

University Senate

Monday, October 15, 2018

2:45 PM – 4:45 PM

CC West Boardroom

James Mower, Senate Chair

MINUTES

Meeting convened at 2:50

President's Report

President Rodríguez shared the following updates:

- **General**

- We have made a great deal of progress on many plans, initiatives, and activities that we have been discussing over the past year: Strategic Plan, Branding Initiative, Fundraising and Comprehensive Campaign, Organizational restructuring, Athletics successes, others.
- Earlier this month we submitted an Annual Report to the Chancellor -- accomplishments and goals in the report support the Strategic Plan's five core priorities. He reminded that it is important that we align our various efforts with our Strategic Plan, including our Mission, Vision, Values, and Core Priorities.

- **Enrollment Update:**

- Broke a record for the largest applicant pool—and were able to close the freshman class admissions process in the spring for the first time since 2005.
- Met our targets for both undergraduate and graduate enrollments.
- Total enrollment for Fall 2018 is **17,937 total with 13,598 Undergraduate and 4,339 Graduate**—representing a slight increase in both columns (UG +86, Grad +109 over this time last year).
- The President thanked the Provost, the Deans, and faculty for their hard work in reaching our targets, and indicated that next year we are aiming to surpass 18,000.
- UAlbany moved from 150 to 141 in the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings and moved up 10 points in Washington Monthly's rankings.
- Masters and PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering was approved by the State Dept. of Education and will be ready to be offered soon.

- **Provost Search**

- Provost Stellar will return to the faculty at the end of this semester, and a national search is being launched.
- A diverse committee is being formed that is as representative as possible of the campus community while still being a manageable size.
- The committee will have a designee from the Senate, along with Student Leadership, Campus Administration, Deans, VPs, and it's slightly bigger than originally envisioned (19 rather than 15) in order to have more faculty representation across disciplines and scholarly areas, with an overrepresentation (7-8) of faculty on the Committee -- invitations went out and 100% agreed to serve.

- Responses from search firms are being vetted from the RFP, and the President expects to bring the committee together and charge them before the end of the month.
- A webpage is being finalized that will include all the information on the search.
- **Strategic Plan**
 - The implementation process is underway--the Implementation Team has met numerous times, and the President participated in the last meeting.
 - The team has been asked to identify 3-4 key proposals under each core priority—and the President will bring these initiatives to the Executive Council for their review.
 - Metrics are being developed for each area to track progress, and funding is being identified; Executive Council is focusing on potential funding opportunities for these initiatives, which will focus on potential reallocation, new internal funding, and new external funding.
- **Middle States**
 - The President thanked Jason Lane and Jeanette Altarriba for their leadership as co-chairs, as well as Bruce Szelest, Jack Mahoney, the Steering Committee and the workgroup members.
 - 75 faculty, staff, and students are directly engaged in the process, and everything is on track for a March 2019 release of the draft self-study to the campus for review and feedback.
- **Homecoming and Campaign Launch**
 - Invitations will be going on for Friday at 5:00 at the Fountain to formally launch our Comprehensive Campaign.
 - Saturday morning at 10 am—University Update and Showcase—the inaugural event in the new Campus Center Auditorium.
- **Other**
 - Enrollment Management will be moving from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs for a more holistic and synergistic approach to the student life cycle at UAlbany.
 - Workforce Vacancy Committee reviewing proposals
 - UUP Labor Management Meeting regarding the process for the next discretionary salary review as authorized in the recently approved Agreement – UAlbany is working on the process.
 - Different constituent groups are being consulted University-wide about various topics, including Senate Executive Committee and the University Senate, including the calendar by Karen Chico Hurst, and commencement by Christy Doyle.

Questions were asked and answered regarding the Workforce Planning Committee, the implementation process for the strategic plan, and the website. Additional related clarifying questions were asked and answered by the Provost.

Approval of minutes

Vote: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions

Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Communication

It was shared that this is an interim credential as a means for students to distinguish themselves in the job market. The certificate is built mostly existing courses; the department has been developing courses for online delivery for several years and is well-prepared. In response to

questions, it was shared that issues of diversity and intercultural concerns are threaded through a number of the courses, and that there are no shared resource courses, but there is a BA/MA program.

Vote: 37 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions

Resolution to Urge the University at Albany for Childcare

It was shared that this resolution has been circulating for over a year, and in ULC for about a year, to make sure all stakeholders were accommodated. This originally came from graduate students, but ultimately the resolution was expanded to include all student parents. Members expressed appreciation that this has been brought forward. It was clarified that this is just a resolution (not a bill) which urges consideration but has no binding force.

Vote: 33 approved, 1 opposed, 3 abstained.

Approval of Council and Committee Assignments

In May the Senate approves council members for the next year's senate; since there has been a number of changes since May we need a new round of approvals.

Discussion: Make Tim Weaver the right level

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

Reports:

UFS: Going on Thursday to Binghamton for fall plenary. Asked that if senators want anything brought forward to please just send to one of the three SUNY Senators. UFS senators meet with the 4 research institutions to craft questions for the chancellor.

CoR: All subcommittees have been filled, now are working on evaluating the awards that have been submitted, meeting next week.

GOV: Will be looking at the faculty handbook, beginning in November, with new faculty handbook to the faculty by March in time to look for new members. Reminder of the Online Forum, CCW at 12pm.

ULC: Attended the event of responding to the Kavanaugh hearings. Working on a policy encouraging trauma informed policies. Several upcoming tobacco free programs on campus. Welcome any efforts that faculty or staff are doing to do trauma informed dialogues.

UPPC: Working on making all of the reports available on the website. UPPC has approved the proposal for calendar changes, with notation of a few concerns. Karen Chico Hurst has gone around to several groups to consult various groups and address sticking points. As a planning item it is important to have five-year plan, but there are still concerns about how to address holidays. All the changes that have been made in the past have been approved by the Senate.

Looking for a bill at next meeting. It is mandated by New York State that students not be harmed for observing their religious holidays.

All other councils and committees either did not have chairs present or had nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned: 4:08pm.