Senate Secretary Christian Poehlmann
Reports Submitted for April 12, 2017 SEC meeting:

CHAIR'S REPORT – James Collins

I. **Informational**
   1. On March 27 Chair Collins communicated with Governance Chair Karin Reinhold and Liaison Committee Chair Chris Poehlmann about the Final Slate for the Senate Elections, with balloting April 3-7.
   2. On March 27 (GSA) Senator Dawn Wharram conferred with Chair Collins about a GSA request to the Interim President Stellar for information on the University's actions to protect international and DACA students.
   3. On March 29, Chair Collins communicated with Kathie Winchester about deadlines for the annual revision of the Undergraduate Bulletin and Professor Joette Stefl-Mabry about proposals for assessment of academic and non-academic administrative units.
   4. On March 30, Chair Collins attended a meeting of the Presidential Search Committee in his capacity as a faculty member of the committee. He proposed and was encouraged to communicate with all Voting Faculty and all Part-Time Faculty, requesting their input on questions for the short-list of candidates for the University President.
   5. On March 30, Chair Collins received two bills for a BA in political Science/ MA in International Affairs and a BA in Public Policy/MA in International Affairs.
   6. On March 30, Governance Chair Karin Reinhold communicated with Chair Collins about Council recommendations for part-time faculty to be members of the Voting Faculty.
   7. On March 31, Chair Collins met with Governance Chair Karin Reinhold and Liaison Committee Chair Chris Poehlmann to plan work for the Committee on Council Nominations.
   8. Chair Collins arranged to attend the Student Assembly senatorial meeting on April 5, in order to discuss shared governance with SA senators, including their role in the University Senate, and strategies for better coordinating work between the two bodies.

II. **Actions taken**
   None

III. **Recommendations for actions**
   a. Table till April 26 a report on procedures and routing of small administrative changes;
   b. Table till Fall 2017 discussion of recommendations and requests to specific councils from the reports on the 2016 Survey of Shared Governance.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senate) – Diane Hamilton, Walter Little & Latonia Spencer, SUNY Senators

- The SUNY University Faculty Senate will meet at SUNY Canton on April 20 to 22. Any concerns or questions that University at Albany senators have should be directed to Albany's representatives.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Saben Durio, GSA President

SA (Student Association) – Felix Abreu, Student Association President

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Alifair Skebe, Chair

- Nothing to report.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

- Nothing to report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

- Nothing reported.

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

- Nothing reported.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Louise-Anne McNutt, Chair

- Nothing reported.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – James Fossett, Chair

- Nothing reported.

GOV (Governance Council) – Karin Reinhold, Chair

On Mar 29th: Governance considered enfranchising part time faculty. Informed by the reports on contingent concerns written by the Blue Ribbon panel (Report of the Panel on Part-time and Contingent Faculty and Staff) and UUP (Woven Into its Very Fabric: a Report on Contingent Labor at the University at Albany, Survey Data Analysis and Policy Proposals), as well as the AAUP report (The inclusion in Governance of Faculty Members holding Contingent Appointments), the council agreed to extend voting rights to part time faculty. Historically, part time faculty were not given voting rights because they were though as being hired on short, temporary situation. This has ceased to be the case at our institution and nationwide. A large percentage of faculty holding part time appointments work in their positions for several years in a row. More than 20% of part time faculty has been in their position for more than 10 years. Therefore, the council decided to grant voting rights to part time faculty who has been employed a minimum of one year or a minimum of two semesters.

Part time teaching faculty consists of more than 50% of the teaching faculty. Adding them to the roster of voting faculty will have consequences to voting procedures that require a quorum of faculty. Keeping the current rules for amending the Bylaws with a considerably larger roster of voting faculty could prove unworkable. Therefore, the council also recommended reconsidering the procedure for amending the Senate Bylaws.

The Chair requested recommendations for the Senate webpage which are listed below.

The Council discussed issues related to video recording of Senate meetings. Some concerns presented by the chair were that people would be afraid to talk at Senate meetings because they are being videotaped or that people would be less candid in their presentations because of a fear that what they say can be taken out of context and misused. The Council felt that these could be initial responses but that people soon would feel comfortable enough with the technology that it would not be a serious detriment to Senate discussions. A few members were familiar with the videotaping of Senate meetings in Florida and they felt comfortable with it. In general, it was felt that the advantage of having this technology that brings information out the larger community in a direct way, without the processing that minutes are subject to, and in a much faster way, far outweighs the possible negative side.

On Mar 31st, Collins, Poehlmann, and Reinhold met to discuss the process for council membership for next year.

Recommendations:

1. Procedures to enfranchise part time faculty should go together with a new procedure to amend the Senate Bylaws.

2. Recommendations for the Senate website:

    a. Front Senate page should have a) News, b) top issues/cases/stories the Senate is considering, and if appropriate c) information about a particular issue.

    b. More frequent updating of legislation.

    c. In the membership area, each individual Senator should be able to post articles on Senate issues (blog).

    d. Support for the webpages. Elisa may get overwhelmed.

    e. Easy access to updates on the status of programs, resolutions, etc that have been submitted to the Senate for review.

    f. Each sub-council should have a brief description "about this body".

    g. UPPC should have a link to information about the university budget.

Actions taken:

- The Governance Council endorsed:

    1. The proposal for governance representation in the Assessment Advisory Committee.

    2. Enfranchising part time faculty.

- The Governance Council approved a Charter amendment of Section IX: Amendment of the Charter. The current version requires 2/3 of Senators to pass. The proposal changes this requirement to 2/3 of voting Senators.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

- Faculty searches

- o Director of Technical Services and Library Systems. We are holding four on-campus interviews.

- o Subject Librarian for Anthropology, Geography and Planning, and Communications. This search has been completed; Priscilla Seaman will be joining the Libraries on April 20. Priscilla comes to us from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She has a BA in Anthropology from UAlbany, and an MSIS from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

- o Web Developer/Designer. Our search for this position was unsuccessful; we will re-assess this position after the Director of Technical Services and Library Systems is on board.

- The Library Hours Task Force has completed its work and submitted recommendations to the Library Policy Group. As part of its work, the Task Force conducted a survey of faculty, staff, and students, receiving 803 responses from students and 548 from faculty and staff. We will be reviewing their recommendations with the goal of implementing any changes to our hours in the fall.

- Virtual Research Consultations Task Force. The Libraries have formed a group to investigate our ability to offer virtual research consultations. Currently, we offer in person research consultations by appointment in addition to our chat, email, phone, and in-person reference assistance. The ability to offer virtual research consultations will allow us to reach more of our students, including those enrolled in online courses.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

- Nothing reported.

ULC (University Life Council) – Ekow King, Chair

- Nothing reported.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

- We are in the process of setting the agenda for our next meeting, also scheduled for April 12.