

2007-2008 University Senate Executive Committee

March 31, 2008

Reed Hoyt, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Richard Collier, John Delano, Sanjay Goel, Reed Hoyt,
Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, Susan Phillips,
Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Karin Reinhold-Larsson,
Joan Savitt

Minutes: The Minutes of February 25, 2008 were approved

Interim Provost Report, by Susan D Phillips:

- **Budget:** Interim Provost Phillips reported on potential reduction scenarios for this year. She explained that each unit's budget person has been asked to look at what they would reduce in their departments, estimating from 1.6 to 2.7%. (The exact amount of reduction is not yet known.) She noted that keeping an eye on academics is most important.
- **First Year Experience:** Interim Provost Phillips reported that she has been reviewing First Year Experience and UFSP courses. She indicated she would like to "step back" and make some strategic plans in this regard. She proposed putting together a task force made up of a group of faculty to look at best practices here at UAlbany and else where, in order to determine the package UAlbany will want to offer. The specifics on the task force will be forwarded to the Governance Council for review and implementation.
- **New Scholarships:** Interim Provost Phillips reviewed the list of new the Goldwater Awards winners.

Senate Chair's Report, by Reed Hoyt:

- **Presidential Search:** The search committee continues its work.
- **Diversity Audit:** The self-study continues.
- **Faculty Forum:** The Faculty Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Assembly Hall. The topic will be undergraduate experience on Campus; a title will be announced soon.
- **Middle States Review:** UAlbany is scheduled for review of its accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education soon.
- **CNSE Undergraduate Proposal and Statement:** Chair Hoyt reported that he hopes to get this through Senate before the end of the year. Senate Secretary Collier noted that UPC will have to initiate a Letter of Intent. The Proposal will go to UPC.

SUNY-wide Senate Report: There is nothing new to report.

Discussion on *ex officio* council members being committee chairs: Senator Raffalovich spoke in favor of granting Council *ex officio*'s the ability to chair Council subcommittees. He explained that often times, the people who have the most knowledge about the subcommittee charge, is the *ex officio* members of the Council, especially on LISC. After lengthy discussion, it was suggested to discontinue the two LISC subcommittees and have the CIO and/or the Director of the Libraries come to the LISC meetings and discuss issues that arise within the Council pertaining to their departments.

Discussion on Email as an "official" means of communication with students: Senator Raffalovich asked for an explanation why the proposal was objected to by Administration last year. Chair Hoyt said he will look in to the matter.

New Business:

Senate Bill 0708-14: Financial Analyst Honors Program. UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson introduced the bill and explained the amendments made to the Bill as discussed at the last SEC meeting. All were in favor of bringing the amended bill to Senate.

Senate Bill 0708-15: SUMMER/WINTER Deregistration Policy. UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson introduced the proposal. It was agreed to bring the proposal to Senate with one abstention.

Senate Bill 0708-16: Individual Concentration for Combined MBA Programs: The proposal was introduced by UAC Chair Reinhold Larsson. (UAC)There was discussion on this proposal and it was agreed that the proposal should go to GAC first, before going to Senate.

Senate Bill 0708-10: (Amended) Revision of Requirements to Graduate from the Honors College: The proposal was introduced by UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson. There was discussion on this proposal and a motion was made to have Senate Chair Hoyt contact the Honors College Governing Board to obtain approval. It was moved to send this to Senate with the approval of the Honors Board, all were in favor.

Council and Committee Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -William Lanford, Chair. Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair. Nothing to report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair. The Council is very busy and continues to review three to four cases a week.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair. Nothing to report.
Next meeting April 17.th

GOV (Governance Council) – John Delano, Chair. The Governance Council has not met since the last Senate meeting on March 10. Since that meeting, the Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse, has kindly provided a summary of the remarks that she made concerning the proposed amendment to the Senate Charter for the creation of IRCAP, a new review committee for academic proposals originating from non-academic units at the institution. Those comments, and those stated at the March 10 Senate meeting by Vice Provost Sue Faerman, will be the principle agenda item at the upcoming meeting of the Governance Council on Friday, April 4. During that meeting, the Governance Council will consider possible revisions to the proposed amendment.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair. LISC is discussing the Library Budget. It has been flat for several years; acquisitions are down. Chair Hoyt suggested inviting Dean D’Andraia to the next SEC meeting in order to discuss the current Library accreditation.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair. UAC unanimously approved the change of name from “Minor in International Perspectives” to “Minor in International Studies,” bringing the minor’s name in alignment with similar programs nationwide. The proposal from the Honors College changing the requirements for the Honors College program from six honors courses to: “18 credits in honor courses with a maximum of 4 credits in 1 credit honors courses” was approved by UAC. The Senate examined this proposal earlier in the fall semester. The new version incorporates the recommendation of the Senate limiting the number of 1 credit courses allowed. The changes are as follows: Honors College students will be required to take ~~six~~ **18 honors courses credits in honors courses** before their junior year. (Students ~~admitted after one semester in residence will be required to take five courses;~~ students beginning in the Honors College after two semesters **in residence at UAlbany** will be required to take ~~four~~ **12 courses credits**.) **A maximum of 4 of the 18 credits may be earned through one-credit honors courses.** UAC unanimously approved the creation of an “Individual Concentration” that would allow students registered in the combined BS Business/MBA to graduate when the courses they have taken do not particularly fit any of the current concentrations. UAC is currently studying the Writing Proposal from the Provost’s Task Force on Undergraduate Writing Instruction. UAC had two meetings with Dr. Robert Yagelski, from the Dept. of Educational Theory & Practice.

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC met on March 17. Three main areas were discussed: (1) student concerns about CDTA buses not stopping to pick up students in locations where UA buses do [this appears to have been resolved now]; (2) UA’s new BRisk group and its subgroups, all dealing with responses to urgent situations on campus. BRisk is chaired by John Murphy, who also is a member of ULC, and therefore can serve as an unofficial conduit between BRisk and the council; and (3) smoking on campus, in particular, in the vicinity of doorways. While the members of ULC would be delighted to see an overall reduction in smoking on campus, it is not clear at this point that revisions to policies which are currently not enforced will improve the situation.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Diane Dewar, Chair. UPC has not had any business this semester. The name change for Graduate Studies has been put on hold due to work

still being done on it in the Provost's office. UPC has also not received anything to date from UAC or GAC officially for review.

CAFFECOR - (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Sanjay Goel, Chair. CAFFECOR is currently in the process of investigating the impact of academic performance-enhancing drugs on academic freedom and community responsibility. On March 14, 2008, Dolores Cimini, Director of Middle Earth Counseling Center, gave a presentation to the group which highlighted usage patterns, demographics, and health effects of using drugs such as Adderall, Concerta, and Ritalin to give a better understanding of the issue. She also discussed what is currently being done at the University at Albany to assess and deal with students who seem to be abusing drugs and alcohol, in general - behavior which is found to have similar usage patterns. Sally D'Alessandro, Associate Director of Conflict Resolution and Civic Responsibility was also present to offer her perspective in terms of the legal restrictions and disciplinary actions pertaining to un-prescribed use of such drugs at the University. While CAFFECOR believes that enforcing legal use is not easy, it should not preclude the University from taking a position on the issue and alerting the University community to its existence. We plan to have future meetings with individuals from the University Police Department and/or the Disabled Student Services center to gain a better understanding of the situation before recommending future steps.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Zai Liang, Chair. Following a meeting with the Interim President in February, CERS has formed an Ad Hoc Committee whose charge is to discuss/propose potential changes in misconduct policies and procedures. After some delay, the Ad Hoc Committee plans to have its first meeting on April 21.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder