

3-12-2013 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting for March 12, 2013

Approved by the Council on April 12, 2013

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), P. Caban, S. Commuri, B. Dieffenbach, T. Groves (Chair), A. Krause, P. Terpelets, K. Truby, M. VanUllen, K. Williams, R. Yang

Unable to attend: L. Jome, D. Mancini, A. Zemel

Guests: Heather Bennett (Ph.D. Political Science student), Inga Miller (Ph.D. Political Science student), Tana James (Ph.D. Social Welfare student)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Groves at 2:32 PM

1. Consideration of minutes for the 12/12/2012 GAC meeting

One minor change was requested for the December 12th minutes. The Council approved the minutes by eight yes votes and one abstention.

2. Dean's Report – K. Williams

There is no Dean's report for today's meeting.

3 Chair's Report – T. Groves

The UAlbany Senate met on 3-11-2013. President Robert Jones gave his report, with the following highlights: according to the NYSUNY 2020 plan, UAlbany will have approximately 187 new faculty positions and \$117M in new research funding over the coming five years. The proposed NYS budget includes a \$1.3B structural deficit. However, funding for SUNY will be held about constant, as it was in the present budget. UAlbany is seeking \$1.2B for critical maintenance. The proposed Resource Allocation Model has been put on hold, needing more consideration and possible modification. Professor Sally Chisholm of MIT has been awarded the National Medal of Science for her work on biological oceanography. She received her Ph.D. from UAlbany in 1974. UAlbany is on President Obama's Community Service Honor Role for the third consecutive year.

4. Committee Reports

CC&I – Chair P. Caban

The Committee met on March 5th and reviewed three proposals.

School of Ed. – Request to revise the EAP Studies M.S., CAS & Ph.D. degree programs

In the Educational Administration and Policy Studies M.S., CAS and Ph.D. degree programs, two core courses were found to overlap two other core courses. Thus, it was proposed to drop EAPS 660 and 760. A statistics requirement (EAPS 614), would be substituted, or an approved quantitative research course. The Council approved the proposal with eight votes and one abstention.

School of Public Health – Request to revise the Biomedical Sciences M.S. degree program

Due to additional information required, the proposal was sent back to the department for clarification.

Dept. of LAC & U.S. Latino Studies – Request to revise MS and PhD concentrations

The proposed revision would eliminate a methods course (LCS 500), add a new course (LCS 506), and redefine two seminars (LCS 502, I and II). The proposal does not alter the 15 credit hour required core. The Council approved the proposal with eight votes and one abstention.

5. Old Business

Academic integrity guidelines update in the Graduate Bulletin

Professor Richard Fogarty, Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC), discussed the updates for academic integrity guidelines for both the Graduate and Undergraduate Bulletins. Current policy is unclear to both faculty and students, and faculty responsibilities are ambiguous. Also, current Bulletin language suggests that reports for academic integrity remain in the office of Undergraduate and/or Graduate Education offices forever and are never destroyed. The Council believes this portion of the policy is unjust for students. The new policy dictates that minor violations would result in a three year hold for the report and a seven year hold for a major infraction, a policy in accordance with official SUNY record retention policy. Examples will be shown in the Bulletins for minor and major categories. Students may dispute a report. Students will be admitting to guilt if no dispute is received. Only when a second violation occurs will the student's case(s) be automatically adjudicated by the Office of Conflict Resolution and Community Responsibility, although a first violation may be referred to this body if the reporting faculty member or other official responsible for the academic program in question feels the violation to be particularly severe. After an instructor completes a report and discusses the case with the student, the report will be given to the Undergraduate and/or Graduate Education Office. If a student challenges the report, the case will be forwarded to the Office of Conflict Resolution & Civic Responsibility. The updated policy will

provide confidence in procedure since it guards integrity of academic process and protect students' access to due process. Also, the update will entail one common standard for both GAC and UAC Bulletins. Professor Fogarty mentioned that UAC has approved the updated guidelines. The guidelines will be reviewed by GAC's Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure. The updated wording will be e-mailed by the Chair to Council members. The Chair mentioned that the joint GAC/UAC bill will be presented to the Senate in April. The Senate holds two April meetings (4/3 and 4/29).

Departmental self-assessments – Role of the GAC

The Chair met with Adrian Masters, Chair of the Council on Academic Assessment, and separately with Jon Bartow to discuss departmental assessments. He mentioned that, according to the Senate Charter, the Council on Academic Assessments (CAAS) is charged with reviewing the departmental self-assessments, and recording its findings. Separately, the GAC is charged with overseeing the graduate programs. As such, the GAC should review the reports of the CAAS, and consider its findings as appropriate. The GAC members were therefore encouraged to review the CAAS findings, as reported on the Wiki site at:

https://wiki.albany.edu/login.action;jsessionid=45FC21D3B4B4C87ADF8807E6EBAB1111?os_destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.albany.edu%2Fdisplay%2Fmiddlestates%2FProgram%2BReview%2BMaterials. A NETID and password are needed to access. The Chair promised to request that access be made available to GAC members through Joel Bloom. No vote was required, and the Council agreed to the updated process by acclamation.

6. New Business

Jon Bartow informed the Council that Dr. Shadi Shahedipour of CNSE requested she be reinstated to the CAAS Committee. She would be a wonderful veteran addition to the membership. The Council unanimously voted her reinstatement with a 9-0-0 vote.

Future Meetings:

All meetings times are 2:30 – 4:00 PM
- Friday, April 5, UAB 437
- Thursday, May 9, UAB 437

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Groves at 3:43 PM.

END OF GAC 3/12/2013 MINUTES
