

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, January 25, 2016  
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Cynthia Fox

#### I. Informational

- A. Dr. Laura Schweitzer asked to be placed on the 2/8/16 Senate agenda to introduce herself and to share the scope of her responsibilities as Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical Initiatives.
- B. Chair Fox, Vice Chair Collins, and UAC Co-Chair Kiorpes met with Debra Gelinias, Special Assistant to the Provost, about the UAlbany Applied Learning Plan on December 9.
- C. Senate Bill 1516-02 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A B.A. ENGLISH / M.A. LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM was approved by President Jones on December 11.
- D. Chair Fox received an update from Dean David Rousseau on December 15 on the planning for the major in Emergency Preparedness ; we have been working with UAC and UPPC to be sure that the proposal moves through governance in a timely fashion.
- E. Chair Fox received a request from Vice Provost Ann Marie Murray on December 18 to provide an update to the SEC on the Albany Law affiliation.
- F. On December 23, Chair Fox received word from Bruce Szelest that Middle States reaffirmed UA's accreditation at their November Commission meeting. They took this action based on the Periodic Review Report submitted this past summer and the reviewer summaries. UA was commended for the quality of our process, The documents related to the PRR on our campus Middle States wiki located at <https://wiki.albany.edu/display/middlestates/Home>.
- G. On December 24, Chair Fox received word from Bruce Szelest that the SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan that was submitted to SUNY has been approved.

#### II. Actions Taken

- A. Dr. Laura Schweitzer has been invited to the 2/8/16 Senate meeting to introduce herself and to share the scope of her responsibilities as Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical Initiatives.
- B. Darrell Wheeler, Linda Krzykowski and Debra Gelinias have been invited to the March 7 Senate meeting. Dean Wheeler will give a brief overview and answer questions about various Public Engagement initiatives that are going on under his leadership; Vice Provost Krzykowski will talk about the work of the Applied Learning Steering Committee.
- C. Chair Fox has asked CAFFECOR to propose new language for the Undergraduate Bulletin that describes the process that should be followed by members of the University community who feel their freedom of expression has been unfairly suppressed.

#### III. Recommendations for actions

N/A

**UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – J. Philippe Abraham, Walter Little & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators**

The SUNY-wide Senate will meet Jan 21-23 at Stony Brook, and we will have a lot to report by the SEC meeting the following Monday. As of now, we can only report several things from the news about SUNY funding. First, in December the governor vetoed the maintenance of effort bill passed close-to-unanimously last June (only one dissention), which would have defined the state's MOE as including all increases in SUNY's utilities and negotiated salary increases in the state's yearly SUNY support. Second, in the governor's budget released this week, there is only about a 1% increase proposed for SUNY, which fails to cover these costs. It also extends SUNY's ability to raise tuition each year, so the net result is further shifting of SUNY's operating costs onto students/parents paying tuition, as has been the case over the last several years. See the Times-Union editorial on this subject on Thursday Jan 14. We will undoubtedly have more details and other news after the plenary at Stony Brook.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Katherine Slye, GSA President  
New Senator and Council Rep**

We needed to replace a senator and three council reps: GAC, UAC, and ULC. We did interviews in January and I am appointing the following people to the councils and as Senator:

- Senator: Caitlin Janiszewski (will be put forward to the GSA Assembly)
- ULC:
- UAC: Megan Scott, Educational Psychology and Methodology
- CAA: Senator, Hanna Pageau

**Advocacy**

In December, the GSA had students write postcards to send to Chancellor Zimpher urging her to support removing the box from the SUNY common application. Upcoming advocacy issues for this semester include: a ban the box resolution, sustainability resolution, and a library services resolution and proposal.

We are continuing to work on our State Legislative Action Day, which is scheduled March 8. We have put out calls for volunteers to meet with legislators and are preparing a training for said volunteers. We will have training on not only the issues we are advocating for but also how to have the meetings—a how to lobby training.

Our PR Director, Ben Mielenz, attended a SUNY wide Ban the Box meeting in December. I am awaiting a report from him.

NAGPS Report should be done by the Senate meeting.

**SA (Student Association) – Jarius Jemmott, Student Association President**

Nothing to report

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair**

Nothing to report

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

**I. Informational**

CAFFECOR met last on December 10, 2015. We had a discussion about the joint CAFFECOR/UUP presentation on academic freedom, to wit:

- Forum on Academic Freedom is scheduled for March 25, 2016, 1:30-3:30 PM, Campus Center Assembly Hall; joint forum between CAFFECOR and UUP; what results from this forum CAFFECOR will bring back to our consideration to present to SEC.
- Board of Trustees of SUNY has statement in Part 335, Appointment of Employees, Title 1 regarding academic freedom.
- Question: what is the purpose of this requested review of the SUNY Board of Trustees' statement?  
Answer: in general, the statement is invisible to most members of the campus community and it also leaves much unexplained.
- Contrast, for example, the much more extensive SUNY Buffalo statement on academic freedom. Also note that there is no indication of a procedure to be followed if a person feels their academic freedom has been infringed. (John Schmidt indicated that a person is supposed to take their complaint to UUP.)
- Where should the UAlbany Statement on Academic Freedom appear? General agreement that it should have university wide, administrative visibility, perhaps under Academics/Faculty-Staff information link.
- Another question: does this apply to students as well? Perhaps this would be a job for next year's CAFFECOR to take on.
- Definition of "Faculty": 1.) academic (teaching and librarians) and 2.) professional (non-teaching)
- What about CSEA staff? The wording implies that academic freedom focuses upon research and teaching and thus does not apply to the CSEA staff.
- What about activism incorporated into departmental or course missions? For example, the Dept. of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies interweaves community activism with academic study. And such courses as Racism, Classism, Sexism are intended to call attention to issues regarding social injustice. The Dept. of Sociology also encounters potential challenges to socially controversial subject matter, as when a student submitted a paper that criticized gay marriage on religious grounds. Some

faculty now incorporate into their syllabi classroom policies prohibiting student expressions of bias toward others based upon race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, physical ability, etc.

- The National Coalition Building Institute, of which Carol is a member/trainer, sponsors a useful training program which includes discussion of how to address controversial/offensive expression in the classroom when students might not even be aware of the impact of their statements.
- There have been cases in which students have complained that professors discriminated against them in classroom discussions.
- Should a newly expanded statement on academic freedom be incorporated into new faculty orientation documents? General agreement that it should be, since it appears nowhere in the documents or websites that each new faculty member receives from Human Resources. CAFFECOR members indicated that they did not receive anything at the department level, when they were new employees, regarding academic freedom.
- We reviewed the Statement on Freedom of Expression that appears in the Undergraduate Bulletin—a statement whose language suggests that it applies to *whole* UAlbany community. Similarly, we read the Statement as it appears in the Graduate Bulletin.

## II. Reports of Action

- After the meeting, Chair Jewell sent email to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and to the Dean of Graduate Studies to inform them that CAFFECOR no longer serves as “a hearing body available to those members of the University community who feel their freedom of expression has been unfairly suppressed.” (This was removed from our charge in April 2014.) While CAFFECOR is still interested in these issues, since the responsibility of being the “hearing body” was removed, this should, therefore, be removed from the undergraduate bulletin and graduate bulletin, respectively. Dean Williams replied and thanked her for pointing out the misinformation. Sometime later, Chair Jewell also got a similar response from Dean Altarriba.
- Also after the meeting, Chair Jewell asked Human Resources if there is anything in their orientation packets regarding academic freedom and concluded that the answer is “no.”

## III. Recommendations for Actions

- Consider whom we would like to invite to sit on the academic freedom forum panel.
- Please send your spring 2016 schedules to Chair Jewell ASAP.
- Brief discussion on questions to be brought to the SEC (not necessarily related to CAFFECOR’s work).

CAFFECOR will have its next meeting in February 2016, not yet scheduled.

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

Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair**

COR will meet on January 22<sup>nd</sup> .

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Lynn Warner, Chair**

On Dec 8, 1 promotion case was reviewed.

Weekly meetings have been scheduled for the Spring semester, beginning February 1. The final number of cases for review will be known on that date, and the schedule adjusted accordingly if necessary.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair**

Nothing to report

**GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair**

**Old/continuing business:**

The Council's two main committees have ongoing projects

- Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation: Has developed a provisional survey questionnaire to be distributed as part of the biennial survey of Senate constituencies.
- Committee on Liaison & Election:
  - o Held a successful holiday food drive from Senators and their constituents
  - o Is assisting with the proposed Senate Forums:
    - On sustainability in the curriculum across the university, for February
    - On contingent issues, for early March
    - On Academic Freedom, for late March

The council continues to compile lists of nominees for the Working Group on Applied Learning and the Public Engagement Council.

At its meeting on 02/01/16 The Council continues to discuss a proposal from UUP for a University Ombudsperson in conjunction with CPCA.

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

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

**ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair**

ULC will meet on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief of Police Aran Mull will be presenting on Active Shooter preparations.

**UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair**

**I. Informational**

- UPPC met on November 24th
- UPPC continues to clarify the Campus Impact Form
- UPPC discussed reconstituting the *Resource Analysis and Planning Committee* and the *University Facilities Committee*, two subcommittees of UPPC, as per the *Charter of the University Senate*.

**II. Reports of Actions**

- UPPC voted to conditionally approve a proposal to establish the TESOL Online Graduate Certificate Proposal subject to minor modifications, which subsequently have been made.

**III. Recommended Actions**

N/A