

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

**Minutes  
May 12, 2008**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Irina Birman, Ray Bromley, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, John Delano, Diane Dewar, John Dias, Helen Elam, Phil Erner, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Robert Gibson, Sanjay Goel, Elizabeth Gray, Heather Horton, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Donald Keenan, Nikki Kotary, Laurence Kranich, Eric Lifshin, Irene Lurie, Carolyn MacDonald, Jean McLaughlin, Paul Miesing, David Miller, John Murphy, George Philip, Susan D. Phillips, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Junru Ruan, Joan Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Malcolm Sherman, Lawrence Savitt, Snyder,  
Scott South, Lynn Videka, Victoria von Arx, Edward Waltz, Rose-Marie Weber, Ann Withington

**New Senators:** Heidi Andrade, Hassaram Bakhru, Daryl Bullis, Kirsten Davison, Susanna Fessler, Benjamin Shaw, Daniel Smith

**Guests:** Jonathan Bartow, Christine Bouchard, Robert Geer, Paul Leonard, Karl Luntta, Gwen Moore, Fardin Sanai, Glenna Spitze, Bruce Szelest, Krista Thompson, Edelgard Wulfert

**Minutes:** The Minutes of April 14, 2008 were approved.

**New Senator Orientation - by Chair-Elect John Delano:** Chair Delano welcomed the new Senators and reviewed the expectations of a Senator.

**President's Report – by George M. Philip, Interim President:**

- **Budget:** Interim President Philip spoke of the challenges continuing to face SUNY. He noted that meetings ongoing with our delegation. And, that an agreement needs to be worked out by May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Times Union Story** on crime in the downtown area for UAlbany students: Interim President Philip spoke of the many alerts and safety features available on Campus to our students. The report in the *Times Union* was incomplete and it warrants some clarification.

- **Enrollment Management:** Enrollment is on target; 2,350 in the freshman class, the SAT average is up. UAlbany will have a very diverse class and meet all the diversity goals on Campus.
- **Middle States Accreditation:** Interim President Philip asked Dean Sue Faerman to co-chair the self-study team along with a faculty member to be announced. Dr. Bruce Szelest will staff the team.
- **Awards and Honors:** Interim President Philip reviewed recent events, including the Valedictorian Honors, Excellence Awards and mentioned recent faculty awards.

**Chair's Report - By Reed Hoyt:** Nothing to report.

**SUNY-wide Senate Report – by Senator Range:** Senator Range reported on the Delhi Plenary meeting. He noted that Carl Hayden spoke very optimistically about the future of SUNY. And that he did speak about the pending Chancellor search at that meeting, noting that he anticipates the search will be completed by the end of June. (A full report will be posted to the Senate webpage.)

#### **Council and Committee Reports:**

##### **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment)-William Lanford, Chair.**

Discussion continues regarding how to assess university wide academic programs, e.g. Project Renaissance. The Chair and Vice President of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness have met to work out details of the process in anticipation of future assessments of these programs.

**Program Review Committee** has completed its review of six programs: Communication, Physics, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and submitted its reports to the CAA (April 24). In its final meeting, the review process will be discussed in general as will the review of Project Renaissance.

**General Education Committee** has completed its review of the 2006-2007 assessment of General Education on campus and has completed its assessment of the UHS Latin courses. In its final two meetings, the review process in general will be discussed as will the review of Project Renaissance.

##### **CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility)-Sanjay Goel, Chair.**

CAFFECOR is continuing the process of investigating the impact of academic performance-enhancing drugs on academic freedom and community responsibility. At the last meeting on April 18, 2008, John McGuire, one of the two members of the K-9 Unit in UPD gave an informative presentation on “Narcotics and Law Enforcement,” which was tailored based on the presentation he normally gives to Residential Life to focus on stimulants (which most academic performance-enhancing drugs are). He

covered how drugs are obtained around campus, what drugs are being used, and how student users are discovered and dealt with. In addition, he discussed the different drug schedules (classifications) based on addictive level, and the effects of illegal stimulants including amphetamines and methamphetamines compared to more legal stimulants, e.g. coffee. The committee meeting attendees proposed to begin write-up of a report calling for individual responsibility and providing access to what the associated risks are with use of these drugs, as well as discussing recommendations based on academic research.

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Zai Liang, Chair**

CERS has formed an *Ad hoc* Misconduct Policy Amendment Committee. The Committee had its first meeting on April 22. CERS finalized the Committee charge proposed earlier. It discussed experiences related to Misconduct Policy during the past few years. Finally, in light of a meeting with Mr. Chris Pascal (director of Office of Research Integrity) on April 24, the Committee brainstormed ideas/questions that it needs to consult with Mr. Pascal. The Committee plans to have two meetings again in the week of May 12.

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

At its April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council heard the Vice President's report. It included a description of the workshop on grant writing that drew faculty from across the SUNY campuses. Concern was expressed about funds to support the Undergraduate Research Conference next year. The role of the research compliance officer in supervising the animal facilities was described, as there may be a conflict in responsibilities there. The main subject of the report was the budget and the decrease in indirect cost return funds to campus units. Although we are #2 among SUNY university centers in research expenditures behind Buffalo, much of the expenditures are for work done on projects without indirect cost return or with return that is well below the federal level. This has limited our indirect cost return generally and this year it is expected to be far less than last year's to cover the basic costs of OSP and research conduct generally. The VP-R also announced the FRAP B awards; 14 were awarded.

Researchers Liaison Committee's report presented by David Strogatz concentrated on email issues (mailbox size problems), and database questions. The committee will follow up. The SUNY Benevolent applications review committee chaired by Prof. Lewis reported recommendations for funding (7 were recommended) as did the committee reviewing applications for support of journals and conferences chaired by Prof. Bosart (2 of 3 conference support applications were endorsed). The Excellence in Research award committee chaired by Prof. South completed its work but did not make a report public to the COR as it is confidential to the VP-R until awardees are announced. Prof. South chaired the second half of the meeting as Prof. Schell was excused for another obligation.

At the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the VP-R's report dealt with the recent awards ceremony, the research development program held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Policy Revision Committee's establishment and charge, the recent news of indirect cost return amounts and the intention of Interim President Phillip to conduct an investigation into the indirect cost return budget, the plan to train more administrative personnel in departments or schools to assist with grant preparation, and the problem that the same person is responsible for both the running of the animal care facility and overseeing that facility's compliance. Following the report, there was a lengthy discussion on adding more text to the web

description of the FRAP A application to provide more guidance to applicants. The agenda item to discuss indirect cost return was postponed until the President's investigation was conducted this summer. Prof. Bosart conveyed his department's report on the subject. Sridar Chittur's written report from the committee on Centers/Institutes/Labs was accepted.

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

CPCA is continuing to process cases and expects a few more by the end of term.

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

At its meeting on May 1, GAC unanimously approved a proposal by the Departments of Sociology and Women's Studies to create a combined M.A. Women's Studies / Ph.D. Sociology Program. In addition, the Council voted to approve curricular, course and comprehensive examination changes in the Women's Studies M.A. Program, Geography and Planning M.A. Program and Criminal Justice Ph.D. Program. Other proposals before the Council were tabled pending revision, clarification or further justification. The Council also proposed a friendly amendment to the IRCAP proposal that in the event of an appeal of a decision by IRCAP, a representative from either GAC or UAC, as appropriate, be included on the Committee on Mediation. Finally, the Council approved a motion to amend the Senate Charter to include language charging the Graduate Academic Council and its Committee on Curriculum & Instruction with the responsibility to review proposed new or revised University-wide, e.g. UNI, graduate courses and recommend and establish that final action on such courses be taken by the Graduate Academic Council. The proposed amendment is now before the Executive Committee.

### **GOV (Governance Council) – John Delano, Chair**

In consultation with Interim Provost Susan Phillips, the Governance Council held three meetings to (a) discuss the rationale and membership of the proposed First Year Experience Task Force. The Governance Council's views were formally transmitted to the Interim Provost, and constitute an essential component of Senate Bill 0708-26 dealing with the offering of UFSP 101 in Fall 2008. The Governance Council also discussed (b) the rationale and membership of the Middle States Review committees (i.e., Self-Study Steering Committee; 9 Working Groups). Its recommendations were formally submitted to Interim President George Philip and Interim Provost for their consideration.

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

On May 2, Caitlin Lewis, project manager for the University Data Imaging Database, presented an overview of the project.

The Director of Libraries and the Chief Information Officer reported on contingency plans for the anticipated budget cuts. All involve some reduction of services to the academic community. Formal consideration of the unsigned Senate legislation regarding email as the official means of communication with students was tabled.

### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council)-Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair:**

UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson reported that UAC is reviewing the CNSE Undergraduate proposal. Professor Lifshin asked if the CNSE undergraduate proposal is accepted by UAC, could it go directly to the Senate at its last meeting, with pre-approval from the SEC.

*MOTION: Moved to Senate pending UAC approval and that the proposal will be emailed to all SEC members. All were in favor of moving it to Senate pending UAC approval.*

The University Writing Program was considered and it was moved that the proposal is not ready to be voted on. It was referred to the UPC and will come back to the SEC for consideration in the next academic year.

UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson introduced additional pending bills and noted that as soon as she has the bills in proper form, she will send them to SEC members via email: Honors Program in Theater; Revision of requirements in the BA in Computer Science; Revision of requirements in the BS in Computer Science; Revision of requirements in the BS in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics; Computer Science Disciplinary Honors Program; Revision of Major in Human Biology. It was moved that these bills would need to come in by mid-day Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, will go to the Senate floor.

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

At its May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, ULC met to review the work of the year and to clarify projects which will carry over to next year's council. Two key areas of concern are on-campus housing needs and better enforcement of smoking policies. Meeting the campuses' continuing needs for recreational opportunities will also be monitored.

### **UPC (University Planning and Policy Council)-Diane Dewar, Chair.**

UPC approved the CNSE Undergraduate program announcement (letter of intent), it has been sent on to UAC.

At its May 8 meeting, UPC reviewed and approved the CNSE major proposals approved by UAC.

The Council tabled the proposal to create a UUNI 399 course for University Peer Educators, pending more information concerning the implementation of such a course.

UPC endorsed the proposal for an amended University Writing Program and encouraged the Provost to fund the program to the extent possible. The rationale is that writing in the curriculum must remain a priority in a challenging budgetary environment, and we cannot sacrifice excellence in the curriculum at this critical time.

UPC discussed the possibility of utilizing qualified professional faculty to teach courses at the University on a broader scale. More information is needed from constituencies involved, such as UUP. Councilor Tom Bessette will do some information gathering on this issue this summer for further deliberations in the fall.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Senate Bill 0708-27: (UAC) Proposal to Establish Undergraduate Academic Programs Leading to the B.S. in Nanoscale Science and the B.S. in Nanoscale Engineering and the Nanoscale Science... and Nanoscale Engineering Honors Programs.**  
And
- **Senate Bill 0708-33: (UPC) Proposal to Establish UG Academic Programs Leading to BS in Nanoscale Science and the BS in Nanoscale Engineering**

The Bills were introduced by Senator Lifshin. Senator Reinhold-Larsson made an amendment on the floor to add “*and Nanoscale Engineering Honors Programs*” to Bill Number 0708-27. The amendment was accepted.

Both bills passed unanimously.

**Senate Bill 0708-22: Revision of Admission and Retention Criteria to the School of Business:** The Bill was introduced by UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson. Dean Leonard spoke in favor of the bill. It passed with two oppositions.

**Senate Bill 0708-12: Proposed Revisions to Information Technology Policy Usage Committee (Charter Amendment):** The Bill was introduced by LISC Chair Raffalovich. There was some discussion on the bill concerning the *ex officio* status, and it was decided to send the item to the Governance Council for further review. The motion to send it to the Governance Council was approved with two oppositions.

**Senate Bill 0708-23: Proposal to establish a Combined M.A. Women's Studies / Ph.D. Sociology Program:** The bill was introduced by UAC Chair Kranich. Dean Pryse and Jon Bartow spoke in favor. A discussion ensued concerning the fact that in contrast to existing MA/MA and BA/MA joint programs, this proposal allowed for the

full 32 credits for the MA to be double counted towards the PhD. The Bill passed, with six opposing and two abstaining.

**Senate Bill 0708-25: (IRCAP) Initial Review Committee of Academic Proposals**

**(Charter Amendment):** The Proposal was introduced by Governance Chair Delano. Chair Delano had a PowerPoint presentation prepared for the introduction of the proposal. There was lengthy discussion on the composition of the committee by Dean Faerman. She was concerned with the level of expertise of members of the committee. She offered a Friendly Amendment to the proposal, concerning the composition of membership. After further discussion, it was determined that the proposal calls for tenured teaching faculty from the schools and colleges and that a high level of expertise should be met. Dean Pryse spoke against this proposal, stating that it contradicts GAC's charge in the Senate Charter. Student Truchan inquired as to why the subcommittees of GAC and UAC are not enough. Senator Range spoke in favor of the proposal.

Interim Provost Phillips proposed a Motion to Table the discussion on the membership. The motion was defeated. The discussion was suspended to another meeting time.

Meeting suspended and adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder