

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate, September 21, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. Michael Range, Chair

[For the September 21st meeting of the University Senate, Chair Range's report was emailed with the Senate minutes.]

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford & Daniel D. White, SUNY Senators

Nothing to report.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Melanie Breganza, GSO President

There are no updates from the GSO.

SA (Student Association) – Josh Sussman, SA President

Nothing to report.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

In attendance at the 13 May 2009 meeting were C. Anderson, S. Faerman (Co-Chair), T. Gage, R. Hoyt, E. Lifshin, K. Loscocco, D. McCaffrey, C. McNeill, S. Messner (Co-Chair), M. Sutherland, B. Szelest, L. Trubitt. The response to the first drafts was discussed, especially organizational issues for each chapter. Some items may have to be transferred from one chapter to another, and it may be necessary to move around parts of chapters—especially chapter to appendix and vice versa: normal editorial processes. An introductory chapter will provide an overview and make sure that information and data are kept consistent throughout the report. The timeline has been adjusted, affecting only the summer portion, and should be back on track as of 31 July. The Timeline stipulates that the campus response to the initial draft will take place in "September-October 2009."

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met this month to elect a chair and determine membership on standing committees. A total of seven additional volunteers have been added to the Program Review and General Education Assessment committees. The council is preparing a proposal to the SEC for an evaluation of the process of General Education assessment.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

CAFFECOR had its organizational meeting on September 2. Susanna Fessler was elected chair for the '09—'10 year. Agenda items for the '09-'10 year were also discussed. There are, in essence, two holdover issues: the inconsistencies of campus policies on speech, and the "Red Light" rating given to our campus by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). The Committee agreed that these "holdover" issues should remain on our agenda this year, and that involving university counsel and the President's office would be a good first step.

A third, new issue for CAFFECOR in '09-'10 was presented: it is unclear whether both students and faculty/staff operate under ONE campus policy on conduct or if there are two PARALLEL policies, perhaps with slight differences. In other words, we may have a double-standard in place. Further investigation should reveal whether this is an area of concern.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair

Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

From the initial COR meeting is that we have a full contingent of members with a slot or two available for graduate/undergraduate participants which are being pursued. In addition, we began to populate the sub-committees with some success. We continue to recruit for the full sub-committee memberships. There was a general discussion of priorities for issues to be addressed by COR including ICR, Conflict of Interest and Researchers' Liaison Committee. Next meeting is October 14th.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on May 11 and approved three measures: (1) a proposal by the Department of Chemistry to modify coursework in its MS in Applied Chemistry with a Concentration in the Forensic Chemistry Program, (2) a proposal by the Department of Communication to establish a Health Communication concentration within its MA Program, and (3) a proposal by the History Department to require GRE scores for MA applicants. In addition, the Council discussed a proposal by the Department of Biological Sciences/CAS and the Department of Computer Science/CCI to establish an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Professional Science Management for students in the MS Forensic Molecular Biology Program; the MS Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy Program; or the MS Computer Science Program. While generally supportive of the measure, the Council tabled the proposal pending receipt of additional clarifying information. The Council will meet next on September 23.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

The first meeting of the Governance Council took place on Wednesday Sept 9. The focus of the meeting was to generate a list of candidates for the Governing Board of the Honors College, in response to a request by Provost Phillips. This task was completed at the meeting following a discussion of criteria for the nominees, their responsibilities, potential candidates, and the need for appropriate representation from various academic units. The list was submitted in time for the suggested Sept. 11th deadline.

At its meeting of Sept 18, GOV reaffirmed its recommendations for the HC Governing Board. Deliberations began of choices to replace the two members of the DSP/DTP Committee whose terms have expired; it is expected this will be concluded at the next meeting, Oct. 2.

GOV also reviewed a request to eliminate an anachronism in the *Senate Charter*, section X.3.8.4.1 concerning membership of school and college representatives on UAC's Appellate Subcommittee on Academic Standing: "... Three representatives shall be invited from the College of Arts and Sciences and one from each of the following: Business, Criminal Justice, Education, Information Science and Policy, Rockefeller College, and Social Welfare." In the period following the *Charter's* approval, the ISP School has evolved into the College of Computing and Information and there are now undergraduate major programs in the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and the School of Public Health. The Council felt the intent of the Charter was clear and voted unanimously that these are simple housekeeping changes and do not require a formal amendment of the *Senate Charter*.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

Nothing to report. GAC meets later in the week of September 21st.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC met on Thursday, Sept. 10. Its regularly scheduled meetings are Thursdays from 1:30-2:30, in the Terrace Lounge when possible, but otherwise in LC 31.

1. After a discussion of the matters that are traditionally handled by each of UAC's committees, all members volunteered to serve on a committee. There are sufficient UAC members on all committees except for the committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. Since UAC is not expecting that committee to have any tasks at this time, UAC decided not to attempt to form it yet. Should there be business for it, it will be constituted. Additional members for the other committees will be sought to bring each to the mandated size. Chairs have not yet been determined, but it is hoped that the UAC members will decide amongst themselves who will take on that responsibility.
2. UAC reviewed carry-over business from last year and will be working on the overall issue of minors, as well as creating rules for restricting minors. This project will likely entail a review of the rules for majors as well to make policies as consistent as possible. It was also noted that the rules set for restricted majors are subject to periodic review, although no reviews have been undertaken to date.
3. Concerns about how absences caused by H1N1 flu would affect undergraduate teaching and learning were also discussed. UAC learned that the basic approach UA will take is one that encourages students to go home if they are sick. Because teaching itself is changing and involves activities done on-line and otherwise, how students will complete their work if they are ill is not being determined at this time, and will probably remain a course-specific matter.
4. Several small curricular changes have already been received and these will be reviewed once committees are functioning.
5. UAC also noted that the Budget Advisory Group's final report included many recommendations that affect undergraduate education.
6. UAC also expects to be receiving a document from the governing board of the Honors College with their proposed criteria for maintaining membership in the Honors College. UAC will then respond.
7. UAC expects to be receiving recommendations from the First Year Experience Task Force. UAC 08-09 was briefed on the report at the draft stage and requested reconsideration of certain areas. UAC now awaits the final report of the task force and will then consider its recommendations.
8. UAC voted to allow the Chair to include Greg Stevens and Suzanne Phillips to be added to the email distribution list of the council for regular business matters. Both have historically been regular attendees of council meetings.
9. UAC met on September 17th to look at a study abroad issue about what to do with students who take more than 19 credits overseas.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC report: we are fully constituted and will be setting the first meeting date for the next week or two. Our first piece of business is from the Vice President of Student Success is the campus plan for an H1N1 virus outbreak. We will hear from the VP of Student Success and the Director of the University Health Center.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair

The UPPC meetings during the Fall 2009 semester will occur at 3:30-5:00 PM in UNH 306 on October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, and December 3 (all Thursdays). At the September 14 meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, Senate Chair Range requested that the UPPC consider the matter of budget transparency, which will be on the agenda for the UPPC meeting of October 8.