

## SENATE COUNCIL SUMMARIES

March 20, 2006

### **Council on Academic Assessment (CAA), Malcolm Sherman, Chair**

No report.

### **Council on Research (COR), Vincent Idone, Chair**

COR met on March 8, 2006 and voted to recommend permanent center status for the New York Center for Information Forensics and Assurance. The Committee on Centers, Institutes & Specialized Labs distributed an outline of proposed next steps for center/institute reviews. The review process is consistent with the University's assessment plan. The Researchers Liaison Committee continues to review the feasibility of implementing an "AIRE Model" on the East Campus and College of Arts and Sciences.

Discussion of the issues related to the inconsistency of wording between the respective responsibilities of COR and UPC in the Senate Charter was tabled pending further consideration and clarification of these issues. A proposal has been submitted to governance to create a Department of Informatics in the College of Computing Information. A draft of the Policy Regarding Distribution of Credit for Sponsored Projects Involving More Than one Organizational Unit was distributed and discussed. The draft will be revised based on feedback from Council members. Other policies currently under review include: Conflict of Interest and Distribution of Campus Royalties. The University retained an external consultant, Academic Analytics, to perform a study of 23 doctoral programs, leading to a quantitative assessment of each via calculation of a "Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index." A question of potential relevance exists in that there possibly should have been consultation with COR, given the direct relation between doctoral program activities and the campus research enterprise.

### **Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments (CPCA), David Shub, Chair**

CPCA is meeting weekly, reviewing two cases at each meeting.

### **Graduate Academic Council (GAC), Monica Rodriguez, Chair**

GAC met on March 3, 2006 and discussed a revised version of the Proposal for Standards for Social Work Education submitted by the School of Social Welfare. This amended version was approved by the GAC and a bill was submitted to be considered for action by the Senate. Other business included curricular changes to the Information Sciences and Public Administration and Policy Ph.D. programs, and a graduate policy exception for a student.

### **Governance Council (GOV), Diane Dewar, Chair**

The Governance Council met to discuss the Standards for Social Work Education with Ricky Fortune and Barbara Rio from the School of Social Welfare. The main issues being addressed were the decentralization of the decision process related to academic dismissal, and the composition of the committee that would review student cases in the School of Social Welfare. It was suggested by the Governance Council that the committee should include tenure track faculty with professional social worker input so that academic norms can be established and upheld in the cases reviewed. The Council also briefly discussed the upcoming elections and the process to be used for nominations.

### **Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing (LISC), David Wagner, Chair**

LISC met on Monday, March 6, 2006. The primary issue of concern at the meeting was our review of the composition, purpose and functioning of our committees (i.e., Library Acquisitions and

IT Policy Review). Both committees had previously existed as committees bridging the gaps between academic and administrative concerns. Under the new charter and by-laws, the roles they play and the issues they consider are identified in more exclusively academic terms; either the missions of the committees or the descriptions of these committees in the charter may need some review and revision. We concluded that we needed more information about the purpose and function of some of the committees associated with other Councils, both here and elsewhere, before we could identify what changes, if any, we need to make. We hope to have some of that information available in time for our next meeting, on April 3, 2006.

**Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC), Philippe Abraham, Chair**

UAC has considered the items below and taken the following actions: a) Proposals for the creation of a BA in French Studies/MBA (5 years), a BA in Italian Studies/MBA (5 years), and a BA/MA in Sociology/Public Affairs and Policy have all been referred to the Graduate Academic Council for review; and b) Proposals for phasing out the Geological Sciences B.S. degree Program and the creation of an Interdisciplinary major and minor in Documentary Studies have been referred to the University Planning and Policy Council (UPC).

UAC has approved the proposal to create a minor in Public Health, and is discussing the following: a) reengineering our general education requirements to alleviate issues surrounding students' timely graduation and to be more in-line with our peer institutions; and b) revising our minor requirement.

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

No report.

**University Planning and Policy Council (UPC), Carolyn MacDonald, Chair**

UPC met on January 26 and for an 8 hour meeting February 21, with the assistance of UPC met on January 26 and for an 8 hour meeting February 21, with the assistance of members of the Senate Executive Committee, to consider the university compact plans and planning process. A report was issued to the selective investment committee March 1. UPC meet March 17 to consider the calendar and the draft MOU with SUNY. It will meet March 30 to consider Institute for Social Services Research and Development, the Letter of Intent for a Ph.D in Communication, the China Center, the Documentary Studies Minor/Major, the change in requirement for Biology Lab Courses, the Suspension of BS in Geological Sciences, the proposed department of Informatics, and the proposed temporary suspension of admissions to the organizational studies Ph.D. The resource allocation committee met to review some of these items and also updating financial information on the myUAlbany web site. The facilities committee met and approved the planning process for the purple path.

**Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility (CAFFECOR), Lawrence Snyder, Chair**

CAFFECOR held its first meeting of the spring semester in the Terrace Lounge of the Campus Center at noon on Thursday, March 16, 2006. Lawrence Snyder was interviewed on March 2nd by Amanda May Whistle, Editor for the ASP News, on the "Academic Bill of Rights" resolution that was passed by the Senate last fall.

**Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship (CERS), Richard Zitomer, Chair**

No report.