

**University at Albany
State University of New York**

**2005-06 University Senate
Monday, November 21, 2005
Assembly Hall 3:30 - 5:30 PM
AMENDED**

Present: J.P. Abraham, J. Berkowitz, T. Bessette, R.S. Birge, R. Bisbing, G. Bunnell, G. Burke, S. Chaiken, S. Chinnam, R. Collier, R. Craig, D. Dewar, S. Faerman, S. Fessler, S. Friedman, R. Gibson, K. Hall, J. Hanifan, A. Hildreth, C. Hong, R. Hoyt, V. Idone, M. Jerison, S.B. Kim, L. Kranich, W. Lanford, R.P. Leonard, S. Levine, Z. Liang, K. Lowery, A. Lyons, T. Maxwell, L. McNutt, C. Merbler, S. Messner, R. Miller, J. Monfasani, G. Moore, J. Murphy, O. Ongiti, O. Pelosi, M. Pryse, R. M. Range, J. Razzano, E. Redkey, M. Rodriguez, J. Savitt, L. Schell, M. Sherman, D. Shub, L. Snyder, J. Stromer-Galley, S. Tenenbaum, S. Turner, L. Videka, D. Wagner, B. Weaver, J. Wessman, O. Williams, S. Wood, A. Worden, R. Zitomer.

Guests: N. Alfred Persihy, C. Carr, R. Fortune, B. Kirkwood, F. Liu, B. Loneck, S. Mahan, S. Maloney, M. Martinez V. Ng, B. Szelest, E. Stylianou, K. Williams, K. Winchester,

Minutes: The minutes of October 10, 2005 were approved.

President's Report:

- o Search Committee for the Dean of Public Affairs: With the leadership of Provost Herbst and the Chair Julie Horney, the search committee for a new Dean of Public Affairs is working hard to find a replacement for Frank Thompson who is retiring. Helen Desfosses will serve as Interim Dean.
- o Search Committee for the Vice President of Research: The search for the Vice President of Research continues. President Hall would like to commend Lynn Videka for serving in the interim, with much gratitude.
- o Undergraduate applications: Undergraduate applications are up 5% from last year, and they are coming in strongly for the spring. Vice Provost Locust is taking a lead in recruitment efforts, and the pool of applicants is up. President Hall would like to commend Vice Provost. Locust for his good work. There are approximately 1,400 students coming in, in groups of 60 every couple of weeks. They are given tours and talks, to help them get acclimated to the University.
- o Lunch with students: The Executive Committee is meeting with students for lunch in the Campus Center. The students are often surprised when members of the Committee appear. These events have turned up many interesting insights into student life.
- o Valedictorian Dinner: The second Valedictorian dinner will be held in the near future, including 10 schools and colleges, at the President's house.
- o Honors College: President Hall stressed that this is a very important issue and should be reviewed in a timely manner. The Honors College is likely to be a valuable recruitment tool, and if approved by the Senate, ideally should be running in the fall of 2006. President Hall expressed his gratitude to the committee that worked over the summer and to Sue Faerman along with various members of the Senate.
- o Board of Visitors: President Hall noted that the Board of Visitors will make two visits in February and May. The Board is coming together nicely, and Steve Portch has agreed to serve as Chair. The Board has broad representation from across the United States as well as from Turkey, Hong Kong, and Canada.
- o NSF Career Award: President Hall recognized Marina Petrukhina for her research, a member of the faculty receiving the NSF Career Award. This is only the second NSF Career Award for a member of the University of Albany faculty.
- o Mock disaster: President Hall informed the Senate that tomorrow there will be a mock disaster for the emergency system.

- o Information Technology milestone: On September 21, 2005, there were 7,000 devices registered on campus, logging into networks.
- o Personal Safety: There is a very concerted effort to deal with concerns about safety around Draper Hall. The Mayor has been very helpful; the number of patrols has increased. Frank Wiley met with the Neighborhood Watch, and reminded people that personal safety is an individual as well as a group effort. .
- o Research Funding: Chancellor Ryan has submitted a request for increased funds for 2006/2007 for the four SUNY research campuses.
- o Coach Ford: Coach Ford deserves congratulations for his 200th victory in his 30 years of service to the University athletics.
- o Festival of Alumni: In New York City, the Festival of Alumni attracted 500 people and friends. It was a very successful event for this University. President Hall would like to thank Deborah Read the new Vice President for University Development for putting it all together. New York City has many alumni. This event raised the visibility of the University.
- o China Working Group: President Hall expressed his gratitude to Professor James Hargett for chairing a Working Group developing ties with academic institutions in China.
- o Monthly update: The Dashboard shows that some projections were off, but enrollment was better than expected.

University Faculty Senate Report:

- o Meeting in Saratoga: R. Collier referred to the handout for the Senate Report. There was a meeting of the SUNY Faculty Senate in Saratoga at the end of October. Two important bills were passed. One was a proposal to oppose the “Academic Bill of Rights.” CAFFCoR is considering endorsing the position taken by the SUNY Senate. Another bill will be introduced later in the meeting in support of the New York State College of Ceramics. An important aspect of the meeting in Saratoga was a positive impression of the job that Chancellor Ryan is doing. He is acting like a strong Chancellor, advocating on behalf of the colleges and universities in the SUNY system.
- o Campus-Based Assessment: R. Collier discussed Provost Salins’ efforts to strengthen the campus-based assessment. Mission Review II is moving along. Provost Salins is attempting to encourage state campuses to work together within a region with local high schools. UAlbany has already been involved in such activity.
- o Concerns for Graduate Students: University Senators show support for the graduate students concerns by introducing proposals for more competitive stipends.
- o Conversations in the Disciplines program: R. Collier reminded faculty of support available through the “Conversations in the Disciplines” program. The deadline to apply for a grant is 4/6/06, for the 2006/2007 year.
- o Undergraduate Committee Symposium: There will be a symposium on academic integrity in March 2006. Details can be found on the Senate Homepage at <http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/>.
- o Serve on GEAR. R. Collier has been asked and has accepted a position on the General Education Assessment Review committee.

Chair’s Report:

- o Solomon Amendment Forum: The Chair was pleased to report that the Senate Forum on the Solomon Amendment, co-sponsored by the Division for Student Success and UAS, was well attended. The panelists framed the general issues well, and a lively discussion ensued. Many of the participants were students. The Chair commended them for the respectful way they expressed their different opinions. The Chair also thanked John Murphy and Mike Jaromin for handling the logistics of the forum. The Chair then yielded to Carolyn MacDonald for a presentation.
- o Check Presentation: C. MacDonald, previous Chair of the Senate, and S. Messner, current Chair of the Senate, presented President Hall with a check totaling \$1,302.50 as a donation for the Inaugural Scholarship Fund. This money was raised by eliminating refreshments for the Senate

meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and UPC meetings. C. MacDonald praised the President for his emphasis on academics and his respect for the role of governance, and thanked everyone for their help with the effort to raise funds. President Hall stated that they have now collected \$512,000 for this cause.

Council Reports: Written council reports were distributed at the meeting (see Appendix). These reports were updated as follows:

- o CAA, M. Sherman, Chair: The Committee is up and running. Nothing else to add.
- o COR, V. Idone, Chair: Nothing to add.
- o CPCA, D. Shub, Chair: All reported items that were in the future tense, are now in the past tense. There was a productive seminar for non-tenured assistant professors with the Provost, Professor Berkowitz and Chair Shub.
- o GAC, M. Rodriguez, Chair: The council met on November 8th and discussed and approved two proposals: Standards for Social Work Education and the Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.
- o GOV, D. Dewar, Chair: The council has forwarded a recommendation for the composition of the committee for the Distinguished Teaching and Distinguished Service Professorships. They are currently working on faculty representation for the Committee for Undergraduate Retention.
- o LISC, D. Wagner, Chair: Nothing to add.
- o UAC, P. Abraham, Chair: Nothing to add.
- o ULC, J. Savitt, Chair: Nothing to add.
- o UPC, C. MacDonald, Chair: UPC has several bills on the agenda, but nothing else to add.

Committee Reports:

- o CAFFECOR, L. Snyder, Chair: At the next meeting of the Executive Committee, CAFFECOR will recommend that an Undergraduate Ombuds-office be formed. The Committee will also be considering the "Academic Bill of Rights."
- o CERS, R. Zitomer, Chair: Nothing to add.

New Business:

- o Senate Resolution 0506-02R. Resolution in Support of the New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC): Executive Committee

R Collier reported that NYSCC has been having a great deal of difficulty retaining its identity and integrity, given a series of actions over an extended period of time taken by administrators at Alfred University. The situation has recently deteriorated. At the fall plenary meeting, the SUNY Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of the NYS College of Ceramics. Other campuses have been encouraged to endorse this resolution. The Executive Committee introduced a resolution to endorse the SUNY Faculty Senate resolution supporting NYSCC. The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

- o Senate Bill 0506-02. Proposal to Establish a Combined Program, B.A. in Judaic Studies/M.B.A.: UAC, GAC

There was some discussion about the lack of a calculus requirement, given copy in the Undergraduate Bulletin. It was noted that there are other similar programs that do not have this requirement. The proposal was passed unanimously by voice vote.

- o Senate Bill 0506-03. Proposal to Establish a Dual Degree Program, M.S.W./M.P.H.: GAC

Proponents noted that this bill would specifically help students in the health care field. There is a demand for this dual degree; the disciplines are complementary, and the professors working in these fields see this as a welcome addition to the curriculum. The proposal passed unanimously by voice vote.

- o Senate Bill 0506-04. Policies and Practices Concerning Undergraduate Academic Advising and Mentoring: UAC

This proposal was going to be introduced last spring but was sent to UPC. UPC has reviewed and approved it. The proposal passed unanimously by voice vote.

- o Senate Bill 0506-05. Proposal to Establish a University-Wide Honors College: UAC, UPC

The proposal generated considerable discussion. Supporters expressed the view that an Honors College will help attract and retain strong students. C. MacDonald noted that when UPC reviewed the proposal, there was some concern that the program may be under-funded, but it was supported nevertheless. Questions were raised and answered about how students in the Honors College would satisfy General Education requirements. Provost Herbst stated that the University administration is committed to the program and noted that the goal is to try to get endowments to help support it. Discussion ensued about difficulties confronting small departments in offering honors courses. S. Faerman explained that any department can offer an honors course, and that small departments will be very welcome. A question was raised about standards for retention in the College. S. Faerman stated that a governing board will address this issue. A friendly amendment was accepted to incorporate in the bill a statement about the development of retention standards, with the exact wording to be determined later. President Hall reaffirmed Provost Herbst's comment about seeking donors for the Honors College. In response to questions, S. Faerman clarified the distribution of credits across lower and upper division and stated that students in majors without honors programs would complete a credit load at the upper division comparable to other honors students. She also clarified that policy issues such as retention issues would be proposed by the governing board, but would go through UAC to the full senate.

The proposal passed by voice vote with three abstentions.

- o Senate Bill 0506-06. Proposal to Revise Enrollment Procedures for Frosh Seeking Accounting or Business Administration Majors: UAC

The proposal passed by voice vote with one abstention.

- o Senate Bill 0506-07. Proposal to Establish a Master of Arts Program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology: GAC

The proposal was passed unanimously by voice vote.

- o Senate Bill 0506-08. Proposal for Standards for Social Work Education: GAC, UAC

L. A. McNutt introduced a motion to postpone consideration of the bill. The motion was seconded. L. A. McNutt stated that the rationale for the motion was to ask the School of Social Welfare to consider amendments addressing the following issues:

- limiting disciplinary actions to specific actions or inactions (academics, behaviors, etc);
- writing standards so that a minimum subgroup of students (e.g., less than 10%) are at risk for disciplinary action. If more students should be at risk then the admissions procedures need to be addressed;
- allowing graduate students to access the grievance process with the same latitude as other University graduate students.

L. A. McNutt proposed that any amendments addressing these issues should be reviewed by GAC before the bill is presented to the Senate for a vote. Discussion ensued regarding these concerns. R. Fortune from the school of Social Welfare stated that the language in the bill is worded similarly to wording used for licensing procedures. The code of

ethics for social workers is also worded similarly. R. Fortune also stated that social workers are held to very high standards because of the types of decisions that they are required to make, and noted that the University provides many protections for students.

A motion to extend the time of the meeting for 15 minutes was introduced and passed unanimously by voice vote. A motion to end debate was introduced and was passed by a 2/3 vote by show of hands. There were 2 opposed and 1 abstention. The motion to postpone was passed by show of hands, 28 in favor, 24 opposed. The bill will be taken up at the next senate meeting as old business.

- o Senate Bill 0506-09. Proposal for No Class Suspension for Religious Holidays: Executive Committee

The Chair explained that the Senate Executive Committee had originally planned to submit to the Senate the three options described in the “calendar packet” that had been distributed to senators and posted on the Senate webpage. The Committee decided that this might be interpreted as prematurely limiting the options. Instead, the Committee voted to bring to the Senate floor the bill proposed by ULC last spring (with minor editing) to focus the debate. This bill calls for no class suspension for religious holidays, other than those that coincide with federal holidays. The Executive Committee did not take a stand on the merits of the bill. The Chair also reported that he had emailed the ex officio graduate and undergraduate student senators prior to the meeting reminding them that the calendar issue was on the agenda, and indicating that, with the Senate’s consent, he would first recognize the student senators for discussion of the bill.

E. Redkey reported that the Graduate Student Organization had held a meeting where the calendar issue was discussed extensively. The graduate student body is as divided on the issue as is the Senate. Graduate students feel strongly about the issue. There was a general consensus if class suspension for religious holidays is eliminated, there should be more leniency for those who wish to observe such holidays.

A friendly amendment was introduced to add a day or two to reading day at the end of the semester to allow students to make up classes if needed. The Senate did not accept the friendly amendment.

In the course of discussion, it was noted that according to NY State law, classes cannot be suspended for religious reasons. There must be a secular reason for class suspension, such as the administrative disruption that would occur if many members of the University community decide to observe a particular religious holiday. Proponents of the bill argued that the proposed policy would treat all religious groups similarly, would honor the separation of church and state, and would be minimally disruptive to the academic mission of the University. Critics cited concerns about requiring large numbers of students to self-identify religious affiliation and potentially negative consequences for student recruitment and community relations. Also, the potential for administrative disruption due to the observance of holidays was noted.

A motion for a 15 minute extension of the meeting was introduced and approved by voice vote. Alternative calendars were discussed, such as not starting classes before September and reducing time off for travel. M. Range introduced an amendment stipulating that faculty be required to record the number of requests they receive from students for class absence for religious holidays. In fall 2012, the Senate will review the data, and assess the calendar policy. The motion for an amendment was seconded. Critics suggested that the time frame in the amendment was too long. A motion to end debate on the amendment was introduced and passed by voice vote. The amendment was defeated by voice vote.

In further discussion of the original bill, R. Collier reported that SUNY Buffalo had eliminated class suspension for all holidays. The community response was immediate and highly negative.

A motion to end debate was introduced and passed by voice vote. A secret ballot was requested. The bill was passed by a vote of 26 in favor, 21 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Motion to adjourn: A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm. The next meeting will be December 19, 2005.

APPENDIX. SENATE COUNCIL SUMMARIES

November 21, 2005

Council on Academic Assessment (CAA), Malcolm Sherman, Chair

No report.

Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility (CAFFECOR), Lawrence Snyder, Chair

CAFFECOR met with student representatives and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies on Wednesday, October 19, to consider student grievances on matters other than grades for which there may not now be adequate procedures. We also met alone on October 26th to discuss and think about what we had heard in the previous meeting.

At the November 2 meeting of CAFFECOR, it was decided to poll members on whether we should recommend to the Senate that an Undergraduate Ombudsoffice be formed, as was done on November 3 for graduate students.

Also at the November 2 meeting of CAFFECOR, it was decided to poll members on whether we should recommend to the University at Albany Faculty Senate that it make a resolution supporting the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate resolution opposing the so-called "Academic Bill of Rights."

Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship (CERS), Richard Zitomer, Chair

No report.

Council on Research (COR), Vincent Idone, Chair

The Council took action on two pertinent issues during its meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2005:

- 1) Council voted to forward a recommendation to the University Senate for permanent status recognition for the Institute for Social Services Research and Development.
- 2) Council approved the recommendation of seven students for the Benevolent Association Graduate Research Award.

Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments (CPCA), David Shub, Chair

CPCA is awaiting the arrival of files and has not met since our initial meeting. We have had one resignation from the Council, and a replacement is being sought. Provost Herbst has organized a workshop for faculty on promotion and tenure, tentatively scheduled for November 18, with participation of the Council Chair.

Graduate Academic Council (GAC), Monica Rodriguez, Chair

The Committee met on November 8, 2005. Two proposals were reviewed and approved by the committee: 1) a proposal on the Standards for Social Work Education and procedures for violations or failure to meet these standards by matriculated declared social welfare majors students at the School of Social Welfare, and 2) a proposal for a Master's Program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Both have been submitted as bills for Senate consideration for the meeting on Monday, November 21, 2005. The bills for the BA Judaic Studies/MBA Program and the MSW/MPH Program were submitted to be discussed in this Senate meeting as well.

Governance Council (GOV), Diane Dewar, Chair

The Council met on November 1, 2005 and invited Professor Ronald Bosco and Dr. William Hedberg to discuss the membership slate for the selection committee for the Distinguished Service and Distinguished Teaching Professorships. The Council will bring forth its recommendations for this committee to the Executive Committee of the Senate for review on Monday, November 7, 2005. The next meeting of the Governance Council is on Monday, November 14, 2005.

Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing (LISC), David Wagner, Chair

The Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing Council most recently met on Thursday, 17 November. The primary issue of concern at that meeting was a review of the procedures LISC has followed in processing some policy proposals from Information Technology Services. Past practice has been to report all approved policies to the Senate, but to submit bills for Senate approval of those policies only for proposals (or changes in proposals) that LISC deemed to be "major." The outcome of our review was a conclusion that we should more strictly adhere to existing Charter

procedures and submit all approved policies as bills to the Senate. Toward that end, LISC will be submitting a policy proposal regarding the use of e-mail for official communications, to be considered at the *next* Senate meeting. This policy was in fact approved by LISC last spring and reported to the Senate, but not submitted as a bill. More details regarding the policy and its current status will be provided prior to the relevant Senate meeting.

Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC), Philippe Abraham, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council has reviewed our S/U policy and decided to keep our current standards in place, save the addition of clarifying and ramification language to be printed on the Registrar's form that students must fill out when they opt to change a course from A-E to S/U grading. The UAC also considered our current policy on repeating courses. It was agreed that the current policy should stand although other institutions have rules that are much more forgiving and allow for "replacement" or "merging" of grades for any course that is repeated.

In addition, the Undergraduate Academic Council proposes the following bills for passage:

I) Proposal to Establish a Combined Program B.A. Judaic Studies/ M.B.A (Senate Bill No: 0506-02)

II) Policies and Practices Concerning Undergraduate Academic Advising and Mentoring (Senate Bill No: 0506-04)

III) Proposal to Establish a University-wide Honors College (Senate Bill No: 0506-05)

IV) Proposal to Revise Enrollment Procedures for Freshman Seeking Accounting or Business Administration Majors (Senate Bill No: 0506-06)

V) Proposal for Standards for Social Work Education (Senate Bill No: 0506-008)

University Life Council (ULC), Joan N. Savitt, Chair

John Rohrbaugh, Director of International Education, informed ULC of some areas of concern: the Office of International Education's sub-area, International Student Services, socializes, acclimates and educates the approximately 1200 international students and visitors who pass through UAlbany each year on a program budget of only \$6000 per year. With this sum and their small professional staff, they are able to handle all the officially required reports to US immigration services and offer ongoing advisement and support to all international students. However, there are unmet needs that ISS would like the wider university community to be aware of, and there seems to be a general problem on campus of a lack of appreciation of the special needs of international students. John Rohrbaugh used the following areas as examples of the overall issue. Housing: international students arrive prior to the start of the semester but cannot be housed on campus at that time, nor can they afford to stay in area hotels. Also, during the winter recess, those students who are living on campus are confined to the basement of Alumni Quad. Food: often the meals available to students do not offer them choices that correspond to their religious needs. Health: in order to register at Albany, students need to be immunized but cannot receive these immunizations at the University Health Services even though they are covered under SUNY's own health insurance policy and are paying the same fees that all other Albany students pay. General integration into the local community: international students would certainly appreciate opportunities to form linkages with individuals in the wider community. In particular, UAlbany faculty and staff are encouraged to offer their hospitality for holiday meals, local excursions, and other off-campus activities. ULC also agreed to send representatives to the meeting of the GSO scheduled for November 11 to discuss the issue of revisions to the academic calendar and received a report from the Athletics Committee.

University Planning and Policy Council (UPC), Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

UPC met on October 18 and November 1. Motions supporting bills for the revised Advisement Policy, School of Business Freshman admissions, Judaic Studies BA/MBA, and combined MSW/MPH were passed. The bill for the University Honors College was given unanimous support after lengthy discussion. Particular concern was voiced over the issue of whether the proposed budget would be adequate to provide support for the honors college without placing primary burden on part time faculty. The general issue of the appropriate role of UPC and its resource advisory committee in providing advice and oversight on university budget matters was also discussed. The extensive report and data analysis of the committee on student satisfaction surveys was released and will be addressed at the next meeting.

SUNY-wide Senate, Richard Collier, Reporter

No report.