

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

Meeting of the University Senate, November 21, 2011  
As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna, Chair**

- Notifications about the COACHE (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) project have gone out from the Provost's office. I have also sent an e-mail to the full Senate about the importance of filling out the survey. This survey is being financed by SUNY Central Administration. It will survey a random sample of tenured and tenure-track teaching faculty. Please encourage those colleagues who are part of the survey to participate.
- The Course Assessment Advisory Committee is wrapping up its work and will be incorporating feedback sent to them. Thanks to all the Senators and Council members who provided consultation on the process.
- Winter Commencement will be Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the SEFCU Arena. The deadline for RSVPing as marching faculty is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Send e-mails to [commencement@albany.edu](mailto:commencement@albany.edu). Please consider participating in this important capstone event for our students!

### **UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi**

**Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators**

SUNY Senator Plenary report to follow.

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

The first Graduate Student Speaker Series of this year was held November 8th. The turn out was low, but the quality of the speakers was superb, and the small group allowed for those who attended to fully engage with the guests of honor. We are currently working with Dean Williams to schedule the next graduate student to showcase. At the last Assembly Meeting, we elected an assembly speaker although there continues to be discrepancies among the assembly regarding both the wording of the constitution and need for a speaker. Raysa Cappallen was confirmed by our assembly to serve as the fourth and final senator as was our programming chair Tracy Chen. There was a mix up at the Xerox warehouse with an order we placed, forcing us to shut down the office for a couple of days, but we are up and working full force. The next big item on our agenda is the Thanksgiving Dinner with ISSS.

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

Nothing to report.

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

The CAA has passed a summary of its discussion on the draft report of the Course Assessment Advisory Committee to one of the co-chairs of that committee.

The General Education Assessment Committee held a preliminary meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November to consider work assignments to the nonex-officio members of the committee.

The Program Review Committee is scheduled to meet on 18<sup>th</sup> of November to discuss the Women's Studies program review.

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

CAFFECOR met on October 17<sup>th</sup> and will be forwarding a bill to remove the Principles for a Just Community language from remaining University documentation following a final determination regarding what publications still include that language. The committee is moving forward with the development of a policy and guidelines for managing complaints brought before the committee and has asked University Counsel to determine whether they may advise the committee regarding policy development.

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

The policy approved by the senate 3/14 has not yet been signed. There are no ongoing cases. CERS is meeting Monday. Planning is proceeding for training for CERS members and for outreach to researchers.

**COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair**

The Council on Research met on October 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss a variety of topics including details of the agenda for NSF Day which took place on October 19<sup>th</sup> and was attended by several hundred people. Also discussed was the upcoming RNA Symposium on November 3-4 hosted by the UAlbany RNA Institute. A full slate of RNA scientists will participate in four technical sessions spread over the two days.

In addition, an invitation was extended to Theresa Walker, the Assistant VP for Research, to give a presentation at the next COR meeting on the guidelines for faculty with regard to starting companies, consulting for companies and potential conflicts of interest.

Two graduate students were added to the council to fill open slots. COR still needs one undergraduate student and this slot is going to be filled before the next meeting.

Finally, it was noted that the application deadline for the UAlbany Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award is November 1.

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

CPCA has completed the review of eight cases to date. Review of two additional cases will occur at the meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair**

All three GAC committees now meet Charter membership requirements, and have elected Chairs as follows:

- Curriculum and Instruction: Prof. Sridar Chittur, Chair (four proposals pending, in active discussion)
- Admissions and Academic Standing: Prof. Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Chair (four cases pending, in active discussion)
- Educational Policy and Procedures: Prof. Suraj Commuri, Chair

GAC will meet November 16. GAC presently has no bills or actions pending Senate approval.”

**GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair**

Governance Council (GOV) brought a Senate Charter Amendment to the Senate Executive Committee meeting on November 7. This amendment will be introduced, for discussion only, at the full Senate meeting on November 21, in anticipation of a vote by the University Senate at the December 12 meeting. The amendment

proposes to bring the language of the current Charter into line with the Bylaws in a matter pertaining to the appointment of a parliamentarian. Also, the Committee on Administrative Evaluations continues to meet to develop recommended methods to guarantee ongoing administrative assessment. The committee expects to make its initial recommendations to the Governance Council before the end of fall term. Finally, GOV will meet on November 22 to apportion the representative Senators, and to approve procedures for election of Senators within the schools and colleges.

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

LISC met on Oct. 24. Dean of Library Mary Casserly noted that this is Open Access Week. This year's events include a lecture by Dr. David Hogg and a tour of CNSE. A video explaining the value of Open Access and highlighting the involvement of several UAlbany faculty (including Tim Stephen) in pioneering online journals is available through the library's homepage. Mary also reported that this year's budget does not necessitate cancelling any journals. However, she would like LISC to begin discussing the campus license for Elsevier (ScienceDirect), which expires at the end of 2013. Plans to renovate the library are stalled as Campus Planning searches for a new architect. Chief Information Officer Christine Haile gave an update on implementation of the first phase of the new email system, which has generally gone smoothly. Exchange users will be the next group to be moved to the new system. Chris will arrange for presentations on Blackboard Version9 and the Elluminate system for web conferencing at future meetings. She also co-chairs the Strategic Plan Working Group on Emerging Technologies, which Bruce Dudek reported on as the LISC liaison. Their first meeting focused on defining goals, considering support needs, and the adoption of Business Intelligence (BI), software that facilitates data reporting for analysis. LISC subcommittees are planning to meet in the next few weeks and our next full meeting is November 21.

#### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair**

UAC approved changes to the University Wide Internship requirements and will draft a bill to bring to the Senate. UAC began discussion about the requirements for cross-counting courses between double majors and minors. Continued discussion is necessary in this area before UAC comes to a conclusion and brings the issue forward for Senate consideration. Finally, in response to the call from UPPC for financial information on all referred proposals, UAC agreed to solicit the appropriate information earlier in the review process.

#### **ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair**

ULC met on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The council continued the conversation about our Campus Smoking Policy. We had a guest speaker, Michael Seserman, Director of Strategic Health Alliances from the American Cancer Association who gave a presentation on Tobacco Free Campus Policies. He discussed US and NYS Campus trends as well as SUNY campus trends. He explained the rationale supporting smoke free policies, basic process and timelines, as well as resources available. The ULC members agreed that in light of many SUNY campuses establishing a smoke free policy, it would be important to continue to research and discuss this issue. As a result, our next step is to make sure all stakeholders are involved in this conversation.

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

UPPC met Friday October 28. The Documentary Studies Program was discussed. UPPC saw no reason why it could not be passed on to the Senate for a vote. Bruce Szelest and Heide Andrade led a discussion of the Course Assessment Advisory Committee report. It contains suggestions on how to improve the current SIRF evaluation process of both courses and the faculty who teach them. They had specifically asked UPPC to comment on the report, and a variety of questions and concerns were raised. Many had to do with what information would be made more generally available and to whom. Finally, the general question of just what information is needed by UPPC to evaluate bills referred to it by the Senate was discussed. The Provost provided some course action forms from other universities to help in the discussion. It was clear that some of

the forms from other institutions request more detailed information than the current form being used by the College of Arts and Sciences (which was used as an internal example). It was felt that some modification to our existing process would help UPPC and the Senate do a better job of providing information on resource needs implications for any legislation under consideration, but at the same time we do not want to create unnecessary work. As a start, UPPC members were asked to email Stacy Stern with some suggested items that we could add to a revised course action form. We will discuss these at our next meeting.

UPPC is not scheduled to meet until Dec 2, but in the interest of speeding up the process we took an email vote on CAS Proposal 11-078: Biology Revision of Lab Courses to indicate whether from a resource point of view it is ready to go to the full Senate once it clears SEC. The vote was favorable.