

10-15-2012 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting for October 15, 2012

Approved by the Council on November 12, 2012

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), F. Bolton (staff), P. Caban, S. Commuri, T. Groves (Chair),
A. Krause, L. Jome, P. Terpelets, K. Truby, M. VanUllen, R. Yang, A. Zemel

Unable to attend: J. Bartow (staff), B. Dieffenbach, D. Mancini, K. Williams,

The meeting was called to order by Chair Groves at 2:03 PM

1. Consideration of minutes for the 9/21/2012 GAC meeting

The Council approved the 9/21/2012 minutes with two abstentions.

2. Dean's report – K. Williams

Since Dean Williams was unable to attend today's meeting, he requested the Chair provide the Dean's report to the Council.

Provost Phillips, Dean of College of Criminal Justice Alan Lizotte, and Dean Williams traveled to NYC last week to meet with SUNY Provost David Lavalley and his staff, and the Chief Academic Officers and Graduate Deans of the other University Centers. The purpose of the meeting was to promote "Doctoral Program Excellence" within SUNY. Provost Lavalley discussed SUNY's commitment to doctoral program excellence and encouraged collaboration and sharing of best practices among the graduate deans of the University Centers. The SUNY Provost office was also interested in how campuses have used the results of the latest NRC rankings and other more recent data to strengthen doctoral program quality. Dean Williams discussed our own internal metrics that we will be using. Binghamton, Stony Brook, and Buffalo are doing similar assessments. The deans and Chief Academic Officers discussed several different initiatives and practices being used on campuses. The graduate deans will follow up at a meeting in December at the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools. It was also decided that the SUNY Provost would hold semi-annual meetings of CAOs and Graduate Deans to help promote excellence in doctoral education.

3. Chair's Report – T. Groves

Prof. Helene Scheck (English) introduced two resolutions at the September 24th Senate meeting, each asserting that the President, as head of the faculty, violated articles of the Senate Charter and Bylaws. Chair Groves provided the following report, excerpted from the final report of the Governance Council Task Force.

Conclusion regarding "specific actions that were in violation of procedures outlined in the Faculty By-Laws"

About whether the President's response to all stakeholders on March 24, 2011, constituted a "detailed response" to the Senate, reasonable people may continue to

disagree. In fact, to date, the President has not sent a formal response specifically to the Senate about the deactivations as required in the bylaws, but has instead relied on his March 24 statement to the university community at large. On the other hand, at the time the Senate should have furnished a more detailed response on the impacts of closing each of these programs for the President to address.

After careful review of all pertinent documents pertaining to this matter, and thoughtful and comprehensive discussion, the task force did not come to consensus on whether the President's actions rose to the level of a violation of the bylaws; nor did we feel that the term "violation" provided a useful framework for discussion. However, we wish to state in the strongest possible terms that in the future, the administration must remain mindful of the need to consult with the Senate, and to inform the Senate directly about its decisions with sufficient detail to satisfy reasonable concerns and questions, both before and after decisions have been reached. We recognize that the Senate also must bear some responsibility for the dissatisfaction surrounding these events, specifically in its failure to request specific and detailed information.

The Senate voted down the two resolutions 1213-01R and 1213-02R.

4. GAC Committees

No business was conducted for Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I), Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS), and Committee on Educational Policy & Procedures (CEP&P).

CC&I has scheduled an October 29 meeting. CA&AS will arrange a future meeting since one case has surfaced for review.

5 Old Business

The Chair addressed GAC review of recent program self-assessments. He will access the wiki site for information and follow up with the Council.

As mentioned previously, the language for academic dishonesty requires updating in both the Graduate and Undergraduate Bulletins. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to address this issue. The committee includes GAC Chair Tim Groves and UAC Chair Rick Fogarty, among others. Chair Groves requested a Council member volunteer to sit on the committee with him. Council member Pavel Terpelets volunteered.

6. New Business

No new business was conducted.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Groves at 2:27 PM.

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Future Meetings:

Monday November 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, UAB 320
Friday December 21, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, MSC 102

END OF GAC 10/15/2012 MINUTES
