

# COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

## Senate Executive Committee Meeting, April 20, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

### UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – John Delano, Chair

**1997-1998 Graduate Programs Review:** Larry Kranich (Chair, GAC) and the Senate Chair were invited by Marjorie Pryse (Dean, Graduate Studies) to a 70-minute meeting on Tuesday, March 31, with 3 other individuals to discuss the processes associated with the 1997-1998 campus-wide review of graduate programs.

**Conversation with Provost Phillips on budget:** The Senate Chair was among 7 faculty members who were invited to meet with the Provost to discuss the current budget challenges. The 2-hour meeting occurred on Wednesday, April 8.

**Request from Provost Phillips:** The Senate Chair received an e-mail on Thursday morning, April 16, from Provost Phillips requesting Senate assistance in identifying nominees to serve on a Graduate Programs' Review Panel. All SEC members were notified by the Senate Chair of this request on the same day. Senate Officers agreed that this matter should be discussed at the SEC's April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Faculty Forum:** The Faculty Forum on Thursday evening, April 16, involved a discussion of the FIRE report (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education: <http://www.thefire.org>) that was sent to President Philip on December 17, 2008. The letter stated that UAlbany had received a 'red light' designation (i.e., one or more of UAlbany policies unconstitutionally restrict freedom of speech). Their material specifically on UA is at <http://www.thefire.org/index.php/codes/1120> where the excerpted UA policies of concern are noted. The SUNY policy is located at [http://test.suny.edu/sunypdp/documents.cfm?doc\\_id=96](http://test.suny.edu/sunypdp/documents.cfm?doc_id=96).

The discussion at the Faculty Forum was led by Susanna Fessler, Malcolm Sherman, and Lawrence Snyder. The Senate Chair has requested the text of their prepared remarks be made available for distribution to all SEC members prior to Monday's SEC meeting. The remarks from Malcolm Sherman are attached to this message. When/if the remaining materials from Profs. Fessler and Snyder become available, they will be sent to you by the Senate Chair. Prof. Fessler has also accepted an invitation by the Senate Chair to be present when this matter is discussed at the SEC meeting.

A matter of specific interest at the Faculty Forum was the concept of harassment needing to be defined more specifically as being a 'repeated, pervasive, or persistent act', which is not currently present in UAlbany's 'Community Rights and Responsibilities'. Should that be rectified? If so, it appears that the matter should be referred to the University Council.

### UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford, R. Michael Range SUNY Senators

Nothing to report.

### GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkop, Lead Senator

At its last Assembly Meeting the GSO passed a resolution recognizing Harvey Milk and urging the University to recognize outstanding alumni that have passed away (like Milk) through the "Reaching Higher, Achieving More" initiative. GSO elections will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> and will include a referendum item on the existence of the GSO. As the time comes closer please encourage graduate students you know to participate in this important election. The GSO is also starting a Volunteer Program and will be volunteering at Habitat for Humanity on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm.

The GSO has a handful of events coming up including "Marketing Yourself for Success during Tough Economic Times" presented by Career Services and co-sponsored with the Office of Graduate Studies. The AASS&F presents Music Movie Night – Triple Feature on 4/29 at 6PM in LC25 featuring: Sade "Lovers Live" in Southern California, Yanni "Tribute" at the Taj Mahal in India, and The Supremes "Reflections" the Motown Sound. The English Graduate Student Organization will hold its seventh annual conference, "Negotiating Land: New Readings" Friday and Saturday 4/17 and 4/18. This conference will interrogate how recent theory and scholarship has understood changing local and global geographies and the spaces--textual, pedagogical, political, etc.--in which we attempt to read terrestriality. Additional events and more information on the GSO can be found at <http://www.albany.edu/~gso> and through ([gso@albany.edu](mailto:gso@albany.edu)).

### MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

### CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

CAA has nothing new to report. The Program Review Committee has met and done some work, but the results of that will be noted in the next regularly scheduled CAA meeting at the end of the month.

**CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair**

CAFFECoR sponsored a forum on campus freedom of expression policies on Thursday evening, April 16 at 7PM in the Campus Center Assembly Hall.

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

CERS has nearly completed the assessment of the proposed revisions to the misconduct policy, will be meeting with representatives from the administration and expects to bring a document to the Senate at the next meeting.

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

The Council on Research has not met since the last Senate meeting. It will meet again on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

CPCA continues to meet regularly and process tenure and promotion cases.

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

GAC has nothing to report. The Council will meet next on April 27.

**GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair**

GOV has not meet since the last Senate meeting on April 6, 2009. Please see GOV's summary report for that meeting for activities up to that date. GOV's next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009

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

Nothing new to report. LISC meets again on May 8.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair**

UAC passed a bill restricting entry into the minor in Educational Studies (attached).

UAC has almost completed a bill which will award students who have earned an International Baccalaureate Diploma 30 credits at UAlbany, provided that no individual course grade is below a 4, or credits on a course-by-course basis for students who participate in an IB program who do not earn the Diploma with at least 30 points. We expect to have the IB bill finished by next week (April 22).

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

ULC is delighted the revision to the Smoking Policy passed the Senate.

On Wednesday 3/15/09 ULC met with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics and Prof. Terri Harrison, faculty IAB representative and chair of IAB to review the progress of student-athletes at UAlbany. In what was a fairly simple, yet compelling presentation, statistics of student-athletes progress, summary grades, cum gpa's, majors selected, and graduation rates by team were presented. Finally, a NCAA index was explained as the index defines whether or not a team is meeting the NCAA standard—for the record all UA teams are above the standard...with new data available from the NCAA in a week or so. What was heartening about the report was that Student-athletes do as well if not better in the same majors as the rest of the UAlbany population, and there is no "sports major" which student-athletes drift toward as seen at other division I schools. The student-athletes follow the distribution among majors as the rest of the UA undergraduate population.

We also met with Wayne Locust who presented the summary draft of the FYE Taskforce. There were several questions about the proposals, and Council members will forward comments, concerns and questions to VP Locust.

**UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair**

The UPPC met on 7 April and received a report from Vice President Lee McElroy and Professor Teresa Harrison on the state of the athletic program. Our student athletes are well above national norms in terms of classroom achievement. Pending business includes reactions to the FYE report and the approval of subsequent academic calendars.