

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, March 11, 2013
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Andi Lyons, Chair

The Department of Women's Studies is requesting a change of name. As it has neither programmatic nor resource implications, the request was submitted directly to the Senate Chair. It was discussed in the SEC meeting on February 25, and the Executive Committee voted to send it to the full Senate for a vote at its next meeting.

The SEC also discussed the UFS Position Paper on Diversity and Cultural Competence, which was circulated to the SEC by a UFS Senator, at the request of the SUNY University Faculty Senate. The UFS made a recommendation that this position paper be widely circulated on campuses across the system. However, after a lengthy discussion during which it became clear that it was neither a carefully-conceived nor a well-researched document, the SEC voted unanimously to send it only to the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion for possible consideration. Subsequently, the Senate Chair was informed that our own Assistant Vice President and Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Tamra Minor, had been completely unaware of the existence of such a position paper. Both co-chairs of the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, Tamra Minor and Elga Wulfert, expressed concern that this document was not only poorly prepared, but that it might derail some of the excellent work that is currently happening on campus in this area. Therefore, this document, which has been evaluated at several levels and is believed to have no positive value for UAlbany at this time, will not be considered for campus-wide review, pending further work by the UFS.

President Jones is convening a campus-wide forum and special sessions on community engagement on April 2nd and 3rd to help advance UAlbany's progress as an engaged institution. Faculty, students, and staff will be invited. Besides the President's Office, co-hosts will include the Provost's Office, Campus Committee on University-Community Engagement, and the Senate Executive Committee. Additional co-hosts for the special sessions will come from appropriate Senate Councils. More information will be forthcoming.

Jim Collins, in his position as Acting President of the Albany Chapter of UUP, has informed the Senate Chair that he believes some part of our CPCA membership may be in conflict with the UUP contract. As soon as specific information is received from the UUP leadership, the topic will be placed on the SEC agenda to determine the appropriate next steps.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

At the winter plenary meeting the UFS Committee on Diversity and Cultural Competence submitted the first page (a teaser) of what is a multiple-page report that includes recommendations to make diversity a more meaningful element of our campus cultures.

The full report (attached) comes with a request that it be widely distributed across campuses and discussed, either by a governance group or by the Executive Committee of your governance groups. UFS needs to have UAlbany's comments returned to the committee chair (Phillip.Ortiz@esc.edu) by March 15. This will give the committee the time needed to examine our suggestions for a final revision of its report, which will be submitted to the UFS at the May plenary. The new Budget Allocation Model has been postponed for a year. The Graduate Research Symposium was held at the Legislative Office bldg. on Feb 26th with representation from 19 SUNY campuses and 11 of CUNY schools.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Thomas Devlin, GSO President

Nothing to report

SA (Student Association) – Arthur Rushforth, Student Association President

No response

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair

Nothing to report

**CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility)
– Leslie Saint-Vil, Chair**

We will be meeting on March 4th at 2:45.

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

CERS is scheduling a meeting to discuss training strategies.

COR (Council on Research) – John Monfasani, Chair

Nothing to report.

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

The next CPCA meeting is on Feb. 8th.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

The GAC has no business to bring before the Senate at this time.

GOV (Governance Council) – Christine Wagner, Chair

GOV met on 2/4/13. Updates were provided by the subcommittee formed to address the status of Section XI: IRCUAP of the Senate Charter and by the Committee on Administrative Evaluations to create a Council on Assessment and Institutional Review (CAIR). The processes for nomination and election of Senators for the 2013-2014 academic year have begun. At the request of the provost, GOV provided recommendations for members of a Course Assessment Advisory Committee and for an advisory committee for the upcoming transition in undergraduate education and the process of selecting a new Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education. GOV is currently creating a slate of nominations for Senator-at-large positions and SUNY Senators for next year. GOV will meet again on 3/4/13.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair

LISC met on Monday March 4th. We heard reports from the Dean of the Libraries, and the CIO, and discussed agenda items for the rest of the year.

Our next meeting is on April 1st and we will be discussing the evolving relationship between Blackbaud and ARES.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Richard Fogarty, Chair

UAC met on 20 and 27 February, discussing primarily the articulation of clearer guidelines about the procedures the council follows for reviewing and reporting curricular changes, as well as drafting bills on such matters for senate consideration. The council will complete its deliberations on these guidelines at its next meeting, and will communicate the results to the SEC.

ULC (University Life Council) – Vincent LaBella, Chair

ULC has met several times this semester to discuss the Family Leave bill and to plan for the Spring forums on Diversity and inclusion. Regarding the Family Leave bill: ULC has looked into Senate Resolution No. 0506-05 that was introduced into the University Senate back in 2006 and passed a vote but was never signed off by the president. ULC has determined that this bill is both out of date and covers areas that fall under collective bargaining that is the domain of the UUP. ULC was also given a comprehensive overview of the current policies and benefits regarding family leave that are available to the University employees and found them quite substantial. In addition, during this process a new tentative agreement between UUP and the state has been reached on February 19. It is the recommendation of ULC that once the new agreement is in place that there be a family leave forum or information session. This forum can then be utilized to start a conversation around what changes if any people would like to see.

Also the Spring forums on Inclusive Excellence are being held Tuesday March 5th 1-4pm and Wednesday March 6th 9 to noon.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report.