

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, February 9, 2015
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

I. Informational

- 1/22-1/24 Senate Chair attended the Winter Plenary in Farmingdale, Long Island, attending and participating in sector sessions with other SUNY CGLs

II. Reports of Actions

- Proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering was approved by UAC on 12/18/2014. The proposal was approved by UPPC on 11/20/2014.

III. Recommendations for Actions

- That Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs) at the University at Albany (Senate Chair, Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair) attend SUNY Plenaries:
 - April 23-25, 2015, 170th Winter Plenary, Hosted by SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh NY.
 - October 2015, 171st Fall Plenary Meeting, Hosted by SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo NY.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

Report from the UFS Winter Plenary at SUNY Farmingdale, Jan 22-24, 2014.

Submitted by John Schmidt

The plenary occurred the same week as the Chancellor's State of the University Address and the release of the Governor's budget for SUNY. In fact, Chancellor Zimpher gave her address in the morning and drove down to Long Island to talk to the UFS the same afternoon. This meant that a lot of new developments occurred and were considered, the major ones of which are listed below.

1, The Elsevier Contract. SUNY's contract for their bundle of journals, including electronic access ("Science Direct") was renegotiated to \$44M over the next 5 years. This covers almost all SUNY Campuses and is the major budget breaker for SUNY Libraries. Doctoral Institutions pay 74% of this total cost and the cost of this and other blocs is escalating due to the monopolistic publisher practices, and will continue to be a budget problem. SUNY System in past years contributed \$1.2M, and will continue to supply \$0.6M per year plus another \$2.5M over 5 years.

The wider view concerns what SUNY and other large systems nationwide can do to alter the dynamics of journal subscriptions. The current system is held in place largely because publication credits for promotion and tenure revolve around high impact journals, which these giant companies monopolize. Open access journals are being pushed by NIH and other agencies so that results can be made available to all users without charge. However, this means that publishing costs are pushed over to authors in this model, and these can be set very high (and possibly predatory) by publishing corporations as well. The only real solution would be if large systems such as SUNY could get together and establish reputable, high impact, open access journals.

2 SUNY Budget in the Governor's budget proposal. The outlook is quite a bit brighter than in the previous year when the cost of UUP raises were not funded (even though the state had previously agreed to a maintenance of effort), but the new money this year would come with strings attached. The highlights of the Governor's budget includes \$50M for recruiting Master Innovators/Researchers (Full Professors) to spark SUNY's research efforts, especially in clusters of excellence. In addition there is an additional \$50M for a SUNY Innovation Fund, and both of these are slated to continue at the same rate for 5 years. There is a \$30M loan to support Open SUNY's expansion of online courses and degree programs. The rationale for the loan is that it is expected to bring in more students (and tuition), which should eventually be able to repay the loan. It would pay for infrastructure for Open SUNY such as a common 24 hour hot line and servers, etc. There is only \$2M extra in the main budget, but an additional \$18M for SUNY Excels Plan (more below). On the capital fund side, there is \$200M (this year and continue for 5 years), almost all of which is to cover a backlog of critical maintenance for SUNY's old buildings.

3. SUNY Excels. As you will recall, this is a set of metrics to measure SUNY's commitment to excellence and to year-to-year improvements that the Chancellor envisions as a way to convince the Governor and the Legislature that funds spent on SUNY are a good investment for New York, and worthy of further investments. Already tuition at SUNY is substantially lower than comparable State University campuses, and our degree our BS/BA completion rates are substantially higher than the national average. There are a total of 17 metrics in 5 categories, labeled "Access, Completion, Success, Inquiry and Engagement." Since SUNY has 32 campuses ranging from University Centers, Medical Schools, special schools (optometry, maritime, agriculture), tech schools, 4 year colleges, etc, some of the metrics will apply moreso to some campuses than others. For the coming year, each campus will formulate a plan including which of the 17 metrics they will concentrate on, and what measures they will take to improve their scores. Campus governance should be included in the formulation of this plan. There will be a pot of money, which will include not only the \$18M above but a 10% withholding of state tax

revenues (since our support is about 35% state tax money and 65% tuition, this would be about 3.5% of our state funds budget). A variable amount of this money will then be reawarded back to the campus according to SUNY central's rating of our plan this year (meeting in December to disburse funds), and in future years according to our progress in meeting the goals we set this year.

The Chancellor also committed, in her State of the University presentation, to increase the total number of SUNY degrees granted per year from the current 92,000 to 150,000 by 2020! This would mean more than 60% increase in only 5 years, presumably through ramping up online degrees in Open SUNY.

4. Experiential Learning. The budget contains language that commits SUNY to move toward the requirement that all undergrads complete a credit bearing experiential learning, or applied learning experience. This is a huge change and an enormous undertaking. There are two issues associated with this language being inserted into the budget.

The first is that it is essentially the governor and legislature setting curriculum, the responsibility for which is set in the policies of the SUNY Board of Trustees as the responsibility of the faculty. It would set a significant precedent, one that we do not think is at all good. The Chancellor had no answer for us about this violation of the SUNY BOT policies, but said she would continue the discussion about a way to eliminate the problem.

Second, she also admitted that this could not be done in the near future. By her estimation under 50% of students now undertake experiential or applied learning now, so it would take an enormous effort and substantial resources to find such experiences for more than 50% of our students. She encouraged faculty to define this very broadly, including not only coops, and internships(paid and unpaid), but also undergrad research in professors' laboratories and scholarly research efforts and various types of volunteer work in the community in areas that might be considered appropriate to their majors. Many of our departments have long offered such experiences to our eager, superior students. A side question is the issue of whether sending many of our below average, not so eager students to our outside partners might turn them off to the idea of hosting our students as interns.

5. The TAP Audits and Satisfactory Academic Progress. Recently, the Comptroller's office audited Stony Brook University with respect to their disbursing of TAP funds to undergrads, and found that they were not restricting funds to those with "Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)," resulting in more than \$4M in fines/recovery of funds. SAP is a technical standard that applies to both TAP (state) and Pell (Federal) funds that differs substantially from "normal academic progress" that each university applies to all of its students. In particular, it means that TAP funds

cannot cover tuition for remedial courses, or in the case of the GenEd language requirement, for the first semester course, since only the second semester course is required. It even goes as far as how many electives can be taken if the requirements in the major are still unmet. Thus, this would open up problems for financial aid officers as well as all of our academic advisors. The Chancellor indicated that she is trying to work on this issue and interpretation of the standards with the Comptroller's office, but no solution is in the immediate future and other campuses will undoubtedly be similarly audited and fined.

6. The cost of remedial courses for unprepared students. The chancellor has indicated that remedial courses (not giving credit toward graduation) costs the SUNY system as a whole approximately \$95M per year, a very significant amount. She has people exploring ways to reduce this problem. One way, mentioned in her State of the University presentation is to put SUNY advisors in every high school in NY State. Another plan is to accelerate remediation in mathematics (one of the worst areas), using programs/courses developed in California with the Carnegie Foundation. A third is to work with Teacher Ed curriculum and with clinical teacher prep. UAbany was mentioned as about to start a partnership with the Amsterdam School District on this.

In addition, the UFS passed three resolutions on various issues listed below.

The first resolution applauds the SUNY Board of Trustees for requesting additional, much needed resources in this budget cycle, urges the legislature to pass the budget, and urges faculty to lobby in support of its passage.

The second resolution encourages the Research Foundation, which currently has a pot of money for STEM, to use it to incentivize graduate student applications to NSF and other granting agencies to support their research. Currently SUNY units are not doing so well in applying and winning these graduate support stipends. It also includes language that they should look into finding money to do the same for social sciences and humanities. It currently covers STEM only because that money is already earmarked for this area.

The third resolution encourages campuses to adopt measures to support the 35,000 veterans in NY State returning to college. The measures were part of President Obama's "8 points for veteran's success" put forward in a speech last summer. The resolution was recently passed by the SUNY-wide Student Assembly.

Proposed Federal Evaluation of Schools of Education Teacher Preparation programs. This just came in from Peter Kneupfer, Pres of UFS. As you may or may not be aware, the Federal Dept of Education is proposing a rule that would evaluate schools of education and restrict scholarship funds based on the evaluations (which would depend on success rates in graduates getting certification and the "success" of those graduates in the job market and as teachers for three years out). UUP has set up a web page that provides more information and how to submit

comments on the proposed regulations; comments are due by Feb 2. I ask you to help get this information to your colleagues in schools of education (for those of you who have them) and other interested faculty.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President

The GSA is getting its semester underway. We will be having our first meeting soon and groups are preparing to submit their budgets. Over the break the President and Lead Senator started some local lobbying work, opening up conversations with Assemblyman McDonald and Assemblywoman Fahy about graduate student issues.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Jim Stellar as our new Provost and are excited that he will be attending our first Executive Board meeting. We are also close to setting the date of the President's Forum. We believe it combined with one of our Assembly meetings in a style similar to the faculty wide meeting last fall.

We did have a Senator resign this semester due to academic responsibilities. Peatros Haile, left us a few weeks ago and Keith Sherman has stepped up to replace him.

In terms of programming we will be having our GSA orientation program for all students but especially transfer students on February 5th from noon to 3pm. We also continue our work with the Education from the Inside Out Coalition on the Ban the Box Campaign. Unfortunately, because of the "blizzard" one of the programs we were co-sponsoring was canceled but there are more to come. We also had to post-pone an exciting program we are bringing to UAlbany which is a leadership workshop facilitated by Lee Riddell from the SUNY Leadership Institute called "Contemplative Leadership". We are working on re-scheduling that program for some time in February.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

We're looking at the possibility of combining our club sport with campus rec.

Speaker series - February, March, April (Tentative).

UAlbany will participate in SUNY Speaks Up advocacy day March 24.

We are again working with career services to assist with the career fair.

Community engagement and outreach has been reaching out to service organizations on campus to see how we can more effectively target service efforts. President Agyemang and Vice President Cohen will continue to meet with student groups throughout the semester.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernnard, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on December 17 and approved a report on assessment of Natural Sciences in the University in the High School program. The committee also discussed options for action to take when a program does not adequately engage in assessment.

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

CAFFECoR will meet on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

The Council on Research had a busy fall semester, with well-attended monthly meetings including presentations on the research year in review by Vice President Dias and an invited presentation on the new Scholars' Archive by Lorre Smith, of the University Libraries, giving the Council information on the new open-access publishing platform to be hosted by the University at Albany that would give researchers an opportunity to publish their works on a channel that directly associates them with the university.

The Centers, Institutes and Specialized Laboratories subcommittee of the Council is currently reviewing a proposal for a new research center. The fall round of funding for the Benevolent Association awards for graduate student research was successfully completed with seven of nine applicants successfully obtaining funding for a total of \$3,490 provided for graduate student research projects. The Conference support awards review committee also completed their fall round of funding, with all six applicants receiving funding for conferences to be held during the spring semester at a total of \$13,000.

The Faculty Research Award Program garnered 44 applications this year, a substantial increase on last year's 26 applications, and the awards review committee is currently undertaking the review and selection process for those awards, which will be confirmed at the Council on Research meeting at the end of January.

The subcommittee on Excellence in Research and Creative Activities is having its first meeting this week. We received a number of nominations.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next CPCA meeting is on Jan. 28.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

I. Informational

The Graduate Academic Council held its rescheduled meeting on December 15th, 2014. We had to cancel the original scheduled meeting for December 9th, 2014. A few members were not able to attend the December 9th meeting because of, among other reasons, a schedule conflict with the public forum for one of the candidates for Provost. The two main items on the Agenda were: (1) review of a report from the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing, and (2) review and approval of a proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Homeland Security, Cyber Security and Emergency Management (HCE) by the Department of Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College.

Our next scheduled meeting is on March 3rd.

II. Reports of Actions

The Council first considered the proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Homeland Security, Cyber Security and Emergency Management (HCE) with three tracks and a 100% online option. Professor R. Karl Rethemeyer, Chair, Department of Public Administration and Policy and Associate Dean of the Rockefeller College, attended the December 15th meeting and provided a presentation. Following an extensive question and answer session, GAC members voted unanimously to approve the proposal. Members felt that the Graduate Certificate Program in Homeland Security, Cyber Security and Emergency Management (HCE) is timely as well as attractive to students and employers.

The second major item that the GAC reviewed was a report by the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing regarding a student's grade grievance. GAC members voted to endorse the recommendation by the Committee to send the case back to the unit for further review.

III. Recommendations for Actions

The GAC endorses joint introduction of the proposal by the Department of Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College, to establish a ***Graduate Certificate Program in Homeland Security, Cyber Security and Emergency Management (HCE)*** to the University Senate to approve the proposal, pending additional approval by UPPC. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Academic Council on 12/15/14.

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

GOV met on December 15; the next meeting is scheduled for February 2.

II. Reports of Actions

1. The GOV discussed and unanimously approved the language of a proposed By-Law Amendment that addresses the Administration's request that we consider removing voting privileges from ex-officio members of the Senate who serve by virtue of their administrative position.
2. GOV voted unanimously to approve the roster of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent Faculty.
3. GOV requested further information about the rationale for the proposed composition of the Graduate Stipend Committee. It then voted electronically to approve the roster with one additional member.
4. The December meeting of UPPC, at which a new Chair was to be voted on, was cancelled for lack of quorum. Election was conducted by electronic vote in January.
5. In response to a follow-up request for information about the composition of the Start-Up New York Campus Advisory Committee and of the Ad Hoc Academic Review Committee that are described in the University START-UP NY Plan, Chair Fox was told that Interim Provost would be making a report to the SEC at its January 26 meeting.

III. Recommendations for Actions

1. GOV will begin working on the language of a Charter amendment to address the Administration's request that we consider removing voting privileges from ex-officio members of the Senate who serve by virtue of their administrative position.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair
Nothing to report.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The scheduled meeting of the Undergraduate Academic Council for December 4th was canceled so that Council members could attend the public forum for one of the candidates for provost, which conflicted with the UAC meeting time. The UAC met instead on December 11th. The main item on the agenda was the proposal for a new undergraduate program in computer engineering. Associate Provost for Program Development Ann Marie Murray attended the meeting and provided an overview of the proposal and the process that led to its development.

She also answered questions from Council members. After Associate Provost Murray's presentation, the Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the university policy regarding pre-requisites and restrictions on admission to majors and minors, an issue that arose in the context of the Council's review of several course proposals. Given the complexities of the issue, the Council decided to table this discussion until it resumes its meeting schedule in spring semester.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

ULC will meet on 2/3/15 at 1:00 pm. Brad Bunzey will be providing a facility report on current construction projects with a specific focus on the Campus Center project.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –David McCaffrey, Chair

UPPC does not have items to report carrying over from the fall. At its first meeting, in February, it will be considering the Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, and Emergency Management from Rockefeller College, Public Administration and Policy.