

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ATTENDANCE

Meeting of: September 30, 1991

David Strogatz	Karin English
Ted Turner	Jeff Berman
Robert H. Gibson	
Nancy Mendelsohn	Justin Southwick
Gene Smith	John Brennan
Mark Furrish	C. Carr
JODIE GREEN	Edward Sagan
Ryan A. Don	Jeanne G. Mahon
JOHN OLMO	Karen Hitchcock
CINDY GOLDBERG	Constance Walker
Scott Tannenbaum	David Smith *
MICHAEL SATTINFER	Wm. Lombard
Beed Hoyt	Sarah Zuer
Mitchell Livingston	Malcolm Sherman
Bob HARDY	Rich Zetser
Cy Knoblauch	W. Knight
Eric Scattan	WIM ACET
Audrey Chappargre	Lynn Videtas-Sherman
Sue Faerman	Steve Zeman - Thomas *
Doug Windham	Gloria Besole
Randall Craig	Steve Messinger
Jerry Parker	A.J.L. MACARIO AJD
Lys Reynolds	Peter A. Blain
PA Boser	Don Reel
Scott Lyman	William St
M. Kazim Ali	Siann Ford



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE
Monday, September 30, 1991
Campus Center Assembly Hall
3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes: University Senate, May 6, 1991 (1990-91 Senate)
University Senate, May 6, 1991 (1991-92 Senate)
2. President's Report
3. SUNY-wide Senate Report – Paul Wallace and Vincent Aceto
4. Chair's Report
5. Council Reports
 - a. Council on Promotion and Continuing Appointment – Ronald Bosco
 - b. Council on Educational Policy – Robert Sanders
 - c. Graduate Academic Council – Audrey Champagne
 - d. Undergraduate Academic Council – Cyril Knoblauch
 - e. Council on Research – Alain Kaloyeros
 - f. Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing – Peter Bloniarz
 - g. Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics – Michael Sattinger
 - h. Student Affairs Council – Steven Thomson
 - i. University Community Council – Shirley Jones
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. Changes in Council Memberships
8. Adjournment



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
September 30, 1991

PRESENT: V. Aceto, M. K. Ali, J. Berman, P. Bloniarz, R. Bosco, L. Brannon, C. Carr, A. Champagne, K. Coughlin, R. Craig, G. DeSole, R. Don, S. Faerman, E. Fagan, R. Felson, D. Ford, M. Furnish, R. Gibson, C. Goldberg, G. Gossen, J. Green, J. Gullahorn, K. Hitchcock, R. Hoyt, R. Hardt, C. Knoblauch, W. Lanford, M. Livingston, S. Lyman, A. Macario, H. Mendelsohn, S. Messner, J. Olmo, J. Parker, D. Reeb, R. Sanders, M. Sattinger, E. Scatton, M. Sherman, L. Smith, J. Southwick, D. Strogatz, H. P. Swygert, S. Tannenbaum, S. Thomson, T. Turner, L. Videka-Sherman, G. Walker, W. Weitz, D. Windham, S. Zevin

GUESTS: Y. S. Reynolds

The meeting was called to order by Chair Turner at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Senator R. Gibson moved to approve the minutes of May 6 (1990-91 Senate and 1991-92 Senate) as prepared; seconded and carried.

2. President's Report

President Swygert noted that the Senate had agreed to a three-year plan to hold Commencement at the Knickerbocker Arena. He reported that the 1991 Commencement was very successful, as were the college-based events on both campuses. The final costs for the 1991 Commencement held at the Knickerbocker Arena was \$16,000, while the final costs for the 1990 Commencements held on campus was \$70,000, the President reported. A written report on Commencement is available at the information table. The President thanked the Commencement Committee, Sheila Mahan, faculty marshals, professional staff, and speakers for their work on Commencement. This year's Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 17, 1992, at the Knickerbocker Arena, the President said.

The Search Committee for the Dean of the School of Education, chaired by Dean F. Frank, is in place, reported the President.

President Swygert also reported that the SUNY 2000 report has been approved and released by the SUNY Board of Trustees and the Chancellor. It sets out the vision for the SUNY system. Copies are available from the President's office and will also be shared with the Executive Committee.

Turning to the budget, the President reported that he expects that there will be an early call for a budget for next year. The President announced the Voluntary Intersession Shutdown will be December 24-January 8. Despite the budget constraints, 26 new faculty have joined the University at Albany this year, 13 men and 13 women, President Swygert said. Vice President Hitchcock will continue with faculty recruitment for next year.

For next year, the Chancellor has earmarked funds for "regionalization," President Swygert reported, and the University at Albany has been developing plans to establish itself as a regional center. One possibility is for the library addition. The President hopes to use this as an opportunity to highlight our capabilities.

The President then reported that the Middle States Report and the Advisory Committee on Campus Priorities both mentioned the need to review our Mission Statement. The Mission Statement should describe what the University is and what it will become. It should also represent more of the scope of the University, the President said. Therefore, he plans to establish a committee to review the Mission Statement and to manage a University-wide consideration of it.

President Swygert also briefly described the enrollment situation this year. This year the demand was intense and more than 2,000 first-time freshmen were admitted as well as more than 1,200 transfer students. Also, the graduate population consists of more than 20 percent of the total. The President pointed out that for 1991-92, State allocation is less than 50 percent of all revenues.

President Swygert ^{then} turned to the issue of the Academic Calendar. This academic year was a start/stop one, and notice of changes was sent very late. The calendar for 1992-93 has already been sent to all faculty, and the faculty will be given a semester's notice if the calendar is to be amended, the President said.

Finally, the President announced the first annual Authors and Editors reception will be held on October 9. This reception will honor the 150 faculty members who published books or edited journals in 1990-91.

Senator Aceto, noting that last year during the intersession break there was no place on the downtown campus for people to work, asked if that matter would be addressed. President Swygert responded that we have learned from our past experiences, and we will attend to this issue.

3. SUNY-wide Senate Report

Senator Aceto reported that the SUNY-wide Senate will meet in Alfred on October 17-19.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Turner welcomed Vice President Hitchcock, Associate Vice President Lance and Dean Scatton to their new positions.

President Swygert signed bills 9091-11, 9091-12, 9091-13, and 9091-14 from last year.

Chair Turner reported that there will be a Senate newsletter this year. There will be three issues. The first issue, which will be distributed shortly, will describe the Senate and include membership of the Councils. The other issues will be distributed in January and in May.

Issues to be presented before Senate this year should include the General Education program (a faculty forum will be held shortly), the assessment issue, the mission statement and the future of the New York State Theatre Institute.

5. Council Reports

- a. CPCA: Senator Bosco stated the Council is conducting business and has no further report.
- b. EPC: Senator Sanders had nothing to report.
- c. GAC: The Council met this afternoon, reported Senator Champagne, and the chairs of the committees were selected.
- d. UAC: The committees are being formed, said Senator Knoblauch.
- e. Res: Vice President Gullahorn reported that the committees were being organized.
- f. LISC: Senator Bloniarz reported that the Council will meet on October 9. Two issues for discussion are: opportunities for the new library and collection development.
- g. CAFE: Senator Sattinger reported that the Council will meet on October 8.
- h. SAC: Senator Thomson reported that the Council will meet on October 3.
- i. UCC: No report.

6. Old Business


There was no Old Business.

7. New Business

- a. Changes in Council Memberships: Chair Turner noted that the faculty member changes were approved by the Executive Committee. The student member changes arrived after the Executive Committee meeting and are being presented with the other changes for approval. Also, Senator Alberto Macario will serve on CPCA for the Fall Semester. The changes were moved for approval, seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lilian Brannon
Chair-Elect



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

September 13, 1991

TO: Members of the University Senate

FROM: H. Patrick Swygert *H. Patrick Swygert*

SUBJECT: Commencement Report

At its December 3, 1990, meeting, the University Senate approved a bill (9091-01) that assigned administrative responsibility for Commencement to the President, who would develop a plan for Commencement in consultation with faculty and academic administrators, the Council on Educational Policy, and the senior class. It further specifies that the President inform the Senate of the plan for Commencement at the Senate's first or second meeting of the academic year.

As the first step in that process for the 1992 Commencement, I am pleased to provide the following report on the 1991 Commencement ceremony. I want to further inform you that, in consulting with the various groups specified, it is my plan to propose virtually no changes to the major logistical aspects (time, place, format) of Commencement for the coming year. We will, of course, consider any suggestions for improving the ceremony, including possible additions or deletions to the content of the ceremony itself. At this time, however, major changes are not contemplated. I will make the final report to the University Senate at its second meeting of the year on October 28, 1991, and I welcome additional comments between now and then.

Report on the 1991 Commencement

Our 147th Commencement was held on May 26, 1991, at the Knickerbocker Arena, South Pearl Street, Albany. The ceremony was the first in the history of the modern University held at an off-campus site, a decision that resulted from the availability of an indoor venue large enough to accommodate the number of students and guests expected to attend.

Approximately 2,000 baccalaureate candidates, 250 master's and certificate candidates, and 55 doctoral candidates attended the Commencement ceremony, as well as approximately 200 faculty and University officers, and 12,400 guests. (It is not known what effect on attendance, if any, resulted from departing from the University's customary date for Commencement and holding it on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Our experience in 1992 should provide a more reliable gauge.) University staff members with official duties that day numbered approximately 100.

Four honorary degrees were awarded, and the Commencement address was given by Houston A. Baker Jr., Albert M. Greenfield Professor of Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania.

Following the Commencement ceremony, School/College-based receptions were held at various sites at the two campuses. Parent and student attendance was higher than planners of these events anticipated. In the coming year, these events will be given special attention with the hope that they may become an even more significant part of the University's Commencement celebration.

My office received five letters from faculty members or parents expressing satisfaction with the new format, no letters of complaint, some oral praise, and some expressions of embarrassment about the student who brought a beach ball. One letter to the Times Union also complained about the beach ball. We will seek more concrete feedback during the consultation process. Generally, students' behavior was acceptable, if boisterous, and has been characterized as greatly improved compared to ceremonies on the University Field. We will continue to emphasize to our students the solemnity as well as the celebration associated with the ceremony.

Because seating in the Knickerbocker Arena is limited, each student's eligibility to attend Commencement was verified, and each was given six guest tickets. Eligibility to attend was restricted to May degree candidates, graduates of the previous August and December, and a small number of undergraduate students who had in place plans to finish their baccalaureate degrees in the summer immediately following the Commencement. Some consideration may need to be given in the coming year to involving departments in the verification of candidates for master's degrees.

Use of the Knickerbocker Arena facility and staff permitted the University to avoid significant expenses, largely those associated with overtime payment to Physical Plant staff and rental of chairs, tents, stage units, etc. In fact, the cost of the 1991 Commencement was approximately 50 percent lower than for the 1990, on-campus, ceremony. Yet services were comparable, and in the area of security they were superior to, what the University had been able to provide. Alcohol and crowd control matters were handled effectively by the approximately 80-100 Knickerbocker Arena employees on hand for the ceremony.

Finally, traffic, parking, access to the Arena, and crowd movement before and after the ceremony also went reasonably well, although there are certainly areas where improvements can and will be made for the next year.

Again, I welcome input from interested members of the University community as we plan the 1992 Commencement ceremony.



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

September 30, 1991

Dr. Edward Turner, Chair
University Senate
University at Albany

Dear Ted:

As we discussed at the last meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, the changes made to the academic calendar for this fall and the late notification of those changes has been a subject of understandable concern over the past month. Because of this concern and in order to clarify our situation, I have decided to address these matters in writing for our University Senate colleagues. In that regard, I would appreciate your distributing copies of this letter at today's meeting of the University Senate.

Campus calendar policy and practice are governed by the requirements of the State Education Law, State University Board of Trustees Policy, and policies adopted the University Senate and approved by the President. New York State Law and the State Education Department establish the relationship between the number of weeks and hours of instruction on the one hand, and the length of the academic year and number of credits on the other. The Law also requires that students be excused without penalty from classes, examinations, and work assignments on any days that they are unable, due to religious beliefs, to participate in instruction, examination, or study. The Law further obligates us to allow such students to make up without penalty or charge any examinations or work missed. Board of Trustees Policies further require that campuses "avoid scheduling of classes or other courses of instruction on those days when a significant number of members of a religious faith at that campus typically observe the expectation of their faith and wish to be absent from school or work."

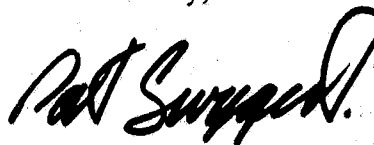
The University at Albany "Guidelines for Academic Calendars" were amended during the Spring Semester of 1991 after a review by the Long Range Planning Committee and upon recommendations submitted to the University Senate by the Educational Policies Council. The current

guidelines provide that, where possible within the State Law and Board of Trustees policies, the fall semester will begin after Labor Day and end no later than December 23. Spring Semester is to begin in the third week of January and end with Commencement on the third or fourth Sunday in May. Holidays are to be observed for Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving, Washington's Birthday (where possible) and Passover. To provide travel time, classes are to be recessed before the beginning of the first class after noon on the day preceding observed Jewish holidays. Where possible, the calendar will schedule the same number of class meetings for classes that meet before and after noon.

The calendar for 1991-92 was originally reviewed by the Educational Policies Council in 1989 and was distributed to faculty and administrative offices at that time. Revisions to that calendar as well as to those for 1992-93 and 1993-94, designed to comply with the Senate's amendments to the Calendar Guidelines, were reviewed by the Educational Policies Council at its last regular meeting of the Spring Semester. The calendar revisions for 1991-92 were finalized over the Summer and distributed to faculty in August by campus mail. Revisions to the 1992-93 and 1993-94 academic calendars were presented to the Senate Executive Committee earlier this month and were distributed to all faculty and administrative offices on September 16.

The changes in the 1991-92 calendar with regard to the class schedule resulted from a Senate policy change and subsequent implementation. Distribution of the new calendar, however, is the responsibility of the Office of the President and we sincerely regret any inconvenience caused by the late notification. The problem will not be repeated. Calendars for the next two years have already been distributed, and the calendar for 1994-95 will be approved and distributed before the end of the Fall term. In the future, we will not suggest or consider changes to the calendar with less than one semester's notice.

Sincerely,



H. Patrick Swygert
President

CHANGES IN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIPS

Council Deletions

CPCA

M. Kazim Ali*
Allen Ballard
Richard Hall*
Ernest Scatton*

EPC

GAC

Larry Covitt*

UAC

Timothy Lance*

RES

Thomas Shevlin*

LISC

Timothy Gage
Carolyn Yalkut

UCC

Sheryl Rubin*

Proposed Council Additions

CPCA

Gary Gossen*
Max Lifschitz
Eugene Stone
Lori Kisch

EPC

Francine Frank
Russell Ward

GAC

Mark Furnish*

UAC

M. Kazim Ali*
David Shub

RES

Startita Boyce
Ryan Don*

LISC

UCC

Kerin Coughlin*
Emily Bliss
Dona Parker
Norbert Zahm

* = Senator