

2009-2010 University Senate

Monday, October 19, 2009
3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

R. Michael Range, Chair
Minutes

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Heidi Andrade, Hassaram Bakhru, Robert Bangert-Drowns, Brea Barthel, Tom Bessette, R. Scott Birge, Melanie Breganza, Daryl Bullis, Brian Butcher, JoAnne Carson, James Castracane, Richard Collier, Kirsten Davison, John Delano, Jane Domaracki, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Patrick Ferlo, Susanna Fessler, Elizabeth Gaffney, Robert Gibson, Eric Hardiman, Andrew Haas, Kristen Hessler, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, Ryan King, Laurence Kranich, Winifred Kutchukian, Kajal Lahiri, William Lanford, Hamilton Lankford, Dustin Lanterman, Heather Larkin, Fernando Leiva, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Candace Merbler, John Monfasani, Gwendolyn Moore, Dale Morse, Nancy Newman, Julie Novkov, Dana Peterson, John Pipkin, Marjorie Pryse, R. Michael Range, Alexander Rias, Carlos Rodriguez, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Benjamin Shaw, Hany Shawky, Daniel Smith, Daniel White, Laura Wilder

Guests: Ray Bromley, Mary Casserly, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan, Tamra Minor, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 21 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by GEORGE M. PHILIP

President Philip began his report by thanking everyone who participated in the success of the UAlbany Community Day and Homecoming Weekend. Over 15,000 guests visited the campus to participate in events that included a luncheon honoring UAlbany alumni, Harvey Milk, a reading and discussion by Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman, and ended with the Student Association presentation of General Colin Powell. Many other events were enjoyed which included many faculty presentations.

The President announced three new appointments in University Leadership:

- James Diaz will serve as the new Interim Vice President for Research. He has served as the Chair of Biomedical Science in the School of Public Health
- Robert Bangert-Drowns has been appointed Dean for the School of Education. He has done a great job serving as its Acting Dean.
- Mary Casserly has been appointed Dean of the University Libraries.

Budget:

Governor Paterson has ordered a \$500 million cut in state spending as of last week to address the \$3 billion state deficit. The cut for SUNY is expected to be \$90 million. If the formulas are applied that have been used in the past, UAlbany's estimated cut would be \$6 million. Chancellor Zimpher has appointed a Budget Task Force to

look at how the cuts would be allocated. The task force will include five SUNY presidents and President Philip will be among the five. They will be looking at intelligent ways to address the cuts as opposed to doing them across the board. State agencies have been directed not to address the cuts through personnel. This will be difficult since personnel accounts for 85% of our state budget. An additional \$6 million dollar cut will bring the University's total cuts to \$20 million over the past two years. This will require us to do things differently. Campus wide reduction efforts now include a soft hiring freeze, limiting discretionary travel and equipment purchases, extending the energy savings programs and consolidating services. The University will be seeking additional revenue sources.

Updates and Events:

- Chancellor Nancy Zimpher will soon begin a SUNY Strategic Planning process. UAlbany will have seven students included in the process, as well as Vice President for Development, Fardin Sanai; Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, Wayne Locust and Associate Professor Scott Tenenbaum from CNSE. The process will be informed by the Budget Task Force. UAlbany is beginning its Strategic Planning process and the two will inform each other.
- President Philip and Provost Phillips will continue their conversation series throughout the year. The President said the conversations have been informative and encouraged all to participate.
- In research, the University attracted over \$340 million of funded research during 2008-09, and over \$1 billion during the past five years. UAlbany's faculty has submitted 78 applications for federal stimulus funding, and has received 18 awards, a success rate of 23%.
- The Richard Bailey memorial will be held at noon on Wednesday. There will be a moment of silence and the President asked everyone to keep the Bailey family in mind.
- UAlbany has had one confirmed case of the H1N1 flu on campus and there have been elevated incidences of flu like symptoms. The President said the low number of cases is a testament to the preparations that have been done and he recognized Vice President for Student Success, Christine Bouchard, for the efforts of her office.
- Tech Valley High School has had a successful kick off.
- Senator George McGovern appeared on campus to discuss his new book, and held a conversation with Political Science Professor Bruce Miroff. The event was very well attended.
- Chancellor Zimpher appeared on campus in support of UAlbany's sustainability initiatives.
- On Thursday, October 23, former Gov. Hugh Carey will be honored with the Citizen Laureate Award at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT by MICHAEL RANGE

Update on 2008-09 charter amendments. In late August 2009 President Philip indicated that he was "not inclined to approve" the four charter amendments that the University Senate had approved last year. (The amendments and rationale are available at <http://www.albany.edu/senate/legislation.htm> , items 0809-08, 0809-09, 0809-13, and 0809-15) He also wanted to ask governance to begin a review of UAlbany's Faculty Bylaws. Because of the broad implications and procedural issues, Chair Range began a collaborative process with the president, including the current senate officers and four past senate chairs (Dewar, Hoyt, MacDonald, and Messner) to find a solution. President Philip is concerned about a possible infringement of the prerogatives vested in the Chief Administrative Officer by the Policies of the BOT. A constructive and productive follow up meeting on Tuesday, 9/29/09 resulted in the following agreements:

Amendment Regarding Eligibility to Chair Senate Councils and Committees, #08. The President will approve this, although he does not agree with this amendment because it limits the freedom of a council/committee to choose its chair, and because of its perceived divisiveness which creates two classes of council members: ex officio versus members chosen by governance.

Amendment to Ensure Better Consultation, #13. This amendment requires the President's approval. President Philip decided not to approve it. The senate leadership reassured President Philip that this amendment was not directed against him, and further agreed that the outcome of the Presidential Search late last spring makes this amendment unnecessary.

Clarifying Amendment on Graduate Courses, #09. There is broad agreement on the principles - already encoded in the charter - and on the intent of this amendment. However, it seems that the language may cause some confusion and could be clarified. Governance would work with Provost Phillips to find clearer language. (At its 10/5 meeting, the SEC charged GOV to work out appropriate language with the Provost.)

Amendment to Create IRCUAP, #15. There is agreement that some form of “first level review” is needed for programs and courses that do not originate from schools or colleges. It is not clear how such a committee would be placed within the faculty governance structure, and the matter remains under review. In the meantime, programs and/or courses that would be subject to such first level review would be placed on hold.

Review of Bylaws. The President will provide governance with specific instances of provisions in the current bylaws and charter that he views as inconsistent with the Policies of the Board of Trustees and with the principles of best practice of shared governance. Governance will promptly review and address these provisions as needed.

Retention Committee. Chair Range invited Vice Provost Wayne Locust, Chair of the Retention Committee, to join in a discussion at the 10/5 SEC meeting concerning the Retention Committee. Questions had been raised about the membership and the current activities of this committee created in 2005. Vice Provost Locust reported success in turning around trends in retention into a desirable direction. He clarified that the Retention Committee has completed its task, that no further meeting would be held beyond a final meeting in late October 2009, and that some of its recommendations will be incorporated in the Freshmen Year Experience (FYE). Consequently there is no need to update membership. A Final Report will be forthcoming. The Chair thanked Vice Provost Locust for the successful work of the Retention Committee.

Freshmen Year Experience (FYE). The Task Force submitted its Final Report to Provost Phillips in May 2009. On September 11, 2009, the Provost sent the Final Report of the FYE Task Force to all faculty and staff, with an invitation for comments and suggestions. Chair Range suggested that the chairs of the Task Force edit the report to include routine items such as membership of the Task Force, date of the Final Report, and some missing information. He also asked that statements in the report’s Implementation Plan involving “the current senate chair” (i.e., the 2008-09 senate chair) should be clarified to indicate that the 2009-10 Senate Chair was not a member of the Task Force, and consequently, whatever role may have been agreed upon by the former chair cannot be transferred to the (now) current chair. On October 7, Provost Phillips followed up with a message to the chairs of CAA, GOV, UAC, ULC, and UPPC, asking them to review and discuss the Final Report with their respective councils, with the goal to provide her with feedback and perspectives on the FYE. The discussion about the FYE Final Report at today’s meeting provides the senate with an opportunity to give further input and perspectives about the FYE to the Provost. There is no action item regarding FYE on today’s agenda. Chair Range has invited the co-chairs of the Task Force, Diane Dewar and Wayne Locust, to join in today’s meeting. Upon invitation by Provost Phillips, the Senate Chair and Senate Officers have recently met with her to begin a discussion about the approval process for different aspects of future specific proposals regarding the FYE. For example, changing existing Gen Ed courses by “infusing” them with FYE components would require that those courses and changes be returned to the originating departments and/or schools/colleges for their approval before transmittal to UAC. New FYE components that do not reside within a school or college would require a first level review along the lines of IRCUAP, approved by the Senate on May 4, 2009. While some details of IRCUAP are still under review (see the relevant update on charter amendments above), it would appear that there is agreement about these aspects of the approval process.

In reference to any role that may have been agreed upon by the former chair, Immediate Past Chair John Delano clarified that he did not make any agreements.

OTHER REPORTS

PROVOST’S REPORT by SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips began by thanking everyone who participated in UAlbany Community Day. She noted that it was an impressive group of people. The Provost referred to a handout that she provided, a continuation of what the University would be like without our research.

Notes from Campus:

- The Richard Bailey Scholarship has reached a total of \$50,000. The first recipient, a senior planning to go into law enforcement, will be named on Wednesday at the memorial service.
- Catherine Dwyer, Associate Librarian, is the recipient of a New York Library Association’s Round Table Award.
- The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures has donated 105 books to the Vilbrun Community Research Center, Inc.
- Distinguished Professor Emeritus Hans Toch (Criminal Justice) has received the 2009 Research Award by the International Corrections and Prisons Association.
- Mickey Friedlander, School of Education, was recently elected Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

- Edward L. Hannan has recently received a \$925,499 Challenge Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- The Center for Excellence in Aging Services (School of Social Welfare) has received three new grants.
- UAlbany's Career Services Office has begun a special project which will connect regional firms and employers with qualified students.

FYE Update:

Provost Phillips thanked those who were on the FYE Task Force and referred to the handout list of member's names. She thanked those who have provided helpful feedback. The Provost has also requested Senate councils and committees to review the report and provide their feedback. The report is posted on the Institutional Research website.

Strategic Planning:

The Provost discussed the new Strategic Plan process for the University. Having almost completed the Middle States process, this should go quickly, and Middle States would serve as the first part of our plan. She has been speaking with different groups about the design principles and sees this as an opportunity for broad participation. The timing will be challenging but the goal is to have the process completed in one year.

UFS (UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATOR'S REPORT) – WILLIAM LANFORD & DANIEL D. WHITE, SUNY SENATORS

The UAlbany Senate will be represented at the SUNY Faculty Senate Fall Plenary Session on October 22-24 at SUNY IT in Utica. Faculty, staff and Senators should feel free to contact me if they have issues that they think are pertinent to SUNY-wide governance.

In addition, Ken O'Brien (Chair of the SUNY Faculty Senate) has asked that all SUNY Senators be prepared to bring whatever specifics they have available about the effect of the budget cuts on individual programs, such as program elimination, non-renewal of Teaching Faculty (both tenure track and adjunct), Professional Faculty, and other staff reductions, etc. "These specifics, if available by our meeting, will provide the evidence of the harm the cuts will be causing, making student success much more difficult."

The Provost and President have provided the figure of 109 non-renewals over the past year. I would be glad to know any specifics from departments who were badly hit by these non-renewals.

The first plenary meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 22-24 at SUNY IT in Utica.

GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) – MELANIE BREGANZA, GSO PRESIDENT

Nothing to report.

SA (STUDENT ASSOCIATION) – DUSTIN LANTERMAN

Mr. Lanterman thanked everyone for their support of UAlbany Community Day.

MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

A draft report should be available soon.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair

The CAA met on October 5. The meeting schedule for the remainder of the fall semester is Wednesday, October 21 at 10:15 a.m. in UNH 306, Wednesday, November 4 at 10:15 a.m. in UNH 107, Monday, November 16 at 10 a.m. in UNH 306, and on a date in December TBD.

The Council discussed the process of review of annual Student Learning Outcome (SLO) reports, determined a method for identifying best practices in SLO reports from 20008-2009 to share at the Provost's assessment meeting in November, and approved a memo to the SEC regarding the General Education Assessment Committee's plans for the 2009-2010 academic year.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

The committee continues to collect data and materials to resolve the problem of conflicting freedom-of-speech policies on campus. It appears that Senate Bill 0304-25, which was passed by the Senate, was not reviewed at the Presidential level, and we propose that this happen this year.

CAFFECOR met on Monday, October 12th to discuss the following issues: 1) A recent report in the ASP about students' freedom of speech being restricted in the residence halls, 2) Our efforts to unite the policies on campus between the offices of Affirmative Action, Student Success, and the Senate, and 3) the drafting of formal procedures should a university community member ask for CAFFECOR's assistance in a case of speech code. Nothing formal has been drafted apropos of these issues, but each has been delegated to committee members.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair

The ad hoc joint committee with GOV to revise the present CERS policy statement has been formed as per the directive of the Senate last May and will move forward expeditiously. The committee consists of Carolyn MacDonald, Edward Cupoli, and John Monfasani. The committee will report back to CERS and GOV when it has a draft text to recommend.

The joint CERS and GOV Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Friday, October 23. The Committee has invited University Counsel, John Reilly to be a member. He has declined, on principle, to be a member but has been invited to listen to and exchange views.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

COR has been busy populating sub-committees and we still have a few slots to fill.

Rosters of COR's subcommittees have been forwarded to Secretary Collier.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

At its meeting on September 23, GAC approved the current membership lists and chairs for each of its standing committees. There are still several vacancies, and the Council authorized the Chair to provisionally appoint additional volunteers as needed.

The Council was briefed by the Dean of Graduate Studies on the status of the Graduate Student Support (GSS) review. In addition, a draft of a revised proposal by the Departments of Biological Sciences and Computer Science for an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Professional Science Management was circulated and discussed. The final proposal will be reviewed by the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction and brought before the Council at its next meeting.

Other items were remanded to committees, including consideration of a graduate syllabus requirement, study of the different types of graduate certificates, and possible introduction of graduate DARS audits.

Chair Range inquired about the progress of the Graduate Student Support review. Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse, responded. The process is underway and all doctoral programs under review are being independently reviewed by two subpanels, with co-chairs mediating to resolve any differences that may occur. The process should go into early November. The goal is to have information available to the Provost and interested parties in time for decisions that need to be made concerning reinvestment for 2010-11.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

The Governance Council has established its meeting schedule for the fall 2009 semester. Meetings will be on Fridays at 4 pm in UNH 105 on the following dates: 10/2, 10/16/ 10/30, 11/20, and 12/11.

At its 10/2 meeting GOV nominated two of its members for membership on the CERS Ad Hoc Committee mandated by the Senate at its May 2009 meeting. It also recommended that, in addition to University Counsel, CERS include Professor James Dias, newly appointed Interim VPR, on the CERS Ad Hoc Committee. These recommendations are being forwarded to CERS Chair John Monfasani. GOV also voted on replacements for the two members of the DSP/DTP Committee. Their names will be forwarded to the President, along with the council's recommendation that the names of the members of the committee along with nomination deadlines and regulations be posted on the University web pages, both in the interest of transparency and in the hope of attracting more nominations.

At its 10/16 meeting the Chair noted that discussions with the Provost on the Charter Amendment relating to Graduate Courses (0910-09) will be delayed to a future meeting.

In response to a request from Bruce Szelest, GOV approved the structure of the SIRS Advisory Committee that was proposed with an additional member of the Teaching Faculty and two representatives to be chosen by the University's Department Chairs.

Because of one person nominated for the DSP/DTP Committee indicated he was unable to serve, a replacement was selected and the name forwarded to the President.

Provost Phillips met with the council to discuss the Strategic Planning structure and timeline. Because of the sudden resignation of one member of the Honors College Governing Board, the counsel selected alternative names and gave these to the Provost.

The council was informed that one of the GOV members whose names were forwarded to CERS was unable to serve on the CERS Ad Hoc Committee established by the Senate last May and that CERS has approved a group of three which will report its recommendations to CERS (as well as to GOV). John Reilly has informed CERS that on principle University Counsel should not be a member of a

University governance body but agreed to attend CERS Ad Hoc Committee meeting to iron out any conflicts or confusions. CERS did not accept the suggestion from GOV that the Interim VPR be a member of the CERS Ad Hoc Committee.

GOV Chair Lifshin informed Senate members that he received a request from Director of Personal Safety, Thomas Gebhardt, for faculty members to serve on the Campus Advisory Committee for Security. Chair Lifshin said if anyone would like to be a member he would present their name to GOV. ULC Chair Daniel Smith said they should be going through ULC.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

LISC met on October 12. CIO Christine Haile and Dean of Libraries reported on plans for IT and library services if there is as major outbreak of H1N1 on campus this fall.

Chris Haile also noted that the renovations to Husted Hall are nearly complete, with twenty new tech-equipped classrooms. Some might be used in spring 2010.

Mary Casserly announced that the Special Collections program has made online copies of UAlbany student newspapers from 1916-1985 available, with support from friends of the library. More recent papers will be added later.

Renewals of licensing agreements for journals are being negotiated, including one with Elsevier.

The IT Committee will take up the issue of privacy policies relating to IT.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC passed, revised, and again passed the bill related to credit loads for undergraduates which is on today's agenda. UAC discussed the FYE Task Force's report, concentrating mainly on how FYE goals and General Education requirements might mesh. UAC also voted to add Linda Kryzkowski, a non-voting guest, to its regular email distribution list.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC has met twice and discussed the following topics:

Principles for Undergraduate Ombuds Office, which will be communicated to the Provost; also gathered faculty names for possible nominations for the committee

Discussed the FYE Taskforce Report, and will communicate observations and advice to the provost and SEC.

Began discussion of the ULC response to President Philip's letter on the Smoking Policy

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair

The University Planning and Policy Council met for nearly two hours on Thursday, October 8th. Three (3) items were on the agenda: (i) The University's strategic planning process; (ii) Role of governance in the University's budgetary process; and (iii) Perspectives on First Year Experience Task Force report.

(i) Strategic Plan: Provost Phillips provided the Council with an overview of the strategic planning process. A new strategic plan for the University, which is scheduled to be completed by September 2010, will be developed at the same time that a SUNY-wide strategic plan (commissioned by Chancellor Zimpher) is being formed. Provost Phillips indicated that the UAlbany strategic planning process is strongly needed since it will be important for identifying areas of strategic investment and other areas of disinvestment. The ongoing Middle States Review has collected information and documents that will be helpful in the strategic planning process. Provost Phillips requested feedback at the Council meeting and in a subsequent e-mail about the proposed methods for developing the strategic plan.

(ii) University's Budget Process: In advance of the UPPC meeting on October 4th, UPPC members were provided with relevant background information (e.g., portions of the Senate Charter and Faculty Bylaws; published article by Fred Volkwein describing strategies used successfully by UAlbany in the past during harsh budgetary times that included retrenchments of faculty and programs). Senate Chair Range, who requested that this matter be placed on the UPPC's agenda, stated that insufficient budgetary information had been provided during the last several years, and that that situation needed to be remedied in order for governance to provide informed advice about the allocation of the University's finances. Provost Phillips stated that she and President Philip both recognize the importance of consultation with governance, and are developing ways to increase consultation. Interim Vice President for Finance and Business, Steve Beditz, stated that macro-scale budgetary information could likely be provided, but that finer-scale data were limited by the absence of appropriate software that resulted in high manual workloads for personnel in his office.

(iii) First Year Experience (FYE) Task Force: Members had not read the (FYE) report in sufficient detail to offer any substantive comments on its content and recommendations. The discussion was thereby deferred to the next UPPC meeting.

The next UPPC meeting will occur on Thursday afternoon, October 22.

NEW BUSINESS

Maximum Credit Load (UAC):

UAC Chair Joan Savitt introduced the bill which would permit students studying overseas to obtain authorization for more than 19 credits within four weeks after the start of classes overseas. Credits of the pre-session are included in the program and students do not need to obtain special approval for those credits. A motion of approval was made and seconded, and the bill was passed.

Freshman Year Experience Task Force Report:

Chair Range introduced the topic as a general discussion with no action being taken today. Since the report has been distributed, he invited Senate members to discuss and offer comments.

The discussion opened with a question concerning the metrics that were used to identify which aspects of the program have been effective and those that have not. UPPC Chair John Delano, and member of the task force, responded that the task force reviewed published articles that provided metrics of what worked or did not. The assessments were not ideas that the University needs to commit to, but to see what we can do better and what has been done at other institutions.

ULC Chair Daniel Smith raised concerns regarding the section of the report for the Provost to mandate faculty contributions to the initiative. Such a mandate would extract faculty from 300 or 400 level courses. He questioned imposing such a mandate with the number of faculty dwindling due to budget issues. This is a workload issue as well as meeting the needs of graduating seniors. Chair Delano again responded that the task force believes that some faculty members would be willing to participate to support student retention initiatives but would need to be provided an incentive.

Senate Secretary Richard Collier expressed his concern that the report reflects a desire for creating a common set of values and extracurricular interests among students. He stated that students should be *encouraged* to develop interests from the wide range of choices available. Chair Delano responded to those concerns of “social engineering”, but did not believe that was the intent of the task force.

GOV Chair Eric Lifshin addressed the three different programs with the different costs attached to them, and inquired if these were viable given the current budget situation. Provost Phillips explained that this will be determined by a prioritizing process. If it is assigned a high priority it can be funded but she could not address how the President will set priorities. The Provost added that in our budget climate, everything is being carefully reviewed and assessments will be made based on what we are getting for our investment.

There was a discussion related to retention: what are the elements that keep students here or contribute to their leaving, and whether those elements should be a topic of focus. Vice President for Enrollment Management, Wayne Locust, responded that there are many factors, including the overall environment and culture. He believes the important question is what drives students away, as well as what holds good students.

UPPC Chair Delano urged Senate members to view his course proposal in the report which involves a writing component and student contact with their professor. This proposal might serve as a way to inform what other courses could look like in the future. He stressed the importance of having very good proposals or they will not be funded. There was some disagreement among Senate members on the one credit designation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder