

**2008-2009 University Senate Executive Committee**  
**November 3, 2008**  
**John Delano, Chair**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Henryk Baran, Richard Collier, John Delano, Nicholas Farenkopf, Reed Hoyt, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith

The meeting convened at 3:32 pm.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of October 6 were reviewed. Joan Savitt made suggestions for minor grammatical changes. Michael Range submitted a revision to the comments made by Senate Chair Delano in the GAC report as follows:

“...to address concerns of the Senate officers upon receiving new information that SUNY Senator Michael Range had obtained after the Senate had approved Senate Bill 0708-23 on May 12, 2008. The Senate officers agreed to have Senate Chair Hoyt ask Interim President Philip to hold off signing the bill until the GAC had explored the implications of the new information. The concerns relate to the fact that there are no comparable combined degree programs in the SUNY system, and that consequently the 100% double counting formalized in the proposal would establish a questionable SUNY-wide precedent. Since the ensuing 5-month delay...”

A motion was made to approve the revisions. The motion was seconded and passed.

**INTERIM PRESIDENT’S REPORT BY GEORGE PHILIP**

Interim President Philip talked about safety initiatives being implemented resulting from the death of Richard Bailey:

- The University and Tom Gebhardt are working with the Albany Police Department (APD) to create a safer environment.
- Operation Safe Corridor—this would possibly link UAlbany cameras with those of APD.
- The University is working to obtain addresses for students living off campus which would give an accurate assessment of areas in which there are concentrations of students.
- The University will try to obtain additional resources for technology and for improved lighting in student neighborhoods.
- The College of St. Rose is working with UAlbany to increase the safety of student neighborhoods.
- The President would like to see each faculty member using a safety template in class to present safety information.
- The University will stress there is safety in numbers using the 70-20-10% safety model from the FBI as a guideline.

The President said that UAlbany is effectively communicating with students and he commended Chris Bouchard for her efforts.

The President continued, talking about the ways in which Richard Bailey will be memorialized by the University:

- A student scholarship will be set up in his name, funded in part from the Class of 2009 and in part from the University.
- The University will recognize Richard Bailey at Winter Commencement with a posthumous degree, and there will be a memorial service on campus. Richard's parents plan to attend these events.
- UPD made him an honorary member (NYPD also made him an honorary member.)

During a question and answer period, there was a discussion regarding the lack of adequate on-campus housing which puts students at risk, especially the international student population.

The most important outcome of this tragedy has been the increased emphasis on safety. The President reinforced that UAlbany is one of the safest campuses SUNY-wide. He cited statistics on improved safety from 1971 to 2005 that showed a marked reduction in criminal incidents. The President would like to see a safety link added to the University's web site which would allow parents to have this information.

**Budget:** The State Legislature is scheduled to return to Albany on November 18 and it is unsure what will happen at that time. The President believes that of the 7% cut (\$96M), \$71M will be directly allocated to the different campuses.

The President and SUNY staff met with members of the Governor's staff and members of the State Assembly to present their argument for the need of additional funding. He does not believe that the impact needed was made and does not see additional money forthcoming.

The issue of a tuition increase will not be discussed until after Election Day. The President believes that a midyear increase is off the table. A rational tuition policy is a possibility. A tuition increase would require changes to TAP so that those most in need would have greater access.

The issue of governance needs to be addressed to set SUNY apart from the executive budget. Until a new model is created, the circumstances are unlikely to change.

A question and answer period followed. The Chair of COR raised concerns about restoring indirect costs to reinvest in research. The President indicated that more federal funds will be needed to reinvest.

The President concluded by saying that UAlbany Day was a great success and thanked those who contributed to its success. In spite of the bad weather, spirits were high on campus and over 4,000 outside guests registered for events.

#### **INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT BY SUSAN PHILLIPS**

- Interim Provost Phillips reiterated the President's request to have faculty use the safety template.
- Working on ways to help faculty develop programs with UPC. More information will be coming.
- The Going Forward Plan has finished the first part of the writing process and hope to have a first draft in circulation for review and comments.
- Plans to have Spring Commencement moved to the new entry plaza are in the planning stage.
- The President has put out a call for a Budget Advisory Group. This group would look at scenarios for budget reductions. The group would have its first meeting sometime around Thanksgiving and would have regular meetings through the third week of January and conclude with an all day seminar of "Budget 101".

### UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT BY JOHN DELANO

(a) Budget Advisory Group: A meeting was recently held with Interim President George Philip and Interim Provost Susan Phillips. A Budget Advisory Group (BAG) is requested to provide advice to the Interim President on the budget. The dollar-amount to be contained in the next (5<sup>th</sup>, I think) cut during the current fiscal year's budget is likely to be announced shortly after November 4<sup>th</sup> election. Consequently, the Senate has been requested to provide the names of ~12 full-time faculty (professional and teaching) that can be considered by the Interim President for BAG membership. The work of this group will likely to be intense.

(b) Community Engagement: I have been a member of the Steering Committee on Community Engagement since early spring 2008. This group (~20 members) is chaired by Miriam Trementozzi and Lynn Videka and has been working to identify the many ways that members of the institution contribute to the community (local, regional, and national). The University's website is being updated to provide links to highlight the many activities of faculty, staff, and students to community engagement. Discussion has recently considered possible ways of incentivizing community engagement among members of UAlbany. One outcome of this Steering Committee's efforts will be to submit a competitive application that could result in a formal recognition of UAlbany's efforts and effectiveness in community engagement.

(c) Format of Senate meetings: As the last item of New Business listed on the agenda for this SEC meeting, I would like to consider ways of making Senate meetings more efficient (i.e., more time for discussion of substantive matters, rather than a succession of time-consuming reports). As a gesture in that direction, I am submitting this written report to the SEC and similar ones will be submitted for future Senate meetings. In that way, the Senate Chair's Report will have the same format as reports from Councils and Committees. Further suggestions for improving the format of Senate meetings are welcome.

### SUNY SENATOR'S REPORT BY WILLIAM LANFORD AND MICHAEL RANGE

William Lanford reported on two resolutions that were passed at the SUNY Senate meeting last month:

1. Resolution on the Effect of New York State's Budget on SUNY
2. Resolution on Implementing the Recommendations of the New York State Commission on Higher Education (NYSCHE) and putting into effect the ten major recommendations of the New York State Commission on Higher Education at the earliest possible time.

**He requested having these added to the agenda for the upcoming Senate Meeting for consideration of adopting at the campus level. He will make the ten recommendations from NYSCHE available. SEC members agreed to have this added to the agenda.**

### COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

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

The Council on Academic Assessment met on October 29th, 2008. There was an extensive discussion of how the assessment process might be improved, focusing, in particular, on how departments might be assisted in formulating student learning objectives (outcomes) in a timely, consistent and productive manner. Different options for motivating departments to become better engaged in the assessment process were explored. It was noted that assessment helps celebrate faculty and department success in the realm of teaching and learning. It was agreed that having chairs responsible for assessment activities, in addition to their other tasks, imposes a serious burden and might be counterproductive; for this reason, the Council voted to recommend that assessment coordinators, charged with encouraging and aiding assessment activities among colleagues, be appointed in each department. Such posts should be filled with midlevel or senior faculty. A recommendation to that effect will be forwarded to the Provost.

The Council also discussed how accredited programs should be treated in terms of assessment. It was noted that different types of accreditation are involved, in some cases assessment plays a major role, which would obviate the need for additional internal assessment. It was agreed to request copies of self-studies for such programs, and that these would be reviewed to determine how to proceed in each case.

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

CAFFECOR has an upcoming meeting on November 4 and will discuss the foundation for individual rights in education.

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

CERS is still waiting for a response from University Counsel to its questions about the misconduct policy.

**COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair**

Last report was made to the full Senate.

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

The Chair indicated they still need a Council member and a Senator from Political Science.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair**

At its meeting on October 27, GAC considered a proposal by the Schools of Public Health, Social Welfare and Education for the establishment of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Health Disparities. There were several reservations expressed by Council members concerning the scope and flexibility of the proposed curriculum, the composition of committees, and other details. Nevertheless, the Council voted a show-of-support for the proposal but reserved the right to approve the final language.

Next, the Council accepted and approved the attached report from its Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures on (1) the lack of precedence of cross-disciplinary MA/PhD programs, (2) deadlines for academic grievance requests, (3) equivalency of graduate and undergraduate credits, and (4) policies for graduate certificates. Finally, the Council tabled a decision on a grievance before the Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing pending a request for additional information from the principals. The Council will meet next on November 11.

**GAC's Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures, 10/27/08:**

**MA/PhD:** The Committee was charged with searching out existing examples/models of MA/PhD cross disciplinary programs, to describe best and worst practices, to identify the issues involved (when should they be permitted, how should they be structured, the extent of overlapping credits, potential problems/conflicts, etc.), and to suggest whether or not it would be appropriate to formulate and adopt uniform guidelines and/or criteria for the establishment of such programs, and, if so, to propose a timetable.

The Committee first attempted to find MA/PhD programs that resembled the dual program issue. There is no national registered program database so the Internet and library resources were used for this search. The Committee found that many schools had unofficial agreements between departments that would allow a student to receive a Master's degree in one subject and to pursue a PhD in another area; however, these programs were not officially registered. Similar to the University's MBA/JD, the departments appeared to have articulation agreements allowing these programs to be advertised and pursued. During the discussion of this issue, the University of Michigan has been referenced several times as having dual programs. It was discovered that the University has a "Student-Initiated Dual Degree Program" that allows a student to pursue a doctoral degree in one field and a Master's in another. The student can, in essence, combine any two areas they choose. Please see 2.3.1 at <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/gsh/section2/#23>.

At this time, the CEPP was unable to find any cross disciplinary MA/PhD programs that are officially registered with a University or state that could be used as a model for the proposed Women's Studies MA/Sociology PhD. The Committee will meet on 10/30/08 to discuss and identify the issues involved with combined programs, and to suggest whether or not it would be appropriate to formulate and adopt uniform guidelines and/or criteria for the establishment of such programs.

**Deadline for Academic Grievance Requests:** Upon the suggestion of University Counsel, the Committee addressed the need for a filing deadline for academic grievances. With a vote of 4-0, it was agreed that a deadline should be included in the procedures. It is also recommend that there be a statute of limitations for filing an academic grievance of one (1) calendar year from the beginning of the semester the issue occurred.

**Equivalency of Graduate and Undergraduate Credits** Vice Provost Ray Bromley has proposed the establishment of policy to address matters of undergraduate credit to graduate credits equivalency. The intent would be to create a scale indicating that X number of undergraduate credits could be transferred as Y amount of graduate credits. Current policy dictates that only graduate credits can be transferred into a graduate program at the University. This matter was briefly discussed and further information was requested by the Committee. Vice Provost Bromley, has provided a written proposal which will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Policies for Graduate Certificates:** The Committee agreed 4-0 that there should be policies and regulations governing the graduate certificates at the University. However, as the certificates offered at UAlbany are different, it was determined that each type of certificate should be considered different and have different policies. The Committee has requested further information on the graduate certificates and at this time there are no recommendations.

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

The Governance Council (GOV) met on October 27:

- Formulated recommendations for new members on the Honors College Governance Board. Recommendations have been forwarded to Jeff Haugaard, Director of the HC.
- Discussed the GAC proposal for a charter amendment regarding the approval process for graduate courses that do NOT go through an approval process at a school or college. GOV concluded that all graduate courses should be sponsored by one or more schools/colleges and go through the appropriate school/college approval processes and reporting requirements. Consequently there is no need for the kind of amendment proposed by GAC. On the other hand, GOV decided to propose an amendment that would make the above understanding regarding graduate courses more explicit. Specific language will be introduced at GOV's next meeting on Nov. 10. The chair of GOV has invited the Dean of Graduate Studies and the chair of GAC to join for the discussion at that meeting.
- Finalized the proposed charter amendment on eligibility to chair governance councils/committees. This item is on today's SEC agenda.
- Continued discussions regarding the process to create the MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee. The Council is working on a document that will, in particular, propose a charter amendment relating to proper consultation between the president and the senate chair.

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

LISC met October 31<sup>st</sup>. We discussed the proposed Charter Amendment regarding the eligibility of ex-officio members of Council to chair Council committees. We also discussed the purchase of discounted software licenses by students.

### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair**

UAC has approved a bill to revise the S/U selection deadline. This item is on today's SEC agenda. UAC voted to award a posthumous degree to Richard Bailey.

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

The University Life Council met on October 8th and with guests from Human Resources, UUP, and Facilities Management heard the issues about and some suggestions for the implementation of the campus smoking policy and what changes to implementation could be made. The Council will meet again on November 12 to continue discussion of this issue. Two of the three subcommittees are convening, and will have chairs elected prior to the November 12 meeting.

The Committee on Health Safety and Well-being is reading the Cleary Act and NYS Comptroller's Office SUNY Audit on the Cleary Act Compliance to educate itself on the issues of reporting campus and off-campus crime in accordance with this piece of legislation.

The Residential Life Committee will discuss the issue of graduate student housing.

The Chair reported that ULC is lacking three undergraduate members. The Committee feels it would be desirable to have their input on matters dealing with health and safety. Nicholas Fahrenkopf agreed to try to facilitate obtaining the members.

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

The UPC met on 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.

Bill for November Senate meeting: The UPC approved a proposal that the name of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences be changed to the **Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences**. Rationale: With the suspension of admission to the Geological Sciences programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level, the title “Earth and Atmospheric Sciences” is misleading since the “Earth” portion suggests Geology. Furthermore, the department has a growing number of students in the environmental areas. The new name would reflect the actual emphasis of the department.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Senate Bill 0809-04 from the UAC:**

The proposed revision of the S/U selection deadline would allow students to change their grading option for courses not departmentally designated for S/U until 15 class days after the midterm point. UAC says this is reasonable and consistent with the academic calendar’s final withdrawal date.

There was a discussion and ULC Chair Smith expressed concern about an increased volume of appeals which UAC Chair Savitt indicated to be huge. There was also concern that students could be finding out late in the course that they would not be receiving an “S” grade. UAC says they have received plenty of feedback to support this change. It was agreed by the members to move this forward to the Senate.

#### **President’s Budget Advisory Group:**

Recommendations are requested for professional and full time teaching faculty to serve on this group. Nominations are to be evenly split. The group will be composed of additional administrative staff selected by the President. The Chair provided a list of names from which nominations could be made. There was a discussion as to whether or not this decision should fall to SEC or to GOV. The Chair suggested referring the matter to GOV. The process will go through formal consultation. GOV will add the item to its agenda when it meets on November 10. GOV will gather the nominations, two being from the Resource Allocation Committee and will refer back to SEC. SEC will review before submitting to the President. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the process should be done via e-mail. The Senate and GOV Chairs will decide if an additional meeting will need to take place before names are submitted to the President.

#### **Replacement for Sung Bok Kim on Presidential Search Committee:**

Sung Bok Kim resigned his position on the search committee last week and needs to be replaced. The Senate Chair has received four nominations which he has acknowledged but a process needs to be in place on how to proceed. Having reviewed the ballots from 2006, Reed Hoyt has reached out to a faculty member as a potential replacement. Should that candidate decline, it was agreed that the following procedures should be set forth:

1. A call would go out to all Senators via email asking for nominations.
2. Nominees must be full-time, non-MC teaching faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences
3. Nominations received by Thursday, November 13 will be e-mailed to all Senators.
4. A vote will take place using secret ballots at the next Senate meeting on November 17. Only full-time teaching, non-MC senators can vote.

**School of Public Health: Request to Withdraw from Bioethics Joint Degree Program**

It is unclear if this program has been approved and registered with the State Education Department. If there is an actual program, it was agreed that GAC would handle the request.

**Senate Bill 0809-05 from the UPC: Department Name Change:**

The bill would change the name of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences to the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. It was agreed to move this forward to the Senate without further discussion.

**Senate Bill 0809-06 from GOV: Amendment regarding eligibility to chair Councils:**

The Chair of LISC indicated that LISC has discussed this and will continue discussions. The amendment will be presented at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting and will be voted on at the December 15 meeting. The Chair suggested obtaining precedents from SUNY Stony Brook. GOV Chair agreed to obtain information before the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Community Outreach – UAlbany Mission Statement:**

The Steering Committee has been meeting since May of 2007 to identify components of community engagement that UAlbany currently is involved with. The Schools of Social Welfare and Public Health are doing their part. UAlbany hopes to present a proposal to the Carnegie Foundation to obtain ranking for its community engagement. A draft of this information will be forwarded to the entire University community.

**Possible changes to format of Senate meetings (goal = greater efficiency):**

The Chair informed everyone that he would consider all suggestions that will lead to greater efficiency of Senate meetings. He would like to see the Senate meetings as a place of greater activity and less passivity, including more time for discussions. It was suggested if reports are submitted on paper, the Chair does not need to ask if there is anything further to add. If Senate members do not comment, it is the same as approving what is written. It was suggested that when the printed reports are expanded by the council or committee chair, this information be consistently in italics, bolded or otherwise distinguished, but discussion and action on an item mentioned in one of the reports properly belongs under old or new business. The Chair indicated that he would address the President to possibly reduce his report on days when the agenda is particularly lengthy. Reed Hoyt indicated that he could submit the Middle States report via e-mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Cameron, Recorder