

Senate Executive Committee
University Hall 306
January 23rd, 2:45pm

MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 2:53

Attendees: Mary Ellen Mallia; Deborah LaFond; Billie Franchini; Sam Axley; Chris Poehlman; Christy Smith; Sean Rafferty; Robert Rosenwig; Kaylynn Enright; Karin Reinhold; Zina Lawrence; Jim Mower Elga Wulfert; Ann Marie Murray

Approval of SEC minutes of November 26, 2018

Discussion:

There was some discussion of the policy for policy making, and whether it could be utilized to address the change in the policy on naming buildings. There is a committee who is working on this policy who will come to present to UPPC. They are currently seeking names for buildings that are not descriptive of the departments inside, to avoid confusion as units move from one building to the next for rehab.

Addition to the minutes of the November 26 meeting: there was some contestation of the definitions of terms as well as conflation of sexual harassment and consensual relationships as well as civil rights law concerns. Add mention of where comments should be sent.

The policy was sent to SUNY Central, but we will have another chance to work on the policies for UAlbany specifically.

Motion to approve: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

Provost's Report: The Provost shared that since she has been in the position for just three weeks she does not yet have much to report, but indicated that she would be eager to answer any questions. She also shared that she has met with the Senate leadership and so has some background on the current work of the Senate and SEC from those meetings.

Q: Comment on the status of the search for the new Provost

A: The Provost shared that from the Executive Council meeting the President announced that the search is moving forward on time and the pool looks strong.

Q: Could a committee be created to rank proposals for action plans and initiatives for next year's funding?

A: The Provost shared that she will check in with VP Foreman and pass along what he says.

Chairs Report: Ann Marie Murray shared with Senate leadership that a committee will be convened to examine the process for program review and approval. President Rodriguez will be addressing the Senate on February 4th.

1. SUNY Senators' Report – Diane Hamilton, Latonia Spencer, Sam Axley

UFS: Plenary was in Cobleskill, where there was a number of reports and updates including from the Provost, the CFO and others. The resolution summary was shared. Chair Mower shared that there may be issues with quorum on the Ratification Process change in order to approve the change. Senator Axley will pursue information on how this vote can be conducted. Senator LaFond mentioned that for a Change to Length of Service for Distinguished Professorships should include a term that is inclusive of the appropriate rank of librarian. It was confirmed that it was already present in the source documents. Senator Axley will share greater details in writing at a later date.

There was some discussion of targeted efforts as a campus and as a system to grow the number and quality of online courses and programs. Various opportunities and concerns were discussed, and there was general agreement that there is a program development and a faculty development piece that both need to be addressed.

Provost's Chief of Staff Murray reminded that the Plenary will be hosted at UAlbany in the spring.

2. Graduate Student Organization Report – Kaylynn Enright, Lead Senator

Passed a resolution on parking because graduate students are staying late or coming early and they get tickets. There is a higher education action day and GSO members will attend to advocate. They are voting on the Student Activity Fee.

3. Student Association Report – Langie Cadesca, President

Not present.

4. Council/Committee Chair Reports:

- i. CAA – Istvan Kecskes/Mary Ellen Mallia, Co- Chairs – Nothing to add
- ii. CAFFECOR – Malcolm Sherman, Chair – Not present
- iii. CERS – Youqin Huang, Chair – Not present
- iv. COR –Robert Rosenswig, Chair – Nothing to add
- v. CPCA – James Hargett, Chair – Not present

vi. GAC – Sean Rafferty, Chair – Nothing to add

vii. GOV – Zina Lawrence, Chair -- The Council is taking up bills on the use of Senate email (listserv) and another on campus security. Christy Smith volunteered to serve on the committee.

viii. LISC – Billie Franchini, Chair – Nothing to add

ix. UAC – Christy Smith/Karen Kiorpes, Co-Chairs: The Council approved a forensic science minor

x. ULC – Deborah LaFond, Chair – Nothing to add

xi. UPPC – Karin Reinhold, Chair -- The issue of naming buildings will be brought before UPPC. There has also been discussion of which group should establish the ranking for strategic planning initiative. UPPC has suggested that it be the Strategic Plan implementation team. UPPC will consider whether there is a way of shortening the process of approval for combined programs.

New Business:

- a. Resolution on December/Departmental Commencement Ceremonies—Deborah LaFond, ULC

Discussion -- Departmental:

Debra LaFond had to leave the meeting early but left information that was shared by Jim Mower. There was some discussion about the option to hold departmental graduation ceremonies as long as it is not within the “blackout times”. It was discussed that there are conflict with exams, unequal resources between departments, etc. It was suggested that a message should be sent to faculty encouraging flexibility in Thursday’s exam. It was shared that there is a committee to discuss all of this with faculty representation, and so if there are schools and colleges without representation they should reach out to Christy Doyle or Peter Smith to be added to the committee. Another member mentioned that there are clear and specific logistical constraints that were shared by University Events, and if there are no proposed solutions to the space problem and other constraints it should not be brought forward as a resolution. Others indicated that historically resolutions are positions that do not necessarily have to include solutions. It was suggested that it be recommended to ULC to provide some solutions so that it is conveyed that the Senate understands the challenges and are open to working together to find solutions.

Vote: Departmental Graduations 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

Discussion -- December: It was suggested that when eliminating the December graduation was first proposed it was indicated that it was a cost consideration, so maybe there would be an

opportunity to revisit to see if that is still an issue, and that there will also be a new Provost which may give an opportunity for revisiting this. It was suggested that students should have the option to graduate the year before or the year after, or to change the number of remaining credits required to “walk”. Another concern is that people move away and so cannot come back, or that students are not happy graduating with students who they don’t know. This also seems to send a bad message to students that their celebration is not a priority. Some senators shared that according to surveys students may not actually be interested.

Vote: December graduation 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Climate Action and Sustainability Plan: Mary Ellen Mallia (presentation attached)

Discussion:

Add a distinction like the Global Distinction?

Share with the local media? Add it to our messaging?

Mary Ellen Mallia will share this presentation throughout the community of University stakeholders.