

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, April 2, 2012  
As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna Fessler, Chair

- The Senate Executive Committee met on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included a presentation by Miriam Trementozzi, Sue Faerman, and Phil Nasca about CCUCE; feedback to UPPC on its proposed campus impact form; multiple bills from UAC, including the General Education bill; and the revised policy from CERS on Research Integrity.
- The Presidential Search Committee hosted an open forum on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> on the Uptown Campus to solicit feedback from all faculty and staff regarding what qualities they would like to see in the next president of UAlbany. There were approximately twenty people in attendance. A second session was held on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> on the Downtown campus. There were four people in attendance. The comments were wide ranging and focused on the characteristics and experiences sought in a new President, major issues that will face a new President, and the search process itself. For those unable to attend either meeting, the committee welcomes feedback through the Presidential Search website at <http://www.albany.edu/presidentialsearch/>
- Facilities Master Plan: The FMP is a comprehensive, integrative document that helps inform future capital funding requests for both UAlbany and the State University Construction Fund (SUCF) and identifies and prioritizes an implementation sequence for a 10+ year period. The FMP will be driven by enrollment projections and incorporate both academic and physical master planning. Each of the SUNY campuses are doing an FMP as part of a statewide SUNY/SUCF initiative.

Facilities Master Plan Informational Sessions are scheduled as follows (each session lasts approximately 90 minutes):

4/3/12 Downtown Campus Session, 1:00 p.m., Husted Hall Room 106A

4/4/12 East Campus Session, 1:00 p.m., conference Room A/B (near the cafeteria)

4/6/12 Uptown Campus Session, 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., SEFCU Hall of Fame

Information about the FMP is available online at <http://www.albany.edu/facilities/fmp/>

- The annual Spring Faculty meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in the Campus Center Ballroom. Save the date!

### UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The SUNY Senators will be meeting at SUNY Geneseo for the spring Plenary on April 20 and 21.

### GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative

The graduate student organization will be holding their elections on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in order to prepare for the Executive Board turn over. We are currently in the process of preparing an online forum to discuss the proposed changes to our constitution and present them at the next GSO Assembly meeting (April 13<sup>th</sup>) in time to put them on the All Graduate Student Ballot. We have welcomed Jak Akdmir as our new MCAA chair, Raysa Capellan as our new Lead Senator and Aymen Assuwian as our fourth senator for the Spring Semester. Similarly, the office is looking to hire new office managers and a new Lead Office Manager for the summer and fall of 2012. There are also various exciting events underway such as a Badminton Tournament, cultural movie night, world games evening, and more.

**SA (Student Association) – Bryant Barksdale, Student Association President Designee**

Run-off elections will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to determine the new President and Vice President of the student Association for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> the annual comedy show will take place in the Hall of Fame Room in the SEFCU arena at 9pm. The feature act will be Tony Rock brother of Chris Rock. This event is free to all students, but we recommend a small donation that will go to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Also on April 1<sup>st</sup> on the academic podium the Student Association will be co-sponsoring an Autism Speaks walk.

ParkFest is currently scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> we are working out the final details on what performers will be coming to the event and then will advertise it to the student body. On the following day our annual Culture Carnival will take place out on the Dutch Quad commons area.

The online form is ready for all undergraduate students to nominate a faculty member for the Outstanding Faculty Award. The date and event where this will be presented is still being worked out.

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair**

At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February the CAA established a reporting procedure for Gen. Ed. Assessment reviews.

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

The committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> to review the revised Responsible Use of Information Technology policy and continued work on the committee's policy for managing complaints brought to the committee.

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

CERS met and voted to approve the revised policy document, which is submitted as a bill.

**COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair**

COR met on March 1<sup>st</sup> in an abbreviated (and quorum-less) session due to the "snow storm". VPR Dias presented the UAlbany Division for Research update.

The process of annual report review from the Centers/Institutes/Labs sub-Committee has begun. All Directors of a Center/ Institute will be contacted in the near future to provide their status and progress during the last year.

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair**

CPCA has now completed the review of twenty cases this year. Two additional cases will be reviewed at the next meeting on March 23, 2012.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair**

The GAC met on March 6.

- Rockefeller College's Department of Public Administration and Policy had proposed several changes to its Public Sector Management Certificate of Graduate Study. The overall structure of the Certificate remains intact. The changes ensure course availability and give students relevant elective choices, The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction voted 6-0-0 on March 1 to accept the changes, and forward the proposal to the GAC. The GAC in turn voted unanimously on March 6 to accept the proposal.

- George Robinson presented his review of the most recent Middle States self-assessment of the Physics program. Following discussion, the GAC voted unanimously to accept the report.
- A lively discussion of policies, practices, and procedures for academic dishonesty took place, with a summary of GAC members' inputs. This discussion will be coordinated with UAC for upcoming joint action.
- Next GAC meeting is April 4.

The GAC has no bills pending Senate approval.

**GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair**

The Governance Council met on March 19. Dan White was unable to attend, so the Council has not yet reviewed the task force's materials addressing "Resolution 1112-03R to Investigate Violations of Governance Procedures in Matter of 2010 Program Deactivations." GOV has received nominations from some groups, but is still awaiting representatives from GAC and UPPC to finish populating the committee to address "Resolution 1112-05R to Determine Offerings in European Languages & Classical Studies in Accordance with UAlbany's Mission and Strategic Plan." The Committee on Liaison and Elections had announced the deadline for nominations by petition as March 19. The spring elections will be held electronically, from April 2-5. Updates to the Senate Handbook were discussed, and we considered possible clarifications to the bylaws. Due to a lower than normal meeting turnout, GOV decided to postpone any decisions until its next meeting, which is scheduled for April 16.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair**

The IT Committee chair, Larry Raffalovich, and Assistant CIO Lisa Trubitt presented the revised "Responsible Use of IT" Policy at the March 5 meeting. The policy is considerably streamlined from its current version, but will contain references (links) to other relevant texts reflecting changes in technology and usage over the past decade. Discussion ensued as to whether "Responsible Use" would be presented to the Senate for consideration, and it was agreed that further consultation with CIO Chris Haile is needed. A brief overview of the Digital Content Task Force was presented by Library Committee chair Charles Hartman and Dean of Library, Mary Casserly.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair**

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> to review a series of departmental proposals. UAC approved the following proposals and is forwarding them on to the Senate for review:

- Proposed changes to the General Education Curriculum
- Proposed changes to the Policy on Double Majoring
- Proposed changes to the Policy on Internships (UNI390) and creation of a sophomore level internship option (UNI290)
- Proposed update to the implementation date of Bill 1112-05.
- Proposed curriculum changes to the Biology BS program.
- Proposed curriculum changes to the Music Program
- Proposed curriculum changes to the Informatics Major

The Urban Studies and Planning proposal was forwarded to UPPC for review on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair**

ULC met on March 1st. We had a guest speaker, Margaret Reich, from the Office of International Education. She talked about our international student community. She discussed concerns, needs and issues they face. Our next meeting was on March 22<sup>nd</sup> where Michael Jaromin made a presentation on the recent survey measuring student engagement in diverse organizations and activities. In addition we discussed the academic calendar and issues that have been expressed over the changes. We also continued the discussion on smoking on campus since health concerns continue to be raised from faculty and staff.

## **UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS REPORT – GUESTS: TERESA HARRISON AND LEE MCELROY**

Dr. Harrison explained her role as Faculty Athletics Representative to the council and presented data about the academic standing of the 437 students on some kind of athletic scholarship, including the average GPA and SAT scores of incoming freshman student athletes and the majors that all student athletes enroll in. She noted that we have a significant number of student athletes enrolled in restricted majors. Additional information presented to the council included the GPAs of student athletes divided by sport, and the student athlete graduation success rate (GSR). The NCAA tracks the Academic Progress Rate (APR) by each sport and closely monitors academic eligibility. The university takes corrective action if the APR falls below 925 (max. score of 1,000).

Dr. Harrison went on to explain the composition and charge of the Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Board. Dr. McElroy commented on the Breakfast of Champions program – student athletes invite one of their professors to see what a day in the life of a student athlete is like. Dr. Lifshin asked about the rationale for the NCAA imposing academic standards – Dr. McElroy responded that the metrics are established to protect academic integrity and to make sure that the institutions do not allow at risk students to participate in athletic programs to the detriment of their academic experience. Mr. Birge commented that we seem to be attracting students who are academically talented and who often take their 4<sup>th</sup> year of eligibility to take a graduate degree. Dr. McElroy concurred that we are attracting this type of student and they are doing very well, and that our student athletes reflect the academic profile of the institution, which is not so common in NCAA Division 1 schools. Dr. Lifshin thanked Drs. McElroy and Harrison for their attendance.

#### **SPRING BREAK SCHEDULING – GUESTS: KAREN CHICO HURST AND BOB ANDREA**

Ms. Chico Hurst explained how the academic calendar is built. There are 23 factors that go into the construction of the academic calendar.

The main goal of the academic calendar is to make sure that we are compliant with the required number of meeting dates. She explained the difficulties with planning the schedules with all the different factors in play, and requested the Council's assistance in ranking the importance of the various planning criteria. Dr. Fessler brought one of the issues that came up in SEC was that we have been operating at the minimum for several years, and this semester we have three extra days. The faculty would like consistency in order to plan their syllabi. Ms. Chico Hurst would like to see us start with 14 or 15 meetings to allow for cancellations. Dr. Fessler also requested a preference for symmetry between the semesters.

Ms. Chico Hurst would like to know how many people are interested in our breaks coinciding with the school breaks. She has polled other SUNY campuses and most do not do that. Dean Bangert-Drowns brought up the

different values (academic quality, religious accommodation, family friendly, etc.) and how we might weigh them. If there is a conflict between values, how do we rank (and who ranks) what is most important. Dr. Lifshin suggested if different calendars could be created based on those values, the council might provide input as to what works best.

The St. Patrick's spring break issue was raised – the preference from the Provost and President is to try it for a couple of years. Dr. Fessler suggested a survey to prioritize preferences across the university. Ms. Khan noted that the Student Association passed a resolution that the breaks should coincide with religious holidays as opposed to wanting students off campus for St. Patrick's Day. Dean Bangert-Drowns asked about religious observation protections for faculty – Mr. Beditz responded that labor laws protect faculty who wish to observe religious holidays.

Ms. Chico Hurst has vetted three years' worth of calendars with critical university services and can provide calendars for review by mid-April. She asked how the council feels about the potential for a 'bonus' day if no cancellations are used. Faculty members of the council felt that it would be disruptive to the faculty.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CAMPUS IMPACT STATEMENT FORM DESIGN**

The revised Campus Impact form was circulated to the council for any final comments. SEC has seen the form and not responded with comments. Dr. Lifshin called a motion to adopt this form for use in future program submissions to SEC. Unanimously approved.

### ***ACTION ITEMS***

Dr. Fessler will circulate the approved form to SEC.  
Next meeting will be Friday, April 20, 2012.