

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, March 9, 2015
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

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

To work towards initial compliance of the Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany Senate Article I. Section 2.2.2:

2.2.2. The Faculty shall be informed and given opportunity to discuss at the earliest possible stages in their formulation, and shall review and provide formal consultation on, prior to adoption, all proposals regarding:

- (a) Creation, renaming, major re-organization, or dissolution of academic units and programs
- (b) Goals and formal plans directing the future of the University
- (c) Policies or standards governing speech and assembly on the campuses of the University
- (d) Plans for development of new campus facilities, or major modifications or closure of existing facilities

2.2.3. The Faculty shall provide ongoing consultation on institution-wide budget or business initiatives that affect the teaching, research, or service programs of the University. Detailed annual reports shall be provided on actual budget expenditures.

the Senate Chair and Vice Chair have been meeting regularly with the administration:

- 01/06/15 Senate Chair and Vice Chair met with Provost Stellar
- 01/12/15 Senate Chair and UUP Chapter President met with Provost Stellar and Chief of Staff Wirkkula
- 02/25/2015 Senate Chair and Vice Chair met with Chief of Staff Wirkkula
- 02/26/2015 Senate Chair and Vice Chair meeting with Dean David Rousseau has been rescheduled

These meetings do not take the place of formal consultation. In fact, these meetings are to ensure that formal consultation does occur. Formal consultation is defined as:

2.4 The Faculty executes its responsibilities directly, as authorized by Section 2.2.1, by formal consultation as required by Section 2.2.2, and by advising. Faculty participation in such decision-making is to be done via the appropriate governance body as defined by the Senate, or by its Executive Committee, except as provided in Article I, Section 5. These modes of participation are:

2.4.1 **Formal Consultation.** The Faculty shall engage in formal consultation with the President and the administration, as outlined and limited by the Policies of the Board of Trustees, and further characterized by the Chancellor's Statement on Governance

[Faculty Handbook, Section III, p. 1]. Formal consultation is required for matters covered by Article 1, Section 2.2.2. Either the President or the Faculty shall be able to request formal consultation on other matters.

Except where precluded by contractual or other legal restrictions, minimally, formal consultation with the faculty on these proposals shall entail consultation between administration and University governance bodies. Formal consultation shall require communication, preferably in writing, specifying the area or issue for which recommendations are being solicited and accompanied by sufficient information as necessary for an informed recommendation. Formal consultation should occur as soon as issues needing resolution are identified. The faculty shall be given adequate time to respond. A written response to final Faculty recommendations shall be provided, indicating what decisions were made and the basis for such decisions; this should be particularly detailed in instances where faculty recommendations are not followed.

2.4.2 Advice. A group of Faculty may offer an informal expression of opinion or may review and offer recommendations on proposed policy or actions. The advice may be initiated by a governance body or requested by an administrator. The administrator shall communicate the decision and the rationale for it back to the advisory group.

2.5 Faculty Participation in Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies.

Administrators may choose to advance their leadership vision for the University by constituting special committees and task forces, selecting individual faculty members because of their experience or expertise. Ideally, such advisory groups shall be constituted in consultation with the Governance Council of the University Senate and lines of communication with relevant governance bodies shall be enunciated. In any case, such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty. Such groups may freely provide advice; however, for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate shall be consulted in the composition of all major University level search committees and committees to select honorary degree recipients.

2.6 Consultation with Constituent Groups. All Faculty Governance bodies have a responsibility to communicate regularly with their constituency as noted in Article II, Section 1.6, and Article III, and to be responsive when a request for consultation comes from Student Groups.

II. Reports of Actions

N/A

III. Recommendations for Actions

- That CGLs at the University at Albany (Senate Chair, Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair) attend SUNY Plenaries:

April 23-25, 2015, 170th Winter Plenary, Hosted by SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh NY,

Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Senators, Campus Governance Leaders.

October 2015, 171st Fall Plenary Meeting, Hosted by SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo NY

Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Senators, Campus Governance Leaders

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

Report from the UFS Winter Plenary at SUNY Farmingdale, Jan 22-24, 2014.

The plenary occurred the same week as the Chancellor's State of the University Address and the release of the Governor's budget for SUNY. In fact, Chancellor Zimpher gave her address in the morning and drove down to Long Island to talk to the UFS the same afternoon. This meant that a lot of new developments occurred and were considered, the major ones of which are listed below.

1. The Elsevier Contract. SUNY's contract for their bundle of journals, including electronic access ("Science Direct") was renegotiated for \$44M over the next 5 years. This covers almost all SUNY Campuses and is the major budget breaker for SUNY Libraries. Doctoral Institutions pay 74% of this total cost and the cost of this and other blocs is escalating due to the monopolistic publisher practices, and will continue to be a budget problem. SUNY System in past years contributed \$1.2M, and will continue to supply \$0.6M per year plus another \$2.5M over 5 years.

The wider view concerns what SUNY and other large systems nationwide can do to alter the dynamics of journal subscriptions. The current system is held in place largely because publication credits for promotion and tenure revolve around high impact journals, which these giant companies monopolize. Open access journals are being pushed by NIH and other agencies so that results can be made available to all users without charge. However, this means that publishing costs are pushed over to authors in this model, and these can be set very high (and possibly predatory) by publishing corporations as well. The only real solution would be if large systems such as SUNY could get together and establish reputable, high impact, open access journals.

2. SUNY Budget in the Governor's budget proposal. The outlook is quite a bit brighter than in the previous year when the cost of UUP raises were not funded (even though the state had previously agreed to a maintenance of effort), but the new money this year would come with strings attached. The highlights of the Governor's budget includes \$50M for recruiting Master Innovators/Researchers (Full Professors) to spark SUNY's research efforts, especially in clusters

of excellence. In addition there is an additional \$50M for a SUNY Innovation Fund, and both of these are slated to continue at the same rate for 5 years. There is a \$30M loan to support Open SUNY's expansion of online courses and degree programs. The rationale for the loan is that it is expected to bring in more students (and tuition), which should eventually be able to repay the loan. It would pay for infrastructure for Open SUNY such as a common 24 hour hot line and servers, etc. There is only \$2M extra in the main budget, but an additional \$18M for SUNY Excels Plan (more below). On the capital fund side, there is \$200M (this year and continue for 5 years), almost all of which is to cover a backlog of critical maintenance for SUNY's old buildings.

3. SUNY Excels. As you will recall, this is a set of metrics to measure SUNY's commitment to excellence and to year-to-year improvements that the Chancellor envisions as a way to convince the Governor and the Legislature that funds spent on SUNY are a good investment for New York, and worthy of further investments. Already tuition at SUNY is substantially lower than comparable State University campuses, and our degree our BS/BA completion rates are substantially higher than the national average. There are a total of 17 metrics in 5 categories, labeled "Access, Completion, Success, Inquiry and Engagement." Since SUNY has 32 campuses ranging from University Centers, Medical Schools, special schools (optometry, maritime, agriculture), tech schools, 4 year colleges, etc., some of the metrics will apply more so to some campuses than others. For the coming year, each campus will formulate a plan including which of the 17 metrics they will concentrate on, and what measures they will take to improve their scores. Campus governance should be included in the formulation of this plan. There will be a pot of money, which will include not only the \$18M above but a 10% withholding of state tax revenues (since our support is about 35% state tax money and 65% tuition, this would be about 3.5% of our state funds budget). A variable amount of this money will then be reawarded back to the campus according to SUNY central's rating of our plan this year (meeting in December to disburse funds), and in future years according to our progress in meeting the goals we set this year.

The Chancellor also committed, in her State of the University presentation, to increase the total number of SUNY degrees granted per year from the current 92,000 to 150,000 by 2020! This would mean more than 60% increase in only 5 years, presumably through ramping up online degrees in Open SUNY.

Announcement:

SUNY Voices on Shared Governance, MARCH 20-21, 2015 AT Onondaga Community College in Syracuse. This is the second conference of this series, and the deadline for submitting topics for individual papers, panel discussions or roundtables has been extended to Feb 17 (1—250 word descriptions of innovative or challenging shared governance practices on campus or research findings).

Go to <http://www.suny.edu/about/shared-governance/sunyvoices/conference/>.

Two keynote speakers:

Dr. Susan Resneck Pierce, author of *Governance reconsidered: How boards, Presidents, Administrators and Faculty can help their colleges thrive* and *On being presidential: A guide for college and university leaders*.

Dr. Steven C Bahls author of *Shared Governance in times of change: A practical guide for Universities and colleges*.

Conference themes include:

- Integration of technology into the governance process
- “Best Practices”
- Student leadership and institution wide governance
- Engaging stakeholders
- Incorporating shared governance into strategic planning
- Recruitment and support of campus governance members
- Challenges and solutions for multi-campus and system-wide shared governance
- Changing roles of presidents and provosts in shared governance

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

The GSA is having a great semester so far. We recently submitted a bid to the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students to host their summer Leadership Summit. The theme of our proposal was Sustainability and Leadership. It focuses on integrating the value of sustainability into all levels of student and community leadership. We eagerly await a response from the NAGPS to see if we have won the bid. In the meantime if anyone is interested in co-sponsoring this event we are seeking co-sponsorships to ensure that we have a successful program. We believe this program could serve to raise the profile of our University across the nation. Holding this kind of event makes us eligible to be recognized by the NAGPS which would certainly help to communicate our reputation and identity to prospective graduate students across the nation.

We are also happy to announce that we were finally able to put on our Contemplative Leadership Workshop on February 25th which was delayed due to the weather last month. Lee Riddell from

the SUNY Leadership Institute offered a great workshop on self-awareness. It was very well received and we hope to bring her back in the future.

Also, on February 25th we participated in two campaigns; Adjunct Awareness Day and GradHaveDebt2 campaign. Many graduate students wore green ribbons to raise awareness about adjunct working conditions and others participated in the GradHaveDebt2 tweet/message Congress day when graduate students across the nation reached out via social media to their representative regarding student debt, the elimination of lifetime learning credits for graduate students, and the need to more research funds to be appropriated for NIH, NSF, NEH, etc.

We will be following up these efforts by sending GSA representative to the NAGPS Legislative Action Days in Washington D.C. in March to receive advocacy training and lobby our representatives. We also hope to have reps at the SUNY SA advocacy days in DC and Albany in the next two months. On April 8th we will be holding advocacy training and participating in the GradsHaveDebt2 call Congress day. We are very excited to finally be capitalizing on our proximity to to the Capitol while also thinking broadly and engaging with a national network.

Also, on February 25th I was lucky enough to be one of just over a dozen SUNY students who won a lunch with Chancellor Zimpher in downtown Albany. During this lunch we breached the topic of adjunct faculty. Chancellor Zimpher spoke on the issue suggesting that a lot of attention needs to be paid to this constituency for many of the same reasons that President Jones, former Interim Provost Mulcahy and current Provost Stellar convened the Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent Faculty. Chancellor Zimpher promised us (the student reps) opportunities to speak on the issue at the system level. I will be working with Lori Mould the President of SUNY Student Assembly to follow up on this opportunity.

Finally, we also continue to develop a strong working relationship with our new Provost Stellar. His openness to student input has been a catalyst to sharpen our vision and goals for the graduate student body. We recently met about a new initiative/idea which we hope will serve graduate student needs as well as the mission of the University and vision of President Jones. Loosely grounded in the framework of experiential and engaged learning we are developing the idea of Publicly Engaged Professional Development (PEPD). Dr. Stellar has given us the opportunity to organically develop this idea through the graduate student body, but of course as we mold this idea we will be quick to request feedback from faculty, staff, administration, and undergraduates. Regardless of what direction this idea takes off in, it has already facilitated wonderful opportunities for graduate student to connect with University leadership.

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

- Looking forward to planning an event in coordination with University Police as an expression of our gratitude for their presence on our campus. It will be similar to last semester's "APD Appreciation Night" which was held in conjunction with the City of Albany Police Department.

Communications

- Bridging relationships with other Student Governments of Universities in the Capital District.
- Continuing to work with local newspapers and stations, gathering contacts.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- In the preplanning stages of our Relay for Life initiative, helping the organization promote the annual event in April.
- Progressing towards the semi-annual Pine Hills Cleanup.
- Working with Pine Hills Neighborhood Group on implementing a trial program, coordinating with organizations to recruit volunteers interested in more regularly cleaning up the Pine Hills neighborhood in smaller groups at a time.

Dippikill

- Working to expand the department beyond Dippikill Outreach and in the direction of environmental sustainability.

Legislative Affairs

- Working on regularly bringing elected officials to campus to speak and meet students
- Planning the details for an upcoming Forum hosting several local officials, creating a venue for students and representatives to continue the conversation on education.

Marketing

- Successfully Marketed Part 1 of this Semester's Speaker Series- The event is sold out!
- Continuing to work with Student Groups across campus, helping promote events.

Multi-Cultural Affairs

- Working on our "Ravel Unravel" Campaign, a multimedia campaign on religion.
- Planning for our annual Cultural Carnival expected to be in April.

Programming

- Busy preparing for our Speaker Series event featuring Common, Golden Globe and Academy Award winning artist and actor featured in the 2014 film *Selma*.
- Stay tuned for upcoming announcements!

Student Group Affairs

- Planning for our yearly Purple and Gold Awards

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

The Council on Academic Assessment met on Wed. Feb. 11. We approved Council committee reports which reviewed the assessment component of the Natural Sciences General Education program and the assessment component of the Criminal Justice Program. Recommendations were suggested for improvements to some portions of these assessment efforts.

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

CAFFECOR will have its March meeting on March 12, 2015.

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

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

- A new center for the School of Business “**Center for Advancement and understanding of Social Enterprises (CAUSE)**” was approved.
- 13 of the 44 FRAP applications have been approved for funding at a total of \$121,499 (the Division for Research has agreed to provide the additional amount over the usual \$120,000 budget) from a wide variety of departments across campus.
- Three Excellence award recipients were also selected, and notifications for those and the FRAP awards will be issued in the coming weeks...

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

The next CPCA meeting is on March 11.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

Nothing to report

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

1. Gov met on February 6 and February 20.
2. Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula has invited GOV to submit nominations for membership of the search committee for a new Chief Information Officer to replace Christine Haile, who plans to transition out of this role by June 30. The administration seeks to put together a committee roster that is representative of the key stakeholders and members who are sufficiently knowledgeable about the breadth of institutional IT operations as well as conversant in some aspect of the comprehensive role of IT in a comprehensive university. This search does not require the approval of the University Senate, and GOV appreciates that the administration has sought our input nonetheless.
 2. Chair Fox will represent the faculty at the University Council meeting in New York City on February 27.
3. GOV will meet on March 2.

II. Actions taken

1. Based on input from the SEC, minor changes were made to the language of the proposed Bylaws amendment that addresses the Administration's request that we consider removing voting privileges from ex-officio members of the Senate who serve by virtue of their administrative position.
2. We began discussion of a parallel amendment to the Charter, with special attention paid to the question of the possible effect on quorum should voting privileges be removed from administrators who serve as ex-officio members of Senate Councils, Committees, and Sub-committees.
3. We reviewed procedures for the up-coming Senate elections.
4. We began discussion of additional Charter amendments that we have been asked to consider by CAA, LISC, GAC and UAC, respectively.

III. Recommendations for Actions

1. That the Bylaws amendment be distributed to the Voting Faculty and placed on the ballot during the Senate elections that will take place online from March 30 to April 5.

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

The Library Committee and the IT Usage Policy Committee will report on their work during the next LISC meeting scheduled for March 30.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on February 5th. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of university policies regarding prerequisites and restrictions on admission to majors and minors, an issue that the Council first addressed at its last meeting in December. The main question the Council took up was the extent to which departments have authority to set prerequisites for advanced courses in their majors. An existing policy, adopted in 1978, stipulates that “individual departments have the authority to require a ‘C’ or ‘S’ grade in courses that are prerequisite for advanced courses in that area.” In 2013 UAC proposed a policy stipulating that departments had to justify to UAC any restrictions they impose, including prerequisites, that might create obstacles to students as they proceed through the major. This proposal (Senate bill 1213-05) was passed by the Senate. Taken together, these policies mean, in effect, that (1) departments have the authority to require grades of C or S in any courses that are prerequisite for advanced major courses; however, if departments wish to require grades higher than C or S in such courses, they must seek approval from UAC by providing a compelling rationale for such requirements and demonstrating that the requirements would not serve as *de facto* restrictions to students progressing through the major curriculum.

This discussion was initiated by a request from the Physics Department to set a requirement of B- in 300-level courses that are prerequisite for advanced courses in the major. The discussion served to clarify existing policies, and the Council did not see fit to propose any changes to those policies at this time.

The next UAC meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

The ULC met on February 3rd and Brad Bunzey, Project Manager in the Office of Architecture, Engineering and Construction Management presented on the status of the Campus Center Expansion Project. Our next meeting is set for March 2nd.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –David McCaffrey, Chair

At its February 19 meeting, UPPC discussed the proposed Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, and Emergency Management submitted by the Department of Public Administration in Rockefeller College. After an initial discussion, Rockefeller College revised the proposal, with the revision to be reviewed at the UPPC meeting of March 12.