

**University at Albany  
State University of New York**

**2005-06 University Senate  
Monday, December 19, 2005  
Assembly Hall 3:30pm – 5:05pm**

**Present:** Abraham, J.P., Bessette, S., Birge, T., Bisbing, R., Blum, M., Burke, G., Button, K., Chaiken, S., Chinnam, S., Collier, R., Craig, R., Cupoli, E., Dai, D., Dewar, D., Faerman, S., Friedman, S., Geer, R., Gibson, R., Hanifan, J., Hauser, F., Herbst, S., Hong, C., Hoyt, R., Idone, V., Israel, A., Jersion, M., Kim, S.B., Kranich, L., Lanford, W., Leonard, P., Levine, S., Liang, Z., Lowery, K., Lyons, A., MacDonald, C., McNutt, L.A., Merbler, C., Messner, S., Monfasani, J., Murphy, J., Ongiti, O., Pelosi, O., Pryse, M., Range, R. M., Razzano, J., Redkey, E., Rodriguez, M., Savitt, J., Schell, L., Sherman, M., Snyder, L., Stromer-Galley, J., Tenenbaum, S., Videka, L., Wagner, D., Weaver, B., Worden, A., Wulfert, E., Yagelski, R., Zitomer, R., Zonder, A.

**Guests:** Joseph Bowman, Associate Professor,  
William Hedberg, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Fanfeng Liu, Office of International Education,  
Sheila Mahan, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Jenny Wagner, ACE Fellow  
Vivien Zazzau, User Education Reference Librarian

**Minutes:** The meeting minutes from November 21, 2005 were approved with amendments.

**President's Report:**

Dashboard: President Hall noted that the current dashboard does not represent significant change from the previous month, except for "State Appropriation as a Percentage of All Funds." This category was previously reported at 14% and is now at 28.5%, because tuition is now included in the definition of state appropriation. There is some question whether the inclusion of tuition is warranted.

Inaugural Scholarship Fund: The Inaugural Scholarship Fund is at approximately \$1.5 million, with 940 contributors. There was a donation from the estate of Irving Harold Losee for \$700,000 which helped us reach our goal ahead of schedule by two months. \$100,000 is earmarked for The Honors College for 12 to 14 scholarships on an ongoing basis.

Enrollment: President Hall is "cautiously optimistic" about enrollment. Encouraging signs include: a 5% increase in inquiries from prospective students, which is a 1700 increase over last year; a 22% increase in people visiting the campus; and an 8% increase for early applications. President Hall reported an increase in online applications as well, which includes 350 graduate students at this stage.

Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program: The Enrollment Management office has launched an "Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program." The committee has solicited alumni and has begun training them to recruit students and help promote the academic experience at the University at Albany.

Mission Review II: R. Collier, D. Dewar, W. Lanford, and S. Messner participated in SUNY's Mission Review II site visit. It was helpful for all concerned, and President Hall was pleased with the presentations of all of our colleagues from the University. The State University understands fully that the University at Albany is going through an extensive Compact Planning process, which will ultimately shape our MOU with SUNY.

Research: Awards from the first endowed undergraduate research program were made to twelve students. The endowment, which is to enrich the students' experiences, was paid for from gifts from the class of 1932.

**Student Achievements:** President Hall recognized the students who were honored at the Valedictorian dinner. President Hall also recognized the following students: Oliver T. Tang, who received the first graduate degree in biology with a concentration in nanotechnology at the Winter Commencement on December 11<sup>th</sup>; Lauren Mendolera, as the recipient of the Stanley Fink Legislative Internship for the spring 2006 semester; Alison Bain-Lucey and Matthew Laroche, who won the Eastern Regional of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association Tournament. In Athletics, President Hall recognized Colin Disch, who has been named to The Sports Network's 2005 I-AA Mid-Major All-American Football Team. There were also four student athletes that have made the inaugural "American East Conference All-Academic Team" for cross country, volleyball, field hockey and soccer. They are: Ashley DeNeal, Shelby Goldman, and Ashlee Reed of the volleyball team, and Stephan Hall of the Men's soccer team.

**Emergency Response Exercise:** President Hall noted that there was a useful emergency response exercise, and the first response team did well. This was a learning experience for all involved.

**Engaging Our High Schools:** President Hall mentioned that we are on our way to introducing the University to the entire Freshman class from Albany High School, with two groups of 9<sup>th</sup> graders having already visited the campus. Dean Carr is doing a great job with this effort.

**Pine Hills Neighborhood Association:** President Hall noted that a productive meeting was held with members of the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association on December 5th.

**The Midtown Employee Housing Assistance Program:** The program took a real step forward. There are now 14 new homeowners who have participated in the program which is being offered by the City, the Mid-Town college partners and Citizens' Bank.

**Board of Visitors:** The Board is now complete with 20 distinguished leaders from across the nation, who will be joining us in March 2006.

**Senate Bill No. 0506-09. No Suspension of Classes for Religious Holidays:** President Hall distributed a memo to the Senate explaining his decision not to sign the bill. Chair Messner reported that he had checked with R. Gibson before the meeting about the logistics of setting the calendar. Normally, a draft bill is considered by UPC in March, so there is time for further deliberation. Chair Messner will bring this back to the Senate Executive Committee in January to determine what, if any, action to initiate.

**University Faculty Senate Report:** No Report.

### **Chair's Report:**

**Academic Calendar:** The Chair reported for the record that the Student Association had passed a resolution requesting that the President oppose the Senate Bill on No Suspension of Classes for Religious Holidays and had forwarded the resolution to him.

**Mission II Review:** The Chair concurred with President Hall that the visit from the SUNY Provost was successful, and it appeared that the visitors were impressed with the presentations. It is anticipated that Mission Review II will lead to an MOU with SUNY.

**Undergraduate Elections:** The Chair welcomed the undergraduate Senators, and encouraged them to participate actively in the Senate and the Senate Councils.

**Welcome Back:** The Chair welcomed J. VanDenburgh back, and the Senate joined in with a round of applause.

**MOU:** C. MacDonald asked if there would be governance input into the MOU process beyond the representation on the site visit committee. The Chair responded that the compact planning process will be critical in defining mission goals but that there is uncertainty at the moment about how the process will play out. The President has assured the Chair that there will be input by governance.

## **Council Reports:**

- a. CAA, Malcolm Sherman: Nothing to add to the summary.
- b. COR, Vince Idone: Nothing to add to the summary.
- c. CPCA, David Shub: Nothing to add to the summary.
- d. GAC, Monica Rodriguez: M. Rodriguez reported there are two bills for the Senate today.
- e. GOV, Diane Dewar: Nothing to add to the summary.
- f. LISC, David Wagner: D. Wagner reported that LISC will bring a bill to the Senate for “E-mail as an official means of communication with students,” at the beginning of the next semester, but LISC would like to begin discussion on the matter today.
- g. UAC, Philippe Abraham: Nothing to add to the summary.
- h. ULC, Joan Savitt: Nothing to add to the summary.
- h. UPC, Carolyn MacDonald: C. MacDonald reported that UPC is reviewing the report on the recent student satisfaction surveys. Also, UPC is considering some specific recommendations, such as how assessments of teaching are done for promotion cases.

## **Committee Reports:**

- i. CAFFECOR, Lawrence Snyder: L. Snyder reported that they are bringing a resolution today concerning “The Academic Bill of Rights.”
- j. CERS, Richard Zitomer: The Chair reported for R. Zitomer, who was not able to attend the meeting, that there was nothing to add to the summary.

## **Old Business:**

### Senate Bill 0506-08. Proposal for Standards for Social Work Education: GAC, UAC

At the last Senate meeting, this bill was postponed for further discussion and action. The bill was again introduced to the floor for debate. Discussion ensued with concerns about due process protections for students. There was general consensus that the basic idea for standards for social work education was sound, but that the document may need some changes to address concerns and to be consistent with other University policies. A motion was introduced and seconded to refer the bill back to GAC for overall review of academic policies, and to the Governance Council for review of governance issues. By a show of hands, the motion was passed with 38 in favor and 16 opposed.

## **New Business:**

- k. Nominations for Council Membership: Committee on Council Nominations: D. Dewar put forth the nominations of undergraduates for council assignments as follows:

Kate Button for UPC  
Stephanie Kernizan for COR  
Daniel Truchann III for UAC

Vanessa Mejia for CAA  
Emma Roszko for UAC  
Helen Ehmann for CPCA  
Paul Porter for GAC  
Jackie Simone for ULC

The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**NEW CHANCELLOR:** President Hall asked if he could interrupt the agenda for a moment to announce that the current interim Chancellor John Ryan has been named the new Chancellor of SUNY. The Senate extended best wishes and congratulations to him.

2. Senate Resolution 0506-03R. Resolution to Endorse the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate Bill Opposing the “Academic Bill of Rights”: CAFFECOR: L. Snyder introduced the resolution, explaining that the issue has been a concern for about a year. He distributed copies of a document written by David Horowitz, a proponent of the Academic Bill of Rights (ABOR). The stated justification for ABOR is to protect students from being subjected to ideological indoctrination in their courses. To gather information on student concerns here on the Albany campus, members of CAFFECOR met with students and Dean Faerman this fall. They asked about grievances but did not specifically ask about political indoctrination. The students did not raise the issue at all, suggesting that this does not appear to be a major concern to the students. However, CAFFECOR plans to look into creating an Ombudsoffice, similar to the newly created Graduate Ombudsoffice, to provide guidance to students who may have grievances. The specific resolution introduced by CAFFECOR calls for an endorsement of a resolution passed by the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate. The SUNY-wide Senate has gone on record opposing ABOR on the grounds that there are adequate protections for academic freedom in place, and that ABOR might actually lead to a greater politicization of higher education by allowing for interference with curricular decisions from outside of the academy. Questions were raised about the precise meaning of the proposed resolution. The bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by a show of hands.

3. Senate Bill 0506-10. Proposal for a Certificate in Public Health Surveillance: GAC:

The bill was introduced by GAC and has been reviewed by UPC. This bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by a show of hands.

4. Senate Bill 0506-12. Proposal for an English as a Foreign Language Graduate Certificate Program: GAC:

This bill was introduced by GAC and has been reviewed by UPC. A question was raised about the availability of faculty to teach these courses. C. MacDonald responded that enrollment is likely to be limited.

This bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by voice vote.

5. Discussion of Potential Amendments to the E-mail as an Official Means of Communication with Students Policy: LISC:

D. Wagner referred to the handout on the current policy for E-mail communication with students. He opened the discussion by explaining that LISC would like to bring a bill to the Senate at the next meeting but would like some input prior to making adjustments to this policy. LISC had approved the current policy under the assumption that it did not require any additional Senate action but could simply be reported. Upon further consideration, the members of the council have concluded that such matters should be brought to the full Senate. In explaining the rationale for the policy, D. Wagner noted that the most reliable means of communication with students is typically their e-mail address; it is better than the phone or campus address. Discussion ensued on the following issues: assuring that students have activated their e-mail account; access to computers for checking email accounts; the possibilities of missing important email messages due to spam filtering, and the major problem of mail quota space. J. Horney noted that most of these issues have been raised in discussions leading to

the development of the current policy. She noted that all students are issued an e-mail address, and they are instructed on how to log on to their MyUAlbany account to access important information. She also noted that the policy states that students may use their own equipment, but that the University provides access to computers. It was suggested that the bill include a request for the expansion of mail quota space. R. Collier expressed concerns about access to email messages when the University is not in session.

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes was passed.

J. Horney stressed that it is impossible to devise a policy to cover every contingency. The key considerations are the reasonableness and practicality of the policy. Concerns were brought up that email communication might alter the quality of contact with students, making it more impersonal. S. Kim also expressed concerns about students wanting to submit papers electronically, and worried it may become policy. D. Wagner responded that departments and faculty can establish their own policies about submitting course work by email.

D. Wagner requested that anyone with questions or suggestions please contact him by e-mail and indicated that he would be happy to discuss anyone's concerns in person.

Motion to adjourn was passed by voice vote.

## **APPENDIX. SENATE COUNCIL SUMMARIES**

December 19, 2005

### **Council on Academic Assessment (CAA), Malcolm Sherman, Chair**

The Council on Academic Assessment plans to complete four reviews of departmental self assessments this semester (Art, Music, French, and Women's Studies). Beginning in the 2006-07 academic year, departments will be asked to assess not just their undergraduate degree programs, but also their service courses, gen-ed courses and departmental minors. In many departments (e.g., chemistry, languages) majors constitute a small proportion of undergraduate FTEs. Some schools and departments have significant numbers of minors (e.g., Business) and at least one department (Judaic Studies) has more minors than majors. Note: The Senate Constitution stipulates (SX.6.6.5): [that a Council committee] may undertake the assessment of instructional programs other than those for which assessment is required by SUNY mandate. These would include, but not be limited to, undergraduate minors, undergraduate certificate programs and various University-wide offerings.

### **Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility (CAFFECOR), Lawrence Snyder, Chair**

No report.

### **Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship (CERS), Richard Zitomer, Chair**

No report.

### **Council on Research (COR), Vincent Idone, Chair**

#### **Committee Reports**

#### **1. Conference/Journal Committee**

Four applications were submitted for the committee's review: one journal and three conferences. Council voted to accept the committee's recommendation to support the journal application and one of the conference support applications. Council gave the committee the authority to 1) further review the remaining two applications and forward the decision to the full Council, and 2) review and recommend revisions to the application document.

#### **2. Researchers Liaison Committee**

Council voted to accept the recommendation pertaining to the Distribution of Indirect Cost Return and forward appropriately for further discussion and dispensation.

Senate Charter

Council discussed the Senate By-Laws as it pertains to Council having the authority to assign permanent status for centers/institutes. Because of the perceived incongruence between SX.2.5 under University Planning and Policy Council and SX.5.4 under Council on Research, Council voted to forward the concern to the Senate By-Laws Committee for further discussion and dispensation.

#### **Vice President for Research Report**

Interim Vice President Videka presented the proposed Equipment Purchase Policy for input from Council.

Further discussion is required before finalizing.

Interim Vice President Videka informed Council that there has been a request to move the Ion Beam Lab to a University core facility, responsible to the Vice President for Research. The request will be forwarded to the Centers/Institutes Committee for further discussion and dispensation.

#### **Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments (CPCA), David Shub, Chair**

The council met on December 9<sup>th</sup> to consider one case for promotion to full professor and one case for promotion and continuing appointment. Projected for the spring semester are 43 additional cases. Professor Saurav Dutta has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the Council, and Helen Ehmann has been appointed to fill the position of undergraduate representative.

#### **Graduate Academic Council (GAC), Monica Rodriguez, Chair**

The Graduate Academic Council met on Dec 3 and Dec 12, 2005. In the first meeting, the committee discussed and approved a Graduate Certificate Program in Public Health Surveillance and Preparedness (CPH-SP) proposed by the School of Public Health, in collaboration with the Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University. This certificate program was submitted as a bill for Senate consideration. In the second meeting, a proposal from the Department of Educational Theory and Practice to establish an English as a Foreign Language Certificate Program was approved by the Council, and was also submitted as a bill to be considered by the full Senate.

#### **Governance Council (GOV), Diane Dewar, Chair**

The Governance Council met on December 2, 2005 with Provost Herbst, Ms. Mahan, and Mr. Locust, to continue discussions concerning faculty representation in the newly instituted Student Retention Committee. The Council recommended that the Committee should have equal representation from faculty and administrative staff, rather than representation from only two faculty members as originally proposed. In order to maximize faculty input, the Council also encouraged the Committee to form a hierarchical structure, with subcommittees of faculty to address the issues and tasks brought forth by the Committee.

#### **Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing (LISC), David Wagner, Chair**

The Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing Council most recently met on Thursday, 17 November. The primary issue of concern at that meeting was a review of the procedures LISC has followed in processing some policy proposals from Information Technology Services. Past practice has been to report all approved policies to the Senate, but to submit bills for Senate approval of those policies only for proposals (or changes in proposals) that LISC deemed to be "major." The outcome of our review was a conclusion that we should more strictly adhere to existing Charter procedures and submit all approved policies as bills to the Senate. Toward that end, LISC will be submitting a policy proposal regarding the use of e-mail for official communications, to be considered at the *next* Senate meeting. This policy was in fact approved by LISC last spring and reported to the Senate, but not submitted as a bill.

#### **Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC), Philippe Abraham, Chair**

UAC discussed the following issues at its most recent meeting: Issue I) Changing our current policy for study abroad credits so that it would be consistent with our policy of NOT awarding transfer credit for grades below C minus. After consultation with the International Programs Office and the verification that this will not have an adverse effect on the number of students who decide to study abroad, the UAC will propose a change in the language to appear in the Undergraduate Bulletin and become effective as of fall 2006. Issue II) The point raised by Senator Range regarding the current bulletin language implying the existence of a calculus requirement for combined Bachelor/MBA degrees. Based on the response from the School of Business, the UAC will recommend that a change in the language appear in the Undergraduate Bulletin and become effective as of fall 2006.

#### **University Life Council (ULC), Joan N. Savitt, Chair**

ULC met on November 14, 2005.

1. ULC received a report from its members who attended the GSO meeting where the academic calendar question was discussed.
2. ULC discussed health care issues for international students with Peg Reich, Director of International Student Services. ULC continues to deal with this topic.
3. ULC heard a report from its Athletics Committee dealing with intramurals and other recreation issues.
4. ULC heard a report from its Ad Hoc Benefits Committee. The committee plans to bring a fuller report to the council at its next meeting. Some issues that will be discussed will likely be passed to the UUP for consideration in upcoming contract discussions.
5. ULC is still hoping to have student members attend its meetings which will continue to be on Monday afternoons at 3:30 for the spring, 2006 semester.

ULC has no legislation to present to the Senate at this time.

ULC met on December 12, 2005. Committee members discussed health issues for international students as part of a continuing concern about the University's response to all matters that relate to the particular needs of the international students who are attending UA. Given the likelihood that UAlbany's recruitment activities will further increase the number of international students on campus, ULC and UAlbany in general should be thinking about the important issues that could affect this particular student cohort. The need for housing for international visitors working with faculty in various departments was also mentioned. Additionally, ULC discussed some concerns about food choices in the Campus Center, pricing policies, changes to meal plans for the coming year, surveys of students to determine their wishes, and availability of food during intersession. Representatives of Chartwells and University Auxiliary Services were present to assist in answering these questions. Students who have special dietary needs can obtain the services of registered dieticians at Albany and are often referred to them by the Counseling and Health Centers. ULC also discussed the concept of trying to promote a social community for meals by establishing an area in the Campus Center dining hall where students and faculty could congregate, particularly if they came to the cafeteria by themselves and wanted to have others with whom to eat their meals. UAS will raise this issue at future town meetings to determine if this is of interest to students. ULC's next meeting is February 6, 2006 at 3:30pm, in LC 31J.

#### **University Planning and Policy Council (UPC), Carolyn MacDonald, Chair**

UPC met on November 29 and December 13. Motions supporting bills for the Certificates in Public Health Surveillance and English as a Foreign Language were passed. The extensive report of the committee on student satisfaction surveys, with its analysis of factors that strongly correlate with

satisfaction and dissatisfaction, continues to be discussed. A general sense was expressed that a stronger culture of learning needs to be generated and that the administration will be called on to take a strong lead in generating action items and in ensuring that this culture permeates routine discussion at each level of administration. Specific Council actions under consideration include a possible recommendation that teaching review for tenure and promotion be conducted by committees from outside home units, that student surveys be made public and accessible, or potentially that a policy on teaching responsibilities be developed. It was noted that any action, to be effective, must involve part-time adjunct faculty. Additionally, a discussion of how UPC should coordinate with the Office for Development in major initiative planning was begun.