

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, November 17, 2014
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

- **On November 6th, 2014** the Chair of the Senate received a request from Interim Provost Timothy Mulcahy for 3-5 faculty nominees to serve on the **Blue Ribbon Panel on Adjuncts/Contingent Faculty** and similar assistance in identifying possible appointees to a **committee that will be reviewing grad student compensation issues**. The requests were forwarded to the Chair of the Governance Council Cynthia Fox. The Governance Council will forward their recommendations to the Interim Provost, who will then send back to the Governance Council a preferred roster for consideration and approval in keeping with Section 2.5.5 of the Faculty Bylaws.
- **On November 6th, 2014** the Chair of the Senate received an email from Suzanne K. Freed, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education stating that the **State Education Department has officially registered Urban Studies and Planning as a major, effective immediately**. The Senate approved the major in the spring of 2012. **This means that that the Urban Studies and Planning is no longer a concentration in the Interdisciplinary Studies major.**
- **The annual Fall Faculty Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 5th 2014.** It was an armchair discussion with President Robert J. Jones, Interim Provost Tim Mulcahy and Vice President for Research Jim Dias, moderated by Senate Chair Joette Stefl-Mabry.
- **On October 13th, 2014** the Chair of the Senate received a request from the **GSA's Wages and Benefits Committee to make a presentation to the Senate**. Chair Stefl-Mabry suggested that the Committee make its presentation at the SEC. **The Committee made their presentation to the SEC on November 03, 2014. Their presentation is included in the GSA's Senate report.**
- **On October 17th, 2014** Chair Stefl-Mabry received a **request from CCI Dean Sue Faerman and Associate Provost for Program Development Ann Marie Murray, regarding the processes required to create a new Department of Computer Engineering**. Chair Stefl-Mabry requested the assistance of Immediate Past Chair, Christine Wagner and Vice Chair Cynthia Fox.
 - **On November 5th, 2014** Chair Stefl-Mabry and Immediate Past Chair Wagner received an email from Interim Provost Mulcahy stating that he had received a **formal request from the College of Computing and Information to create a Department of Computer Engineering to provide an academic support structure for the new degree in Computer Engineering**. In the interest of honoring Article 2.2.2 of the Senate Charter/By-Laws Interim Provost Mulcahy sought the Senate's advice as to how to submit his recommendation in support of this request for Senate Consideration. The request has been sent to Cynthia Fox, Chair of the Governance Council.
 - **Currently the Senate Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Immediate Past Chair) believe the process would be that a proposal for a new department with rationale and resource implications would come out of CCI to the Provost, who in turn would send it to the UPPC as a follow-up to the already**

approved program announcement (i.e., initial proposal) for the major in computer engineering. The proposal to form the department, which ideally might have come to UPPC along with the formation of the major, is the administrative unit that would house the major.

- **The formation of the major, and in turn, the department, is still contingent upon full review by SUNY, external reviewers, UAC, GAC (as the potential departmental home for future undergraduate and graduate programs), the Senate and ultimately the President and SUNY.**
- **On October 27th, 2014,** Chair Stefl-Mabry received a request from William B. Hedberg, PhD, Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, requesting Senate designees for the slate of this year's Excellence Award Selection Committee and to approve the slate of the committee before sending the list on to the President. Chair Stefl-Mabry sent the request to Cynthia Fox, Chair of the Governance Council.
- **Charter Amendment 1415-01A was passed by the Senate on 10/20/2014.**

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

University Faculty Senate Report

2014 Fall Plenary hosted by SUNY ESF

Attended by Philippe Abraham, Danielle Leonard, John Schmidt

I. Some important developments at System and with the BoT:

In order to best represent the University at Albany at the state-wide University Faculty Senate, the UFS Senators call for increased engagement, information flows, and UAlbany Faculty Senate input on these and other issues through our shared governance processes.

SUNY Excels: The Chancellor previously indicated to us that she is willing to tie increases in State funding for SUNY to performance measures. This initiative is being called SUNY Excels—a matrix of performance measures that will include data and goals at the System level, but with campus goals to be set in appropriate areas (as defined collaboratively campus by campus). We've been asked for input and UFS Senators have been tasked with finding out what elements would be appropriate/ inappropriate for our campus. We have requested that Information presented to us by Chancellor Zimpher, Provost Cartwright and other be coming soon on the [SUNY UFS Website](#).

System Administration Budget: New financial assessments are coming to campuses in order to support the operations at System Administration. The line-item budget for operating System Administration within the legislatively approved SUNY budget hasn't been increased in some 20 years. Obviously costs have gone up since then, and the Chancellor's numerous initiatives have added to the budgetary pressures. System has been charging campuses for some services, but the

System expenditures significantly exceed this as well. A further complication is that some System offices have sent these costs, charge-backs, etc., to campuses at irregular times during the year, making campus budget planning more difficult. So a phased approach has been established that includes some central budget cuts, increases in the charges to campuses, but a single charge for the year—phased in over 5 years. Presidents are unhappy with this. The Board of Trustees is also concerned, in part about the methodology, in part about the size of the System budget. The Board has approved the increased assessments to campuses for this year, but has demanded more justification and an examination of alternatives before moving any further forward.

Budget for 2015-16: With the final year of NYSUNY2020 looming, System is consulting with the Presidents and the Board about whether to request a new round of tuition increases to actually bring us to 2020. Further budget issues are a hard push to convince the governor and the legislature that “maintenance of effort” means covering mandated cost increases. The SUNY Excels matrix is to form the basis for seeking new State funds in support of SUNY. And finally, SUNY is seeking additional bonding authority for both critical maintenance and selected new construction projects.

Seamless Transfer: The transfer paths were updated by the end of last spring, and we are now in a period of considering if adjustments to programs might be necessary to make this work. Many, if not most, requests for program waivers have apparently been denied without satisfactory explanation. Faculty on some campuses are questioning if they are being told to change major requirements for the first two years. Let us know if you know about any of our waiver requests that were denied without explanation.

Open SUNY: The “first wave” of “Open SUNY +” programs—existing online programs with enhancements—was approved last academic year, and the second wave of 56 programs from 17 campuses has just been announced. System Administration has increasingly recognized that most student services need to be coordinated among or handled by the contributing campuses rather than established centrally, although SUNY is currently contracting with an outside vendor to cover a help desk 24/7 (beyond what was being covered by previously existing SUNY Learning Network assistance). System Administration is working with interested campuses to evaluate campus readiness for (expanded) online programs, and there is also now a business tool available to help campuses evaluate the short- and long-term costs/benefits of online programs. Finally, SUNY is helping facilitate the identification and development of digital materials and open education resources (Affordable Learning Solutions) for courses, not just online ones.

START-UP NY: Some 50 SUNY campuses have approved plans (or soon will). Companies have been announced at a number of campuses. Some campuses have Faculty committees that vet whether the companies fit with the academic mission of the campus. What is the process that UAlbany has established to get faculty input into approving company proposals to fit with the campus mission? Was the UAlbany Senate consulted in most recent decision <http://www.albany.edu/news/54991.php?WT.source=ncfeed> ?

TeachNY: There was a lot of focus on teacher education over the last year, and the Chancellor has emerged as a national champion for the Common Core Standards in K-12 education. As part of this, she urges us to familiarize ourselves with the standards, as future NY students will have been educated according to that approach. We can expect some changes in the abilities of our future students, and we should be prepared to appreciate and take advantage of the skills they should possess. The Chancellor also has established a TeachNY program in conjunction with the State Education Department, with an advisory committee to offer guidance on how to improve teacher education and K-12 quality and success. Nationally recognized experts as well as SUNY faculty (and union) leadership are working together to advise the Chancellor on next steps for teacher education, particularly how to improve the effectiveness of our teacher education programs.

II. Resolutions

Full text of the [Resolutions](#) are available on the UFS website or can be obtained through any UFS Senator.

- Resolution on Sexual Assault Prevention--passed
- Resolution Requesting All State University of New York Campuses Offering Athletics Create Programs to Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Athletes, Coaches, and Staff and to Prevent Anti-LGBT Bias and Discrimination in Athletics --passed
- Resolution on SUNY Excels Performance Measurement System requesting that local campuses as well as UFS have a strong voice in formulating and continually refining metrics—passed
- Resolution on Affordability of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials--passed
- Resolution on Reduction on the Maximum Working Hours for Student Assistants--passed
- Resolution in support of expanding SUNY undergraduate research and creative endeavors —passed--passed
- Resolution on Naloxone Availability for treating opioid overdose cases--passed

Other Issues Addressed by UFS Committees:

- updating guidance to faculty and campuses on best practices for internships and service learning;
- examining the role of non-tenure-track faculty in shared governance;

- guidance for the ethical behavior of faculty; reviewing best practices for prevention of bullying and hazing;
- fostering and supporting undergraduate and graduate research;
- diversity of faculty and staff. Full text of the UFS Committee Reports are available upon request or on the [SUNY UFS website](#).

III. Upcoming conferences and events

- Nov. 7: "Protect, Use and Share Content in Online Education"; SUNY System Administration, Albany; organized by the FACT2 group
- Nov. 11-12: "Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Impact"; Albany Marriott; sponsored by the UFS and the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Feb 10, 2015: "Graduate Research: Making a Difference in New York": Legislative Office Building, Albany; sponsored by UFS
- March 20-21, 2015: 2nd Annual SUNY Voices Shared Governance Conference; location TBD.
- April 10, 2015: First SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium; Brockport. Open to all undergraduate researchers.

IV. Other

Personnel matters at System Administration: The Board has offered the Chancellor a new contract, which is to be for 5 years. Alexander Cartwright has joined SUNY System Administration as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. Alex comes to System from the University at Buffalo, where he had been Vice President for Research. Beth Bringsjord, who served as Interim Provost for the past year, has returned to a position as Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor. Jim Malatras left the position of Chief of Staff, called back to the Governor's office to be Director of Operations for New York State. Stacey Hengsterman is interim Chief of Staff for Chancellor Zimpher, with a search in place for a permanent individual. Josh Sager is the new chief budget officer; he replaces Wendy Gillman, who retired.

LICH and the Hospitals: SUNY finally has a contract to sell the Long Island College Hospital site. What will be the financial impact on the rest of the SUNY campuses? The Board of Trustees will be delving into this question now that we know what SUNY will recover from the sale (\$240M).

Last spring, the Senate Executive Committee took up a resolution that calls upon SUNY to conduct an investigation of how the whole LICH purchase and subsequent closure occurred, in order to try to prevent such a fiasco from occurring in the future. The EC chose not to pass the resolution, reasoning that the basic reasons behind what happened already are public

record, that this would be an unnecessary expense that likely wouldn't yield any new results, and that such a study might better be done by one or more of our own faculty.

There are some other developments regarding the hospitals and medical schools. First, the Board passed a resolution to set up a task force to examine and propose a "new governance structure" for the SUNY hospitals: how the hospitals should be governed—likely with local governing boards, answering perhaps to a central governing board that is separate from the SUNY Board of Trustees. There is a call for closer ties between the stand-alone medical schools and the University Centers. Accordingly, not only Downstate and UAlbany have been in discussions about collaborations, but Binghamton and Upstate are in talks as well. The idea: SUNY hospitals remain essential to successful operation of our medical schools and thus a critical part of the SUNY family.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President

Please see attached report from the Wages and Benefits Committee, tasked by the GSA with researching prevailing wage, benefit and graduate student well-being concerns.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

- Dippikill:

Working to finalize tabling dates to advertise Dippikill. Also working to compile a photo book that will be used to allow students to see what cabins are available.

- Comptroller:

My office has been processing and grading Treasurer's Exams for all the student group signatory officers. We are currently working on updating MyInvolvement to be as accurate and as close to Mas90 as possible. This is an ongoing issue from the previous 3 years of requests. My office is working alongside OSI and Operations to update purchase requests and pay outstanding invoices.

- Multicultural Affairs:

Upcoming safe space and NCBI trainings occurring throughout the next couple of months:

SSI Monday, October 6th 9 am - 1 pm CC 375

SSI Sunday, October 19th 4:30 - 8:30 pm CC 375

NCBI Welcoming Diversity. Sunday Oct 26th 3 pm - 7 pm CC 375

SSII Tuesday Oct 28 9 am - 11 am CC 370

NCBI Troubled Waters Tuesday Oct 28 th 9:30 - 12 pm CC 367

SSI Thursday Nov 6 th 9 am - 1 pm CC Assembly Hall

SSII Tuesday Nov 18th 9 am - 11 am CC 367

Next Multicultural Student Advisory Council meeting will be taking place within the next two weeks. Working on a new idea called cultures of UAlbany where every week a random student will be photographed and asked questions about their cultures. This will then be posted onto our Instagram (SA cultural affairs) in an effort to advertise cultural awareness and the diversity within our campus.

- Legislative Affairs:

On October 10th, the Legislative Affairs Department turned in almost 500 voter registration forms from campus.

We brought the Mayor to campus in our inaugural "Representatives to Campus" initiative. County Executive Dan McCoy will also be coming. In this initiative, students get a chance to talk directly to their representatives on campus.

- Student Group Affairs:

Working with over 20 potential new student groups - process is going much smoother and faster with the new handbook.

E-Board Mixer - Nov 7 at 3pm, attendance from Student Success and OSI.

Updating paper files of current student groups.

Preliminary planning for Purple and Gold award to have a new panel of judges.

Working on several competitions for student groups, as well as having groups separated into tiers to make competitions fair.

- Gender and Sexuality Concerns:

We had the rainbow flag hung on campus for the first time in history.

We had the 7th annual coming out reception. About 200 people in attendance, one of the largest in recent past.

11/7 is the annual state of higher education luncheon where we will have Dr. Sue Rankin, the researcher behind the Campus Climate Index, speaking on what we need to do to be more progressive around LGBT issues on campus. All invited. Please RSVP to ddumpson@ualbanysa.org if you would like to attend.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernnard, Chair

The CAA committees have scheduled their first meetings and will start reviewing program and general education assessments.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Carol Jewell, Chair

I. Informational

CAFFECoR plans to meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

II. Reports of Actions

CAFFECoR Chair, Carol H. Jewell, has been having email discussions with various units on campus (for instance, UPD, and the Counseling Center), regarding alcohol policy and freedom of expression. These will be discussed at the November CAFFECoR meeting.

III. Recommendations for Actions

N/A

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

We are on time and almost finished forming a number of well- balanced COR sub-committees.

Lorre Smith from the University Libraries gave a presentation on “Launch of Scholars Archive open access repository” at UAlbany.

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

The next CPCA meeting is on Nov. 12.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

I. Informational

The GAC met on October 21, 2014. Among items on the Agenda were review of the GAC’s composition and charge in the Senate Charter and review of a request by the Department of Epidemiology and Statistics, School of Public Health, to revise its MS degree requirements.

Our next scheduled meeting is November 18.

II. Reports of Actions

The proposal by the Department of Epidemiology and Statistics sought to remove a required one credit course (EPI 602: Seminar in Epidemiology) from its core in its MS in Epidemiology and Statistics program and have a four credit course (EPI 612: Quantitative Methods in Epidemiology) designated “required”. The GAC's Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I) found the proposal to be clear, well-supported, justified, and reasonable. For these reasons, the Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal. The GAC gave the Committee’s recommendations final approval.

III. Recommendations for Actions

In response to a request from the Senate Chair Joette Stefl-Mabry, that each Senate council examine its section of the *Senate Charter* and propose any updates as warranted, the GAC met on October 21, 2014 and considered the matter.

As regards composition section X.4.1.6:

No more than 2 voting members selected from Faculty or Staff who are not students or Voting Faculty.

the Council was advised that this language is common to numerous council composition listings and is intended to open the door of participation to part-time faculty or staff. The GAC recommends that the Senate, via its Executive Committee, consider editorial changes to the Charter in the various council sections, to make explicit the intent of such sections.

The GAC recommends by a vote of 12-0-0 on 10/21/14 the following two changes to the *Charter*:

X.4.6.2. New graduate courses and changes to existing graduate courses receive final approval from the schools and colleges, ~~subject to appropriate notification,~~ but the Graduate Academic Council shall have the power to review new courses and changes to existing courses and require reconsideration by the schools and colleges.

~~Notification should be made to the Graduate Academic Council, to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Office of the Vice President or Dean of the affected college or school, and to all other interested parties.~~

This editorial change above is proposed to remove unnecessary procedural references while maintaining the Council’s authority in supervising graduate education on the campus.

*X.4.8.3. The committee shall submit all recommendations to the Council for approval. Policy **additions and/or** changes are then brought to the Senate for consideration if approved by the Council.*

This editorial change above is proposed to add clarifying language regarding the need for the Senate to take action to establish and/or modify graduate academic policies.

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

GOV met on October 29.

II. Reports of Actions

1. The Council voted to accept as written the final reports of the 2014 Surveys of Governance and Consultation (Students and Faculty/Staff).
2. The Council completed the membership roster for its Committee on Liaisons and Elections.
3. The Council nominated a slate of candidates to serve on its Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.
4. The Council took up the question of the replacement of the Chair of UPPC when that person steps down. After reviewing relevant sections of the Charter and By-Laws, it was concluded by unanimous vote that UPPC must elect a new Chair from among its current members who are Senators. It was also concluded that the new Chair will, by virtue of that position, also sit on the Executive Committee, but that s/he will not assume any other functions associated with the Past Chair of the Senate.
5. The Council voted to table discussion of the proposed changes to the Charter with respect to the charges of the CAA until we have received reports from all of the Councils with respect to their charges (as requested by Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry).
6. The Council agreed to conduct elections for Senate designees to various Excellence Award Committees via email.

III. Recommendations for Actions

1. GOV has requested that the the Survey Reports be added to the Senate website.
2. The Committee on Liaison & Elections will look at the Faculty Handbook and the Senate Website for necessary updates and inconsistencies.
3. Chair Fox will invite nominees to serve of the Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation,
4. Chair Fox will contact members by email for nominations to Excellence Committees.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair

The two standing committees started their meetings this month, including elections of the Chairs."

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on November 6th. The Council revisited the Senate Chair's request that all Councils review their charges and procedures. There was discussion about possible reorganization of the Council whereby some of the work of its committees and subcommittees might be moved out of the Council to the appropriate campus unit (e.g. the Office of Undergraduate Education); however, the consensus among members was that such a reorganization would not likely result in clear benefits or necessarily reduce the Council's workload, which is the primary concern among members.

Assistant Vice Provost Sue Freed reported that two undergraduate programs, one in Bio-Instrumentation and the other in Urban Studies and Planning, have been approved by the New York State Education Department.

The Council turned its attention to course proposals from the Physics Department, which were tabled until a future meeting, pending receipt of additional information from the department.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a continuation of the Council's review of the General Education Competencies Plans, which was begun during the 2013-2014 academic year. The competencies plan submitted for the major in Financial Market Regulation was approved. Several other plans were discussed but not voted on pending clarification of specific components of the plans by the departments. To date, twenty-seven plans have been approved. The review process will continue until all competencies plans have been reviewed and approved.

The next UAC meeting is scheduled for November 20th.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

The University Life Council will meet again on November 10th and have a presentation from New Student Programs and the Pathways to Success Involvement Record. In addition, we have reached out to Dean Nasca from the School of Public Health regarding the status of the Tobacco Free Campus Task Force.

Finally, we have also arranged for Joel Bloom from Institutional Research to attend an upcoming meeting to present quality of life data to the Council.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Christine Wagner, Chair

Nothing to report