

2008-2009 University Senate

Monday, October 20, 2008
3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

John Delano, Chair

Minutes

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Heidi Andrade, Sandra Austin, Hassaram Bakhru, Henryk Baran, Zakhar Berkovich, Joel Berkowitz, R. Scott Birge, Lance Bosart, Ray Bromley, Daryl Bullis, Andrew Byon, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, John Delano, Jane Domaracki, Virginia Eubanks, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Sally Frideman, Robert Gibson, Andrew Haas, Eric Hardiman, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Sung Bok Kim, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Jean McLaughlin, Candace Merbler, William Meredith, Susan Phillips, Glen Pichardo, Marjorie Pryse, R. Michael Range, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Benjamin Shaw, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Scott South, Eszter Szalczler, Daniel Truchan III, Lynn Videka, Victoria von Arx, Ann Withington, Robert Yagelski

Guests: Kevin Owens, Pratik Shah, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:35 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of September 22, 2008 will be reviewed at the next meeting on November 17.

President's and Provost's Reports by Susan Phillips

- UAlbany Day will be held on October 25. The weekend will also feature Homecoming and Alumni Day. Undergraduate Admissions will host an open house.
- The Graduate School Fair was held on October 13 with over 400 students attending.
- The EOP 40th Anniversary Reunion will be held the weekend of October 24th and a retirement celebration will be held honoring Carson Carr.
- International Education: Over 570 students participated in study abroad programs. Participation by UAlbany students is up over 80% since five years ago.
- Earth & Atmospheric Science: Professor John Delano has received a 5-year award from NASA for the creation of a NASA Astrobiology Institute in collaboration with RPI (lead institution), Syracuse University and the University of Arizona.
- The Communications and Political Science Departments, along with the College Democrats, hosted a presidential debate which was followed by a discussion.
- The College of Computing and Information will host the Junior First Lego League Expo on November 22.
- The School of Public Health: The School has established the Center for Global Health. The Center will serve as the School's focal point for international collaborations. David Carpenter recently presented testimony before the U.S. Congress on the dangers of cell phone usage and tumors in children.
- The School of Social Welfare has received new grant awards totaling over \$24M.
- Athletics: The volleyball team has placed 1st in its division; student athletes have received awards for their community service and outreach.
- Helen Desfosses will receive an Academic Laureate award at the Citizen Laureate Event in November.

- Student Success: The Pride Alliance will host Coming Out Week during the week of October 20; the week of October 13 was Alcohol Awareness Week; Empire Commons has a new pedestrian crossing featuring activated lighting for safety.
- Media and Marketing: UAlbany Day will be held on October 25. The event will be highlighted by many faculty presentations which will bring awareness to the array of resources at the University.
- An alumni event, Reaching Higher, Achieving More, will be held on Friday, October 24th.
- Finance and Business will sponsor a recycling event on October 22nd for domestic computers and electrical devices.
- National Institute of Health (NIH) Day will be held at the University on October 28. The event will provide information on applying for NIH programs.
- Orders for Commencement regalia need to be submitted by November 26. It is hoped that many faculty will participate.
- Going Forward Plan: The last conference has been completed and over 300 people attended one of the five conferences. This was an excellent process for those who participated. A draft of the work is in progress.
- There were no further updates on the budget beyond what Interim President George Philip provided on October 16 at the Fall faculty meeting. |

Senate Chair's Report by John Delano:

The Chair reminded the members of the Senate that the Selection Committee for Distinguished Teaching Professors and Distinguished Service Professors has been constituted and has met. Deans and Department Chairs will shortly receive a memo asking for nominations, which need to be submitted to the Provost's Office by Friday, November 7. The Selection Committee will meet to review the nominations soon after November 7, and to recommend which nominations should be pursued with full documentation. The final documents are due on February 17 at SUNY Administration. The Chair reminded members that these are promotions, not awards.

SUNY-wide Senate Report by William Lanford and R. Michael Range

William Lanford reported that he had recently returned from the Fall Plenary Meeting held at SUNY Potsdam. Progress was made at the meeting on the issue of articulation and transfer. SUNY Administration has received pressure from the Board of Directors and the Legislature to resolve the issue. SUNY has turned the issue over to the Senate. There is now a website in place showing course-to-course equivalencies.

Budget: James VanVooris gave a report at the Plenary Meeting describing a history of past budget cuts. SUNY Administration believes it may be able to reduce the \$96M to \$71M. There was no discussion about getting the State to provide more money. The budget will go the Board of Director's Finance Committee on November 11 and then to the Board of Trustees on November 18. There was some discussion about a tuition increase which would only cover about 30% of the whole. It is unclear how the reductions would be allocated to the different campuses. It could be through a budget allocation process or through the campus total budget. Either way could be substantial for UAlbany.

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Report By Glenn Pichardo:

Mr. Pichardo provided an overview of the GSO. It is the official governing body of graduate students with differing social and educational groups such as ethnic and athletic groups. The current goal is to get more graduate students involved and linking GSO with the undergraduate Student Association. GSO is looking forward to working with Marjorie Pryse on student issues and with John Delano on Senate

issues. It is the view of GSO that graduate students need to be utilized as a resource. In addition to the GSO office on the uptown campus, there is an office on the East Campus and it is hoped there will be an office on the Downtown campus shortly.

Student Association (SA) Report by Daniel Truchan III

Mr. Truchan reported that he is serving his fourth year representing the 13,000 undergraduate students at UAlbany. He also serves as the Director of Academic Affairs with the SUNY Student Assembly (SSA). At SSA's last meeting during the weekend of October 18th, a resolution was passed on transfer and articulation credit which will be proposed to the Board of Trustees. A resolution was also passed on a rational tuition increase.

Mr. Truchan discussed his meeting with representatives of the bookstore and strongly encouraged faculty members to submit book orders on time which would assist students receiving financial aid. He asked members of the faculty to support the University policy of not holding final exams on Reading Day. He encouraged Senate members to pick up a copy of the SA newsletter, SA Insider, for a listing of club events and activities. In his efforts to create and encourage a sense of community on campus, Mr. Truchan has reached out to UAS, the Alumni Association and Chartwells for their support.

Council/Committee Chairs' Reports:

University Senate, October 20, 2008
As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

The Council met Wednesday, 24 September 2008. Members discussed the Program Review Schedule for the period 2009-2016. Kristina Bendikas explained to Council members the logic behind the sequencing as presented; after some discussion and minor adjustments to the schedule, it was approved. There was discussion of the planned work by both the Program Review Committee and the General Education Assessment Committee; even though both need to add members to bring them up to mandated strength, they would nonetheless begin their work right away. This led to a broader discussion of assessment, with some ideas put forward at our initial meeting being further fleshed out. The Council viewed favorably an initiative suggested by Bill Robeson to form a small task force dealing with program reviews, one that would be able to provide assistance on assessment to units scheduled for review in Cycle II 2009-2016, and would, in general, help departments and individual faculty better to come to grips with assessment methodology. It was noted that a seminar on assessment, backed by the Provost, is scheduled October 30th.

The Council began to discuss the three GEAC reports left over from the previous year, which once again led to an exchange of ideas regarding the goals and mechanics of General Education assessment. It was noted that with SUNY Central changing its policies in this area, there is room for individual campuses to be more creative, to shape assessment of General Education courses so that it is better connected to what is taking place in the classroom and so it can be maximally helpful to faculty teaching the courses being assessed.

In reviewing CAA minutes from last year, it was observed some colleges and departments did not hold elections for membership in the Senate by the end of the spring semester. It was agreed that this issue be brought to the attention of the SEC/Senate Chair, with a request to try to avoid a repetition of such a situation this year. Delays in elections leave the Senate and its councils without an adequate pool of candidates to fill the available slots, and this in turn hampers their ability to begin work right from the start of the fall semester.

CAA met on October 15. A new member, graduate student Zakhar Berkovitch, joined us. It was noted that Lee Bickmore (Anthropology) has resigned from CAA due to schedule conflicts. The Council discussed three GEAC reports from last spring. It voted to accept them and pass them on to the Senate, with an additional recommendation to be included in a covering note. The Council then turned to School/College assessment updates. After noting that some schools/colleges have not filed anything as yet - the greatest degree of

compliance comes from CAS - the Council looked in detail at the 07-08 update from one specific program, which turned into a discussion of categories being used in assessment and other issues of methodology, process, feasibility. This discussion will be continued at the next scheduled meeting (November 5).

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

CAFFECOR has met and discussed various issues it might wish to address.

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

CERS has begun discussing the revised policy draft submitted by the ad hoc revision committee last spring and is awaiting a report from university counsel.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The first meeting of the Council on Research was held on September 17. The Council reviewed accomplishments of last year, discussed the report of the Vice President for Research and considered issues raised last year still to be resolved.

The Council on Research met on October 15, 2008. We welcomed new members. Vice President for Research Lynn Videka provided her report including announcement of NIH day (Oct 28, 2008) and a description of very positive growth in research awards received over the past half dozen or more years, as well as a brief accounting of the reasons why the indirect cost return last spring was half of the amount expected based on past practice established under former president Karen Hitchcock (10% of the return to the campus). Vice President Videka also informed the membership that the remaining 50% of the indirect cost return to units for 2007-08 is forthcoming. This is a reinvestment in research development. The CoR also constituted the membership of its several committees, and discussed its goals for the academic year 2008-2009.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

PCA met last week for an orientation meeting for the 2008-2009 council. We are meeting again this Wednesday to discuss our first two cases. Three additional members have been identified in the past few weeks bringing us close to full strength. Thanks to Richard Collier for his help in identifying them.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) met on September 23 and voted to approve membership of its three standing committees for 2008-09. The Council was briefed by the Chair on the current status of the IRCAP Charter amendment as well as the proposed Senate Charter amendment by GAC that it be vested with the authority to review and act upon proposed new or revised University-wide graduate courses. Previously, the Council was charged by the Senate Executive Committee with reviewing the issue of cross-disciplinary MA/PhD degrees and determining whether to adopt uniform guidelines or criteria. This task was relegated to the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure. Several other agenda items for the coming year were mentioned in anticipation of full discussion at a later date.

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

As reported at the last senate meeting, GOV discussed possible restrictions for individuals to chair councils/committees.

GOV met on October 13, 2008. Recommendations were discussed for a faculty member for the Advisory Committee on Campus Security. The Council then addressed the constitution of its Standing Committees and, in particular, voted unanimously not to activate the Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation for the next two years, so as not to interfere with the MSCHE self-study and reaccreditation process. The Committee on Liaison and Elections is ready to work as the need arises. The Council reviewed feed-back received from the SEC and continued discussion regarding a proposed charter amendment concerning

restrictions on chairs of senate councils or committees. It is expected that a draft of a proposed amendment will be discussed at GOV's next meeting on 10/27/08. Finally, GOV reviewed a corrected timeline and description of process to constitute the MSCHE self-study steering committee and its subcommittees, and discussed related recommendations.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

CIO Chris Haile was elected chair of the ITUPC. Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia is chair of the Library Committee. Minutes from May 2 were approved by those who attended. Among the issues discussed:

- Simplifying and consolidating the process through which graduate students purchase University licensed software;
- IT anti-phishing procedures
- Budgeting for ICPSR membership

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC has approved the three bills which are before the Senate.

UAC will soon be presenting a bill recommending a change in the date by which students must finalize their decision regarding the S/U grading option. The new date, which will be much later than the current one, will coincide with the date by which final decisions to withdraw must be made.

We are also working on rules for admission to and completion of a second Bachelor's Degree and will present that bill when it is ready.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

No new business to report, but we will be meeting next week to discuss some business already announced and to provide some advice (and no legislation action) to a group that has approached us with a challenge.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

The UPC met on 16 September and has established its two committees. We should be bringing legislation to the Senate at the November meeting regarding name changes. The UPC also met on Thursday, 16 October. Its committees are constituted, and there is no need to recruit members from outside UPC. UPC endorsed a certification proposal from Professors Friedlander and Jurkowski that will reach the GAC.

Report on Middle States Self-Study by Senate Representative by Reed Hoyt:

Reed did not have a report since the next meeting of the steering committee will be on October 21. He reported that everyone continues to work hard and thanked Sue Faerman for her mention of the wiki at the last Senate meeting.

New Business:

Approval of Council and Standing Committee memberships:

Senate Secretary Richard Collier reviewed the changes in membership that were emailed previously. A motion to approve the changes was made, seconded and passed.

Senate Bill 0809-01: Revision of the Syllabus Requirement:

The bill would modify syllabus requirement which would define the grading system to be employee. There was a discussion as to whether or not faculty have the authority to assign only pluses and not

minuses. A motion was made to approve the bill, the motion was seconded and the bill passed as written.

Senate Bill 0809-02: Retroactive Inclusion on the Dean's List and Dean's Commendation for Part-Time Students:

Currently there is no appeal mechanism in place for a student who receives an incomplete. This bill would allow a student to appeal for placement on the Dean's List once an I grade has been changed to a grade not lower than a C. The student would have to initiate the appeal which would go through UAC's appellate Committee on Academic Standing. A motion was made to approve the bill, the motion was seconded and the bill was passed as written.

Senate Bill 0809-03: Grade changes after graduation affecting Honors

The third bill would allow students to appeal for graduation with honors if they have received a grade change following graduation. The bill passed after several amendments were offered. A paragraph in the rationale recognizing current limitations in what the Registrar's Office was able to accomplish with the existing PeopleSoft product was edited after considerable discussion. Because the Registrar had informed UAC and the Senate that the Registrar's office is not currently able to identify qualifying students readily by an automated method, an amendment seen as unfriendly by UAC which would have added wording to require the Registrar's Office to seek out newly qualifying students at least twice a year was rejected. Instead, because the task itself was viewed as something that a computer could be programmed to do, the word "yet" was added to the fifth paragraph as a friendly amendment, so that the final text then read "Recognizing that the Registrar's Office might not yet have the capacity to..."

In the bill itself, the word "their" was added to the text proposed by UAC by a friendly amendment. Additionally, an explanatory sentence/friendly amendment was added to the proposed Bulletin copy, so that the final version of the bill read as follows: "Students who qualify for graduation with honors as a result of a grade change following their graduation have the right to receive such designation. Students who have received a change of grade following their graduation may appeal for graduation with honors through the Registrar's office."

A motion was made, seconded and approved to extend the meeting time for a ten minute period to allow Martin Manjak to make his presentation.

Information Security – Martin Manjak, Information Security Officer

Mr. Manjak provided an overview of his work history prior to accepting his current position at UAlbany. He continued with an overview of his work at UAlbany constructing the residential network in the dormitories and managing the student help desk.

Mr. Manjak's presentation focused on the strengths that protect our information system on campus and the weaknesses that leave the information vulnerable. He continued, explaining that there are opportunities to strengthen the protection of information by formulating a UAlbany security council to take a comprehensive approach to the issue. There will continue to be threats with the proliferation of phishing and web based attacks. He cautioned against the danger of fiscal constraints we are experiencing resulting in the University's cutting corners in information security, creating further vulnerabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Gail Cameron, Recorder