

University at Albany
State University of New York
University Council

Minutes
February 27, 2015

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on February 27, 2015 at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, New York, NY. Members present were: Michael Castellana, Chair; Robert Balachandran; Nancy Burton; Nick Butler (Elected Student Member); Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy (by phone); Mark Eagan (by phone); John Fallon; James Jackson (by phone), Abner JeanPierre; Cynthia Fox (Faculty Representative); Timothy Murphy (Alumni Representative, by phone); and Bryant Barksdale (Graduate Student Representative). Also present were President Robert Jones; Vice Presidents James Stellar and Fardin Sanai; Chief Information Officer Christine Haile; Janet Thayer, Counsel's Office; Anne Marie Murray, Associate Provost for Program Development; Sheila Seery, Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations; Chantelle Cleary, Title IX Coordinator; and Leanne Wirkkula, Chief of Staff.

Mr. Beditz confirmed that the members present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. After requesting that the Governance Report be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion, he asked for a motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items (Caldwell/JeanPierre) which passed unanimously. He then gave the floor to President Jones for his report.

President Jones began with an introduction of the University at Albany's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. James Stellar. President Jones expressed his excitement regarding Dr. Stellar's appointment to this most critical position, and made note of Dr. Stellar's engagement, ideas and perspective. He is a wonderful addition to the University's management team. The President then updated the Council on the status of six additional critical searches, including Vice Provost for International Education, the Dean of the School of Criminal Justice, the Dean of the School of Social Welfare, the Chair of our new Computer Engineering program, Vice President for Communication and Marketing, Associate Vice President of Human Resources (making note of the long and valued service of James Mancuso, who is retiring from that position after many years of exemplary service) and Chief Information Officer. He expressed his gratitude to Christine Haile for her service as CIO, noting her plan to retire in June. On a final staffing matter, the President remarked upon the recent retirement of Vice President for Student Success Christine Bouchard. That position has been filled on an interim basis by Dr. Michael Christakis, and a search will be conducted at some future point.

President Jones went on to discuss the many opportunities we currently have to make the University at Albany a more comprehensive institution. With much encouragement from large local employers such as General Electric and Global Foundries, we are well along in our plans to create a Computer Engineering major, as well as potential additional engineering programs in the future. President Jones then discussed the creation of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Cyber, and Homeland Security. The College is being created at Governor Cuomo's request and has received initial funding of \$15 million. As the University presently enjoys strong assets in this area, the initiative will consolidate our existing programs along with other highly regarded component programs around the State. The President went on to note that discussions regarding a deep affiliation with Albany Law School are moving forward apace. A Letter of Intent articulating this plan should be finalized shortly. Next, he noted that discussions with Downstate Medical Center regarding partnership opportunities continue. Finally he noted that we recently hosted our second large conference on big data/big data analytics. We are forging ahead on a number of initiatives under that rubric and will be using the capacity of our new Data Center as an important resource in supporting it. On behalf of the Council, Mr. Castellana thanked the President and his executive team for identifying and pursuing these exciting and important opportunities. Moreover, Mr. Castellana noted that President Jones has "opened the Campus gates" to the Capital District community and has, in an unprecedented way, positioned University at Albany as a vital community partner and asset. In conclusion President Jones noted that while we "have a lot on the table" we must continuously move forward, lest the University fall behind. Maintaining the status quo is simply not an option.

Mr. Castellana then asked for a motion to remove the Governance Report from the Consent Agenda. (Balachandran/JeanPierre). He noted that the report was welcome and did not question its content. Rather, he raised the question as to where the Council's responsibilities for governance leave off and the University's Faculty Senate's responsibilities for governance begin. Is there overlap? A dialogue ensued (Fox, Fallon, Castellana) and it was agreed that a better definition the roles and responsibilities of the respective bodies would be helpful. Accordingly, the Council has requested clarification at a future meeting.

Moving on to new business, President Jones introduced Anne Marie Murray, who presented on the creation of the Computer Engineering program and major. She elaborated on President Jones' earlier comment that this academic program is what industry wants. The initial offering will enable students to bridge the gap between computer science and electrical engineering in order to train as network engineers. The curriculum will build upon our existing strengths in computer science, mathematics, and physics. The new major will be housed in the College of Computing and Information. Going forward, we anticipate developing additional computer engineering and software engineering majors, including graduate programs in these disciplines. The timeline is as follows; by June we will name a chair of the new department; by August we will have three assistant professors in place; this fall we will admit our first students,

anticipating governance approval of the new major. A discussion ensued regarding timeline, accreditation, graduate placements, and funding (Balachandran, Caldwell, JeanPierre, Murray, Jones).

Moving on to other business Sheila Seery discussed the University's 2015 legislative agenda. Our priorities are: capital support for the construction of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (\$15 million); the creation of a NYSTAR Center of Excellence in Atmospheric and Environmental Prediction and Innovation (\$250,000); and additional capital support for the Downtown Community Revitalization Initiative (the Schuyler Building). Furthermore, we are requesting additional capital funding for critical maintenance. As it stands, the Governor's budget proposes for the Campus an appropriation of \$10.1 million, which is inadequate to address our identified deferred critical maintenance.

We are also supporting an extension of the original SUNY 20-20 legislation beyond next year's expiration. Finally, we are requesting that funding for the negotiated wage increases that will occur in 2015-16 (calculated to be \$7 million) be included in our operating budget; it currently is not. The Council's support in pursuing this agenda is requested. Accordingly, the Office of Governmental Relations will provide materials that will facilitate the Council's fluency on these issues as well as suggested language and talking points to be used when speaking or writing on behalf of the University. A discussion regarding prioritizing this list of requests and next steps (Eagan, Castellana, Seery, Wirkkula) followed.

Moving on to new business, Chief Information Officer Christine Haile made a presentation on the development of a Campus' information technology strategy. Such a strategy is critical to enhancing our public profile, our teaching and learning efforts, and our business processes. She noted that stakeholder and town hall meetings have taken place with participation by students, faculty and staff. She expects reports from the working teams shortly, and the initiative will continue so informed. Chairman Castellana encouraged her to address this as a critical business decision.

Moving on to new business, Janet Thayer of Counsel's Office introduced Chantel Cleary, the University's new Title IX Coordinator. Ms. Thayer then summarized the need for modifications of our Community Rights and Responsibilities document. These changes are necessary to conform to recently promulgated New York State policies as well as SUNY Board of Trustees policy. The changes basically codify existing Campus practices and consolidate and clarify various existing provisions on sexual violence prevention and response. Upon motion to approve the proposed resolution (Balachandran/Caldwell) it was unanimously supported.

Moving on to new business, Vice President Fardin Sanai spoke in support of two School of Business naming resolutions. The first recognizes the Massry family's \$5.25 million gift. Upon motion (Caldwell/Butler) the Council unanimously approved naming the new

School of Business building *The Massry Center for Business*. In addition, Mr. Sanai recommends that, in recognition of its \$563,390 gift of software licenses, instruction/training and technical support to the Digital Forensics program, the ARC GroupNY be recognized by naming the Digital Forensics Laboratory the *ARCGroup of NY Incident Response Laboratory*. Upon motion (Balachandran/Burton) the resolution passed unanimously.

In closing, Chairman Castellana introduced three items for the good of the order. First, he noted the passing of former Council member Richard Hanft. Mr. Hanft ably served on the Council from 1987 until 2003 and was an ardent supporter of UAlbany athletics before and after his Council service. Next, Mr. Castellana thanked Council member James Clancy for his willingness to assist in the search for the Vice President of Communication and Marketing. Next, he noted the required fourth meeting of the Council will need to take place over the summer. Accordingly, Mr. Beditz will canvass the Council to determine the most opportune date. Last, Alumni Association Representative Timothy Murphy noted that his term on the Council is now expiring, and a new representative will assume the position at the May meeting. Mr. Murphy agreed to come to the May meeting to introduce his successor and receive the Council's proper thank you and send off.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully,
Stephen J. Beditz
University Liaison to the Council