

**University at Albany, State University of New York
Governance Council**

Monday, March 16, 2009

Michael Range, Chair

Minutes

Present: Erin Bell, Ray Bromley, Nan Carroll, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Jane Domaracki, John Monfasani, Theresa Pardo, Michael Range, John Schmidt

The meeting convened at 11:31 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of March 2, 2009 were approved as written.

CHAIR'S REPORT BY MICHAEL RANGE

Senate Chair John Delano reported at the last Senate meeting that the Budget Advisory Group had completed its work and formulated a written report which was released to the University community last week. Ed Cupoli, a member of BAG, informed GOV that BAG was charged to develop principles to guide the president. They were not charged with dealing with budget details. He added that it would be effective if the process were to continue but BAG is not charged to do so. Nan Carroll suggested that GOV make a recommendation to the SEC that GOV would like to see the process continue, seeking involvement from various groups, including faculty, and providing feedback on the general principles in the report.

In other budget related items, GAC Chair Laurence Kranich reported to the Senate that the Dean of Graduate Studies had notified the Council on a directive concerning cuts for new and existing assistantships. The Dean communicated to GAC that programs have been divided into three categories: one group will not be permitted to offer assistantships to new students for '09-'10, a second group will have their number of new-to-program assistantships reduced, and a third group will be permitted to maintain their current level. GAC was concerned due to the lack of their involvement with this decision. The Senate Executive Committee addressed the issue at a special meeting on Friday, March 13. SEC members felt strongly that decisions impacting programs at the undergraduate and graduate level should involve consultation with governance. The SEC drafted a statement to that effect asking to suspend the decision by the Dean of Graduate Studies. The statement was delivered to the Interim President and the Provost on March 16, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of feedback re: Consultation Amendment:

Chair Range informed GOV that the amendment had been introduced at the last Senate meeting on March 9. Chair Range referred to the e-mail and documentation received from Bruce Szelest disputing the second bulleted item in the GOV summary report to the Senate pertaining to the Periodic Review Report (PRR) to the Middle States Commission. Chair Range had informed Mr. Szelest that he accepts the information provided and agreed to strike the item from the record. An alternate version was discussed and approved which noted that guidelines from

Middle States make it clear that the institution should be broadly involved and should have adequate time to discuss the report. The time frame for reviewing the 2005 PRR report was very short since it was distributed at the end of the semester and was due at the beginning of June. In response to another concern raised by Bruce Szelest, GOV discussed and approved a revision to the last bulleted item to clarify that a co-chair for the Steering Committee is not a MSCHE requirement, but just one of several suggested models. The revisions will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

IRCUAP Amendment:

Chair Range began the discussion and drew GOV member's attention to item #2 on the first page stating the amendment go into effect immediately once approved. There is no text indicating that it should go to the president for approval. After some discussion regarding which amendments require the president's approval, it was decided to add the third step seeking his approval.

Ray Bromley asked that the clause in parenthesis concerning study abroad be given a specific item number. It was agreed that it would be included under XI.3.

The section under recusal requirement was discussed and the question was raised as to whether or not this needed to be included. The subject of recusal should be addressed in the Senate handbook, but since IRCUAP is not a Senate committee, it is not covered by those rules. It was decided this section should remain but to amend "units" to "departments, programs and offices".

Revisions will be added to the UAC section of the Charter with a corresponding section to reference IRCUAP and the responsibilities charged to the Council once proposals have been approved by IRCUAP.

A motion was made to move the amendment to the Senate Executive Committee at its next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Update on Senate Handbook

Theresa Pardo has sent some formatting changes to the subcommittee charged with updates. A version will be sent to GOV members for review and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring 2009 Nominations and Elections for Governance Positions

Senate Secretary Richard Collier provided GOV members with a list of Senate positions that need to be filled, including the Vice Chair of the Senate, Senators at large, SUNY wide Senator, and UAS positions. He asked GOV members to think about people that might be willing to serve in these positions. It was agreed that a special meeting of GOV would be set for March 23 to discuss possible nominees. Secretary Collier also informed GOV the he is working with Tom Bessette to set up electronic voting this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.

Recorded and submitted by

Gail Cameron