

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate Meeting, March 10, 2008

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -- William Lanford, Chair

This term, CAA's Committee on Program Review (Chair: Peter Duchessi) plans to review the assessments of: Sociology, Communications, Physics, Criminal Justice, Earth and Atmospheric Science, and Psychology programs. In addition, the Committee plans to review and comment on assessment procedures. CAA's Committee on General Education Assessment (Chair: Seth Chaiken) is currently working 2006-07 assessment survey summaries. The University in the High School's General Education courses will be assessed in the same manner as regular (on campus) courses. CAA is waiting for response to the report from the outside reviewers of Project Renaissance.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The Council on Research met on March 5. Vice President Videka presented her report that included the names of winners of SUNY-wide awards. Timothy Gage, of the College of Arts and Sciences (Anthropology), and Ronald Toseland of the School of Social Welfare received the Outstanding Researcher/Scholar award. Hamilton Lankford of the School of Education received the Lifetime Achievement Award and Nathaniel Cady of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and Scott Tenenbaum of the School of Public Health and the Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics received the Rising Star Awards. They will be recognized at the research recognition dinner on April 14 at University at Albany. Vice President Videka also reminded the committee that UAlbany is hosting a SUNY-wide workshop entitled, "Getting Your Proposal Funded" on April 14th (reserve now). The Council reviewed a draft policy statement on the review of Centers, Institutes, and Labs and then heard a report from the Research Liaison Committee regarding helps and hindrances to research on the campus. The meeting was closed with a visit from Dr. James Weyhenmeyer, Senior Vice President for Research, The Research Foundation and the State University of New York.

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

CPCA continues to meet frequently and perform case evaluations.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

The GAC met on 2/21/08. Professor Laurence Kranich was elected as the new GAC Chair, replacing Professor Sally Friedman who was unable to continue as chair this term due to scheduling conflicts. The Council heard reports and acted to approve (1) curricular and program title changes for PhD & MS programs in Environmental Health Sciences (formerly Environmental Health & Toxicology) and (2) a graduate admissions program exception for a cooperative bachelors/masters arrangement with Tecnologico de Monterrey in Mexico. Subsequent to the 2/21/08 GAC meeting, the Council acted via email vote to approve a program title change to the MA program in Africana Studies (formerly African and Afro-American Studies).

GOV (Governance Council) – John Delano, Chair

The Governance Council approved a modified proposal for the DSP/DST selection committee and a proposed charter amendment for CIRAP, both of which are on the SEC agenda. The Council also discussed concerns relating to the operation of and administrative support for UAC.

Motion: A motion was made to report to the SEC that UAC is out of compliance with the *Senate Charter*, and alert the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education of the need to appoint an Assistant Dean from the Office of Undergraduate Education to staff the UAC for *Charter* compliance. The motion was approved.

Two items of New Business are being introduced to the Senate on March 10. One is a revision to Senate Bill 0708-05 dealing with the UAlbany Selection Committee for Distinguished Teaching Professors and Distinguished Service Professors. The original Bill was not signed by Interim President Philip, and has been subsequently revised by the Governance Council to address the specific concern noted by the Interim President. The second item is a proposed amendment to the Senate Charter dealing with the creation of a new level of review for academic proposals (courses and programs) not originating from academic departments and colleges/schools. This proposed amendment will be introduced to the Senate on March 10, and voted on at the April 14 meeting of the Senate.

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

Nothing since the last EC meeting. We've been discussing library budget issues and the charter revision proposal.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair

UAC approved the Financial Analyst Honors Program. The admission requirement for this honors program is an overall GPA of 3.4 and a 3.5 GPA in the major. Students that can not maintain its high standards have the option to transfer to other very valuable and viable finance concentrations: Finance/ITM, Finance/Marketing or Finance/Management.

UAC approved the change in name of the department of “Earth and Atmospheric Science” to “Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences”. The undergraduate program in Geological Sciences has suspended admissions and the suspension of the graduate program was approved earlier this year. Thus the name change is a formality that brings the name of the department in alignment with the current emphasis of the programs the department offers.

UAC approved the name change of ALL the Department of Africana Studies registered programs currently listed under the old name of “African and Afro-American Studies” to the current department’s name: “Africana Studies”.

Because of the condensed nature of Summer and Winter sessions, UAC approved to suspend the de-registration policy for the summer and winter terms.

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

On March 3, 2008, ULC received an extensive report on athletics from VP Lee McElroy and Prof. T. Harrison, responsible for the NCAA/Academic standards link on campus. We are justly proud of our athletic successes and of the academic work of our students who receive scholarships. Their graduation rates and GPAs, with students studying in almost all majors (with a pattern similar to that of all Albany students), are excellent. Attendance at UA's games is also up, showing an increase in campus spirit. Recreational space for all students, faculty, and staff remains a concern. Efforts to manage the intramural program continue to be made.

ULC also briefly discussed changes necessary in the student campus awards nominations process to be sure that those who receive awards meet all the qualifications for them.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Diane Dewar, Chair

The Chair is working with the new staff support to get the next meeting going. The only current agenda item is consideration of the name change for the graduate studies unit.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Sanjay Goel, Chair

The Council met on Friday, February 22, 2008 and discussed two issues: 1) past issue of resolution on academic integrity which was discussed on the senate floor on December 17, 2007 and sent back to CAFFECOR. The committee deliberated over the discussions in the senate and concluded that there is no impact of the honor code on academic freedom. Should an honor code be proposed for adoption CAFFECOR would be one of the groups that should be consulted. We will consider converting our resolution to a report to be submitted at a later date. The committee also started its deliberations on the issue of use of performance enhancing drugs in academics, such as, Adderall, Ritalin, and Provigal. The deliberations are continuing and are expected to result in an informative report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Zai Liang, Chair

Following the meeting with Interim President and other related parties on February 8, CERS met on February 21 to discuss issues raised at that meeting. Per Interim President’s suggestion, CERS plans to form an Ad Hoc Misconduct Policy Amendment Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee’s roster and its charge are discussed at the meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to have its first meeting in March.