

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, May 14, 2012
As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna Fessler, Chair

- May 14th marks the final regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the 2011-12 academic year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Senate—Senators, council members, committee members, and support staff. Governance works best when we come together and work as a team toward the betterment of the institution. I feel we have accomplished this goal, and I am grateful for all the help that you have provided along the way.
- The Senate year officially ends on August 31. Although it is unlikely, it is possible that some Senate business will come up over the summer. Therefore, I do ask that you read through Senate e-mails on the off chance that your input is requested or required.
- Updates on the Presidential Search will continue to be posted throughout the summer at <http://www.albany.edu/presidentialsearch/>

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The SUNY Senators attended the SUNY Spring Plenary at SUNY Geneseo on April 19, 20, and 21st 2012. There was one resolution considered and passed at the plenary to direct the Programs and Awards Committee of the Senate to develop guidelines and criteria for a Chancellor's Award in Shared Governance. The resolution is entitled "Resolution for a new Chancellor's Award in Shared Governance". This follows the remarks made by the Chancellor to the UFS Plenary meeting in April 2011, expressing her support for shared Governance in the University and subsequently asking UFS and Awards Committee to work on a plan to enhance shared governance.

As part of UFS President report, Ken O'Brian updated the Senate on budget and that work is underway to produce a clearer, simpler distribution formula for state support. The final elements of a new plan have NOT yet been set but it is expected that recommendations will be ready for campus vetting later this spring or early summer, and then to the Chancellor's Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. However, there will not be any changes in the campus distribution for based state support for 2012-2013 cycle. Updates on Student Mobility was given, indicating progress is being made but we are a long way from approving a blanket transfer of "all SUNY AA/AS degrees". On General Education, a Provost Advisory Committee on Student Mobility has been formed with well representation from UFS and FCCC (Community Colleges) to support the Provost's office collection and evaluation of information needed to better understand the current state of SUNY GER across the systems and its impact on student mobility.

A full report will be submitted to UAlbany Senate upon availability of the related documents.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative

No response received.

SA (Student Association) – Bryant Barksdale, Student Association President Designee

Nothing to report.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair

At its last meeting the CAA approved the GEAC's report on the reviews of the Gen Ed disciplinary areas of Global, Regions beyond Europe and Europe.

We also approved the attached proposal to proposal to support the idea of making Student Learning Objectives available on department web sites.

At our meeting of 9th May the CAA approved a report of the PRC on the program review of the Economics Department.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Aran Mull, Chair

Nothing to report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

CERS is still hoping to bring policy bill to the Senate.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met for its final session on April 26th and discussed several topics.

VPR Dias gave an update on the Research activity of the University.

The Benevolent Award sub-Committee offered modifications to the eligibility criteria.

The Conference/Journal Report sub-Committee recommended two submissions for award and also, discussed a change in the wording of the registration fee requirements.

The Researcher's Liaison Committee presented the text for the Early Career Achievement Award and is finalizing the document for submission to the VPR.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair

CPCA has now completed the review of 26 cases this year. Three additional cases will be reviewed at the next meeting on April 27, 2012.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

The GAC met on Friday, May 4. The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction reported that it had approved two proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences. They are (1) Revision of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, and separately, (2) Changes to the requirements for the Ph.D. program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. The full GAC voted to approve both proposals. Separately, the GAC voted to approve a review of the most recent self-study, external review, and assessment of the School of Criminal Justice.

GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair

The Governance Council last met on May 7. A Doodle Poll was sent out to the members of the committee charged with addressing Resolution 1112-05R, Resolution to Determine Offerings in European Languages & Classical Studies in Accordance with UAlbany's Mission and Strategic Plan. The initial meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 11. The rest of the GOV meeting was devoted to discussion of the final report addressing Resolution 1112-03R, Resolution to Investigate Violations of Governance Procedures in the Matter of the 2010 Program Deactivations. GOV is working toward submission of the final report to the Senate by Friday, May 11.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair

LISC's April 30 meeting focused on revisions "Responsible Use of IT" Policy, which is nearly ready to be brought before the Senate. Concerns were raised regarding University Counsel's emendations to sections on privacy and authority, and it was agreed that a discussion with Counsel John Reilly is needed. The IT Committee attempted to meet quickly, but Counsel's schedule did not permit a meeting before the SEC deadline for new bills. Finalizing the Policy remains high on LISC's agenda.

The Library Committee reported that the University Library is about to undertake a review of departmental allocations. Mary Van Ullen, Associate Director for Collections, asked that LISC advise on this process.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

UAC approved the following proposals and is forwarding them on to the SEC for review and Senate for final action:

- Proposed creation of a Urban Studies and Planning Major
- Proposed changes to the Women's Studies Major
- Proposed creation of a Globalization Studies minor
- Proposed creation of a BioCHM Honors Track
- Proposed creation of a Journalism cognate in the INF minor.

Additionally, UAC has reviewed and approved the following changes and shares the summary of approved changes below:

- The Chemistry/Bio combined major/minor proposes to add a laboratory class to the curriculum requirements which will bring the total to 71 credits for the program. The extra credits are necessary for accreditation. UAC approved addition of the course and credits.
- Proposed changes to the FMR program. In the major and minor, the proposal adds ICSI 105 as an alternative for ICSI 201. The director has provided thoughtful rationale why CSI 105 will better serve the students. UAC approved the additional option.
- Proposed changes to the Atmospheric Science BS including, moving the requirements for completion to of ATM410 and 411 to junior year to better prepare students for advanced elective courses in the senior year. Additionally, they are proposing to revise ATM315 to an Environmental Statistics course. Finally, it is proposed that ATM 350 become a two-credit co-taught course. A second period devoted to lab time to work on assigned coursework under the guidance of the instructors will be introduced. In addition, a final presentation using the tools learned in the course will be required. This will add one credit to the Atmospheric Science B.S., bringing it to 66 total credits. UAC approved these changes.
- Environmental Science BS requests the following changes to the major degree requirements. First, as above, that ATM315 (Environmental Statistics) replace ENV105 in the core curriculum to increase the level of rigor in the program and provide additional statistical training to ENV students. The second proposed change is to include ATM301 as a required course within the Climate Concentration of the major to replace GOG304. The third change proposed is to replace ABIO 230 (People and Resources in Ecological Perspective), with ABIO 212Y (Genetics). ABIO 212Y is a prerequisite for almost all upper level BIO courses and students therefore need to take this course to enroll in upper level requirements. Not listing this course as required was an oversight by the department. In addition they propose to include ABIO 320 (Ecology) as a required course but relax the requirements for the electives, by allowing students to fulfill the remaining 9 elective credits from any BIO course that is equal to BIO 218 or higher. UAC approved these changes.

ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

ULC met on April 26th. We discussed and worked on populating the Campus Smoking Policy Task Force. Also, ULC received a memo from President Philip acknowledging the importance of Resolution #0506-05 (Resolution to Create a University at Albany Family Leave Policy) and encouraging further discussion on the implementation of such policy.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Nothing to report.