member resign from the committee. Eric Hardiman has resigned from ULC and has asked to serve on CPCA. ULC has asked to have Heather Larkin replace the position vacated by Mr. Hardiman. Since these changes require Senate approval, Mr. Collier asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded and the membership changes were approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Senate Charter Amendment 0809-02: Clarifying amendment on graduate courses (GOV):**

GOV Chair Michael Range discussed the changes in Section 4.6.2.1 which were a result of the language proposed at the December 15 Senate meeting. Those changes were taken back to GOV and GOV members agreed to accept the changes as a friendly amendment. GOV also agreed to add language as presented in the last sentence of that particular Section.

Chair Range presented new language that was added as it relates to study abroad in Section 4.6.2.3. This was proposed by Senator Savitt and GOV accepted it as a friendly amendment.

Chair Delano opened the debate and recognized Dean of Graduate Studies Marjorie Pryse for her input. Dean Pryse thanked Chair Delano for the opportunity to speak out against the amendment. She began by expressing her full understanding that faculty have responsibility for curriculum.

She then provided some background of GAC having initially approved a UNI 600 course until a new Chair of GAC informed the Council that it was his (and SEC’s) view that the Council’s power to approve graduate-level UNI courses did not appear in the Charter. The UNI courses were proposed as 0-1 credit “Future Faculty Program” courses that would enhance students’ abilities to secure faculty jobs but the courses were not intended to count toward doctoral degree requirements. The reason for proposing the faculty development course material as formal courses with UNI numbers was to allow transcript evidence that students had participated in the “Future Faculty” preparation program.

Dean Pryse then noted that there is a lack of parallelism in the Senate Charter, by which the Undergraduate Academic Council has the authority to approve UNI courses, but the Graduate Academic Council does not. She then presented five points why she felt this was not a good amendment and encouraged others to vote against it:

1. The amendment restricts the authority of GAC: The language of the amendment puts restrictions on GAC by preventing it from considering any UNI courses.
2. GINS Courses exist—courses at the University-wide level that are not connected to individual Schools or Colleges. While she was glad this topic had emerged she was concerned that such action needed to be

included in the Charter as an exception when the amendment otherwise restricted GAC's power to approve University-wide courses. She also read from the Charter to remind listeners that GAC has responsibility for graduate education.

3. In the case of the UNI 600 courses intended to enhance professional development for doctoral students, there was difficulty getting departments to host zero credit courses in areas such as Seminar in College Teaching and Preparing a Teaching Portfolio, when that subject matter falls outside their disciplinary authority. In addition one Dean had expressed reluctance to host a course that the College might then become responsible for covering.
4. Dean Pryse provided a list of institutions which have UNI level course offering on the books (see attached). She expressed that by proposing this amendment, it puts UAlbany out of sync with other highly regarded research universities across the country. She encouraged a vote against the amendment and requested that it be sent back to GAC.
5. She also informed the Senate that an earlier amendment had been put forth by GAC that would make the Charter parallel to UAC and specifically provide the authority to grant UNI courses. She objected that this amendment was not put forth by SEC to the Senate but was sent instead to GOV. She thus informed Senate members of another amendment that most did not know about. She noted that she believed that SEC's reading of the amendment process was flawed, in that they had rejected an amendment proposed by one of the Senate's own Councils and then substituted one that had not been either proposed by or approved by the originating Council.

GOV Chair Range informed the Senate that there was a separate amendment from GAC and GOV offered an alternate proposal. At some point the GAC amendment did come to the SEC, but based on a formal vote, there was not enough support to move the GAC amendment to the Senate. Range explained that a proposed amendment could be brought directly to the Senate for a vote if so requested by 10% of the senators. He also stated that GAC will continue to have responsibility for graduate programs and nothing would be changed as a result of this amendment regarding the current procedures for approval of courses. The amendment simply clarifies that graduate courses need to be approved by at least one school or college.

Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of the amendment. CERS Chair Carolyn MacDonald offered to close the debate. A vote was taken which favored closing the debate. A motion was then made to pass the amendment. The motion was seconded and the amendment was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Gail Cameron, Recorder