

**University at Albany  
State University of New York**

**2005-2006 University Senate Executive Committee  
Monday, November 7, 2005 3:30 – 5:30 Standish Board Room**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, R. Collier, D. Dewar, S. Herbst, V. Idone, W. Lanford, A. Lyons, C. MacDonald, S. Messner, E. Redkey, M. Rodriguez, J. Savitt, M. Sherman, D. Shub, L. Snyder, D. Wagner, R. Zitomer

**Guest:** J. Wagner

**Minutes:** The minutes of September 26, 2005 were approved.

**President's Report:** Presented by Provost Susan Herbst (the Provost was delayed; her report followed the Chair's Report and appears below).

**Chair's Report:** Presented by Steven F. Messner, Chair

Council Summaries: S. Messner thanked everyone for submitting the council summaries prior to the meeting. He indicated that he would circulate summaries to the full Senate before the Senate meeting, and asked committee members to update as needed no later than noon the Friday before the Senate meeting.

Compact Planning: The original procedure for governance involvement in compact planning entailed the assignment of liaisons. It was decided at the last meeting that the Executive Committee would serve as a clearinghouse for questions. S. Messner reported that he had sent a memo to relevant administrators informing them of this decision and inviting them to direct inquiries to him.

Mission Review II: SUNY Provost Salins will visit as part of Mission Review II. The Provost contacted S. Messner with tentative dates, and asked him to make himself available. Members noted that there should be significant involvement of governance in the process. R. Collier observed that the two SUNY-wide senators are supposed to participate, along with the Senate Chair. These three members constitute a minimum of representatives from the Senate. S. Messner will contact the Provost to communicate this minimum requirement and indicate the preference of the Executive Committee for greater representation than the minimum.

Undergraduate Senators: N. Davis has been in contact with the student organizations and is trying to get names of the undergraduate student senators. There was a problem with the student elections, and they are being re-held on Monday and Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. As soon as the names are available, they will be transmitted to D. Dewar for council assignments.

SUNY Faculty Senate Meeting: S. Messner attended the fall plenary meeting, as did W. Lanford and R. Collier. Two resolutions were passed that are relevant to the Executive Committee. The SUNY-wide Senate passed a bill opposing the so-called "Academic Bill of Rights." Other campuses have been encouraged to endorse this action. This matter is currently on the agenda of CAFFECOR. The SUNY-

wide Senate also passed a bill supporting the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC). Further discussion was deferred to “new business.”

Senate-Sponsored Forum: The Chair announced that the Senate-sponsored forum on the Solomon Amendment has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00 PM. The forum will begin with a video of a moot court demonstration of a case pending before the U. S. Supreme Court. After the video, panelists, including representatives from student groups and J. Acker from Criminal Justice, will offer remarks. S. Messner will moderate. This event is co-sponsored by the Division of Student Success and University Auxiliary Services.

Brown Bag Lunch: S. Messner reminded members of a Brown Bag lunch with the President scheduled for tomorrow.

**President’s Report:** Presented by Provost Susan Herbst

Board of Visitors: Provost Herbst reported that President Hall would like to put together a board of visitors. This board would review our compacts and priorities and would offer advice. This is a great way to get input, as well as to publicize the University. A Chair has been selected from Georgia, Steven Portch. As soon as there are enough acceptances to complete the board, they will probably meet twice in 2006.

Mission review II: Provost Herbst noted that she and President Hall were just coming on board when Mission Review had been sent to SUNY. The report was very comprehensive and a lot of good work was involved, but it was not very pointed in some respects. The compact planning process is relevant to the Mission Review, but it will not be finished until April or May. The University has been given a reprieve for the site visit. It will now be in mid-December. S. Messner informed the Provost of the discussion earlier in the meeting about Senate representation in the process. The Provost indicated that she would confer with President Hall and get back to him to work out logistics. At some point, a document of “dialogue points” will be circulated.

URPAC: C. MacDonald asked about URPAC, a body that is supposed to be chaired by the Provost, but has not been meeting. The UPC has taken over its role to some extent, but there is considerable uncertainty about how URPAC should be replaced. C. MacDonald expressed concern that appropriate mechanisms be in place to provide governance input on matters related to budgets and resources. This issue needs to be resolved with the administration, perhaps through UPC.

**Review of Senate Agenda for 11/21/2005:**

The following items were on the agenda for the next Senate meeting as of the present date:

- (a) UAC: Policies and Practices Concerning Undergraduate Academic Advising and Mentoring
- (b) GAC: Proposal to Establish a Dual Degree Program, M.S.W/ M.P.H.
- (c) UAC and GAC: Proposal to Establish a Combined Program, B.A. in Judaic Studies/ M.B.A.
- (d) UAC and UPC: Proposal to Establish a University-wide Honors College
- (e) UAC and UPC: School of Business Frosh Admissions

The Chair asked those responsible for introducing bills to be sure get clean copies of the final versions to the Senate Office in time for circulation.

**New Business:**

- (a) GOV: Selection Committees for Distinguished Teaching and Service Ranks: The Governance Council discussed the selection committee for the Distinguished Service and Distinguished Teaching Professorships. They met with R. Bosco and W. Hedberg (who took over for D. Farrell) to review the current policy for the committee membership. The Council determined that the current policy needed some changes. They came up with the following list of membership for the selection committee:

Chair of the Senate, 3 Distinguished Service Professors appointed by the Executive Committee, with the President's concurrence: Prof. David Andersen, Prof John Pipkin, Prof. Edna Acosta-Belen, 3 Distinguished Teaching Professors appointed by the Executive Committee with the President's concurrence: Prof. John Delano, Prof Jan Hagen, Prof. James Acker, 1 member designated by the President as ex-officio: TBD, 1 graduate student: TBD, and 1 undergraduate student: TBD.

The Council noted that there are no mechanisms for revolving terms, and it would like to initiate a rolling cycle of members for continuity. And as per the guidelines, the President will appoint only one member (the ex-officio). D. Dewar has talked to the prospective members, and they are willing to serve on the committee.

(1) D. Dewar moved that the new composition of the selection committee be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(2) D. Dewar moved to approve the names on the list as shown for the current committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(b) CAA: Addendum to Procedures for Joint Review of Departments' Undergraduate Courses: CAA proposes to expand the scope of the departments' self-assessments of their undergraduate programs. At present, departments are asked to assess only undergraduate major programs, even though students complete much of their coursework outside of the major. CAA proposes that reviewed academic units, in addition to periodic review of undergraduate major programs, shall evaluate the manner and extent to which a reviewed academic unit's undergraduate courses serve those undergraduate students whose majors are located outside the department, school, or program.

M. Sherman raised the issue of whether CAA has the authority to institute such a change and report it to the Senate, or if a bill is required. Discussion ensued about the rationale for the change and proper procedure. It was decided that CAA has broad authority to interpret policies pertaining to these matters, and thus that a report to the Senate is appropriate. It was noted that any senator is entitled to challenge items in a council report on the Senate floor.

(c) Religious Holidays and the Academic Calendar: Prior to the meeting, the Chair had circulated to the Committee a letter from Senator Range expressing his views on the religious holidays issue, a memo from J. Reilly summarizing legal advice, and a draft motion to allow senators to vote on different options. Extensive discussion ensued. M. Rodriguez reported her experience that many faculty are not aware of this discussion. She noted that she is trying to get the word out. In discussions with faculty, she has encountered divergent views on the matter.

There was a motion to follow parliamentary procedures to continue discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

L. Redkey reported that the GSO would be meeting this Friday and that this would be the first time a large group of Graduate Students will have had the opportunity to discuss this issue. She indicated that graduate students would object to being presented with the three options in the draft that had been circulated, because they would feel that they had not been given the opportunity for meaningful input.

D. Shub stated that there are no clear and compelling justifications to cancel classes for religious holidays, until we actually change the policy and see if there are administrative disruptions.

C. MacDonald introduced a motion to go forward with the ballot with 3 options enumerated in the draft that had been circulated (after some minor editing.) The motion was seconded. Some friendly amendments were suggested. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

D. Shub introduced a motion to bring to the Senate the bill on the calendar policy proposed by ULC last spring. This bill stipulates that classes not be suspended for religious holidays. The motion was seconded. Discussion about wording ensued, and a minor modification was made to make clear that the policy does not apply to religious holidays that are also federal holidays. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

D. Shub moved that the Executive Committee formally endorse the option contained in the bill to be introduced on the Senate floor. The motion was seconded. Several committee members argued that taking a stand at this stage would be premature, given that more input is expected at the Senate meeting. The motion was defeated. The bill will thus be presented to the Senate without any endorsement. Depending on the outcome of the Senate meeting, the Executive Committee might decide to take a formal stand on the policy at its next meeting.

(d) Alfred University and the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC): R. Collier reported that NYSCC has been having a great deal of difficulty retaining its identity and integrity, given a series of actions over an extended period of time taken by administrators at Alfred University. The situation has recently deteriorated. At the fall plenary meeting, the SUNY Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of the NYS College of Ceramics. Other campuses have been encouraged to endorse this resolution. R. Collier moved that the Executive Committee introduce a resolution to the University Senate making such an endorsement. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(e) Campus governance: R. Collier reported that at the request of Potsdam, the Senate approved a resolution that "Campus governance organizations should be formally consulted and involved before an Interim President or Unit Head is appointed.

**Meeting adjourned:** Next meeting Monday, December 5, 2005, President's Conference Room  
UAB427