

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, February 11, 2013
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Andi Lyons, Chair

The Chair would like to welcome President Jones to his first University Senate meeting. We look forward to a long, cooperative, and mutually beneficial relationship emerging from our shared governance process. This semester, the Senate will remain centrally involved in continuing to provide energy for the Campus Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Josh Ringel, the Student Association President's Designee, has resigned from the Senate. We have not yet received notice of a replacement. Sabrina Rackow, our Parliamentarian from Albany Law School, is unable to attend the Senate meetings this term due to a direct conflict with her class schedule. We are currently looking into other options for the remainder of the 2012-13 Senate session.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The University Faculty Senators White (alternate), Abraham, and Shahedipour-Sandvik attended the Winter Plenary at SUNY Oneonta on January 25-26, 2013. The Senators welcomed Provost Lavallee, Vice Chancellor Huxley, Vice Chancellor Killeen, and Chancellor Zimpher who shared reports with the University Faculty Senate (UFS). The Provost focused his report on issues of seamless transfer within the SUNY system. In December 2012, the SUNY Board of Trustees passed a seamless transfer resolution (http://www.suny.edu/provost/academic_affairs/SeamlessTransfer.cfm) that sets out criteria for SUNY two and four year institutions to follow concerning general education, AA and AS level training, and ease of transfer. Seamless transfer has been a priority at the system level for a number of years. Interestingly, data about transferring within the system indicate a rather complicated pattern of 2 to 2 year, 4 to 4 year, 2 to 4 year, and 4 to 2 year institution transfers. SUNY has contracted with DegreeWorks to make a system wide platform to enable students to better plan transfers within the system. The Provost and Chancellor also spent time answering questions about Open SUNY and what this new initiative will mean for curriculum development, enrollment, and higher education. Online learning is here and SUNY is making efforts to position itself to understand and benefit from new models of educational engagement. Faculty representatives from all sectors have concerns about how Open SUNY will impact and change how we approach our work. Vice Chancellor Huxley spoke about the executive budget and the new Resource Allocation Model for funding campuses. University centers, in general, benefit from this new model and programs that can grow enrollments will also benefit. The Shared services plan was also discussed. The goal of this plan is to redirect saved resources to academic program investments. Vice Chancellor Killeen who is also the President of the Research Foundation spoke about his vision for the RF. The RF has already become more transparent and open and we look for this trend to continue. Commercialization, tech transfer, and entrepreneurship will also be major components of the RF strategy to make SUNY more competitive. The UFS passed a resolution to recommend that a Chancellor's award for Adjunct instructors be created.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Thomas Devlin, GSO President

The first GSO meeting of the semester will be held Friday Feb 8th at the east campus.

SA (Student Association) – Arthur Rushforth, Student Association President

So far, the Student Association has started this year with plenty of exciting programs and initiatives. SA will be planning a Senior weekend. The weekend of May 19-22 SA will be hosting events such as the Spring Concert, a special Senior Spirit Event, a Suicide Prevention Walk (fundraiser), and Cultural Carnival. These events are

designed to boost school spirit, instill a sense of UAlbany pride and to commemorate the graduating 2013 class.

SA has also stressed the importance of expanding UAlbany's alumni network. Through heavy marketing and cooperation with the Alumni Association SA has helped market the U-CAN initiative. This has been set up to create a connection to professional and local Albany alumni who are willing to meet and talk to students who are interested in the field in which they work. SA continues to support the Alumni Association and its efforts to tighten our community bonds.

Finally SA has taken steps to improve its internal financial control. Through legislation passed last semester SA has alleviated and improved all issues pertaining to our check cutting process and our business practices. SA is proud to announce that recently SA has taken the Governor's advice and invested its resources into purchasing a new copier, which is serviced and maintained by a local business. SA is proud to support the Governor's plan for SUNY and is happy to be a key player in this University's effort in improving the Albany area through investments focused on local businesses.

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

The CAA met on February 30th. At the meeting we tentatively approved the GEAC reports on the assessment of the Oral Discourse and Social Sciences general education requirements. We also agreed, in principle, the format that future reports should adopt.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Leslie Saint-Vil, Chair

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – John Monfasani, Chair

The FRAP-A subcommittee of COR has awarded 16 grants totaling \$118,856. The awards went to applicants in Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, Informatics, Physics, Political Science, and Public Health.

The Excellence in Research subcommittee of COR has voted to make three faculty members recipients of the 2013 Excellence in Research award: Shawn Bushway of Criminal Justice, Cristian Lenart of Mathematics, and Marina Petrukhina of Chemistry.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next CPCA meeting is on Feb. 8.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

The GAC met on 12-21-2012. Several changes to existing curricula were presented by the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, and ratified by the GAC. A proposal to eliminate the residency requirement for the Ph.D. programs in the School of Social Welfare was approved by the GAC. A presentation titled 'Principles of Effective Teaching in Higher Education' was given and discussed. There are no bills to bring before the Senate at this time.

GOV (Governance Council) – Christine Wagner, Chair

GOV met on 12/10/12. Discussion regarding the status of Section XI: IRCUAP of the Senate Charter continued. A subcommittee to address the issue was formed. GOV plans to review the Senate Bylaws and the Senate

Charter in the spring semester. GOV reviewed documents regarding the Senate Charter Amendment written by the Committee on Administrative Evaluations to create a Council on Assessment and Institutional Review (CAIR) and the accompanying document Guidelines and procedures for CAIR. Minor revisions were suggested. These documents have now been forwarded to the Director of Institutional Research, Bruce Szelest, for review.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair

Meeting dates set for LISC for Spring. We have lost one committee member to retirement, and another to sabbatical. (Lawrence Raffalovich and Rorissa Abebe)

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Richard Fogarty, Chair

UAC has completed work on a revised draft of the university's Standards of Academic Integrity and forwarded it to GAC for further review and input. On 30 January, UAC met to discuss an amendment to Senate Bill 1112-15, introduced by Senator Pedro Cabán at the Senate meeting of 14 May 2012. This amendment was tabled and sent to UAC for review, which it is now undertaking. After discussion, recognizing the merit of the issues that the amendment raises, the council tasked its Committee on General Education with assessing whether there is a way for the learning objectives of the International Perspectives category to be worded in a clearer, more straightforward, and more inclusive fashion. The council also previewed several other issues that it will likely work on over the course of this spring semester.

ULC (University Life Council) – Vincent LaBella, Chair

ULC met on January 17th and reviewed the feedback from the fall faculty forums. We also had a conference call with Francis Kendal to discuss the feedback and plan for her visit to UAlbany on March 6,7,8th. We are currently planning another set of forums for the faculty during her visit.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

The first UPPC meeting this semester is/was Friday, February 1. Although we have no actionable agenda items, we are focusing on the following: revisions to the UPPC impact form; updates on the resource allocation model from the SUNY Board of Trustees; updates on the Strategic Plan; updates on SUNY2020; updates on capital funds (or lack thereof).