

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Senate Executive Committee, November 30, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

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

Graduate Study Survey Report: On November 10, 2009, the Chair received a question from GAC Chair Larry Kranich regarding procedures for reviewing the GSS report. The Chair referred the matter to the Governance Council. GOV examined the question, and on November 17 submitted a detailed report to the Chair, which was copied to Graduate Studies Dean Pryse and to the GAC Chair. Due to the complexities of the issues, Chair Range placed discussion of the GOV report on the agenda of today's SEC meeting, and he invited Dean Pryse to join in that discussion.

Definition of Diversity: President Philip had asked the University Community to review the draft of a revised definition of diversity and a new vision for diversity for UAlbany, and he asked for feedback and suggestions. Both CAFFECOR and ULC have discussed the draft document. The input of these governance bodies will be the basis for a discussion of the new vision and definition at today's meeting. Chair Range had invited Tamra Minor, Assistant VP and Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action, to be available for that discussion, but unfortunately she is not able to participate due to prior commitments.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

SA (Student Association) – Josh Sussman, SA President

Nothing to report.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

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

The Council on Academic Assessment met on November 16 to discuss incentives for high quality assessment and to share comments on chapters five, nine and ten of the draft Middle States report. A brainstormed list of incentives for assessment was generated and will be revisited at the next meeting. Questions about and comments on the Middle States report were discussed. Council members will post fine-grained, text-level suggestions for revision to the report on the website; broad stroke comments will be summarized in a memo from the CAA before the 12/7 deadline.

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

CAFFECOR met on November 9th to discuss revision of the Community Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) document. At this point we have a compiled version of the CRR with member suggestions and await final member approval before it is forwarded to Student Success and Conflict Resolution for their review. Of note is that, in the course of inputting suggested changes, the chair of CAFFECOR has noted sections which are pertinent to ULC and LISC also. For example, if the CAFFECOR changes take effect, one part of the policy on computer usage (LISC's purview) would also have to be changed. The electronic version of the revised CRR draft has been circulated to SEC members, but the chair of CAFFECOR would like to emphasize that *this draft has not yet been finalized by CAFFECOR*. Constructive criticism is welcome.

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

The CERS-GOV Joint Committee continues to meet on a weekly basis. We hope to have a draft ready by early December that we can discuss with administrative officers and concerned faculty.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

Nothing to report.

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

CPCA has nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

The GAC approved a proposal to establish an Advanced (Graduate) Certificate Program in Professional Science Management (PSM). The proposal has been distributed to SEC members and is on today's agenda.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Strategic Planning Committee: At its November 20th meeting, GOV identified individuals it felt would be important to include on the SPC group, representing large academic areas or populations not represented thus far on the group. Chair Lifshin has transmitted this list to the Provost.

Excellence Awards Committees: In accordance with SUNY and SUNY Senate Awards Committee requirements for campus excellence awards committees in order for local recipients to be eligible for the Chancellor's Excellence Awards, GOV approved and transmitted to the President membership for this year's committees; a student representative also needs to be selected and SUNY regulations indicated that the President and the Senate Chair each designate one member of each selection committee. GOV also suggested that the President's designee convene the first meeting of each committee and preside over the election of their chair, noting that both the President's and the Senate Chair's designees are full voting members of the given committee and could be elected chair of that body.

The committees are for the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Professional Service, Excellence in Librarianship, Excellence in Support ("Classified") Service, Excellence in Academic ("Faculty") Service, and Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. GOV noted that the last award has *two distinct sets of criteria*, one for "Scholarship" (formerly the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research") and one for "Creative Activities." The UA Senate Charter designates the responsibility for the "Research" award to the Council on Research, but does not address "Creative Activities." [The criteria, requisite forms, and the number of possible recipients allocated to UA for each award can be found on the following SUNY sites:

<http://www.suny.edu/provost/facultyAwards.cfm?navLevel=5> and

http://www.suny.edu/provost/faculty_awards_files/CEA%202009-2011%20policies%20and%20procedures.pdf.

Consequently, the membership for "Scholarship and Creative Activities" expressly avoided the research component and included membership suggested by Provost's Office concerned with "creative activities."

Bill Hedberg responded that the membership was acceptable for all except the "Scholarship and Creative Activities" committee, but he is passing on to COR the list of members recommended by GOV. He also provided the names of the President's designee for each committee and, in most cases, the name of a support staff person. Senate Chair Range provided a tentative list of his designees (not all of whom as yet have agreed to serve on the committees.)

GOV remains concerned that UA faculty whose accomplishments are more appropriate to the "Creative Activities" criteria may not be (and may not have been) given appropriate consideration for that award. There is no question about COR continuing its appropriate role in selecting a committee to nominate faculty it deems worthy for the President's Award for Research (and thereby the Chancellor's Award for "Scholarship") but it may be desirable in the future to have a separate committee concerned with a President's (and Chancellor's) Award for Excellence in Creative Activities.

GAC inquiry regarding reports from the Graduate Student Support (GSS) panels: Senate Chair Range asked GOV to provide an interpretation of the Senate Charter in response to a request from GAC Chair Kranich. Specifically, Kranich noted that in response to the GAC request to Graduate Dean Pryse for information on the GSS deliberations, "The Dean told the Council that GAC will receive a copy of the final report of the GSS review but not the individual program assessments. She assured the Council that the GSS report will not include proposals for continuing or discontinuing programs nor will it contain any funding recommendations. Therefore, since Subsection X.4.5.1 is subsidiary to X.4.5, it is her contention that the GSS review will not affect the continuation of graduate programs, and therefore 4.5 does not apply nor its subsidiary."

At a special meeting of GOV on November 17th, the council strongly disagreed with that interpretation. However, recognizing the potential harm of premature disclosure of some GSS rankings, it suggested GAC (and, as applicable, UPPC) members made privy to those findings take a confidentiality oath. This response was sent to Chair Range with cc's to Pryse, Kranich and UPPC Chair Delano and has been distributed to SEC members. It was subsequently noted that GOV's response was cited as a reason for not informing program directors of the panels' findings—this was not suggested in the GOV document, and preservation of appropriate, established opportunities to challenge GSS opinions imply that the programs receiving tentative weak rankings need to be informed of this at the earliest possible opportunity.

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

At the last LISC meeting, CIO Christine Haile reported that ITS staff is working with the School of Business on the design for the new building by providing input and cabling suggestions as well as instruction on the AV and classroom design. Fixed technology will be in each classroom. The Registrar's office will schedule these classrooms.

Dean of Libraries Mary Casserly reported that the Libraries are okay for now with the mid-year budget cuts.

The University Library and the Science Library will again have extended hours during exam week. The hours are posted on the website.

Skype is now available in a group study room in the University Library.

IT Committee chair Larry Raffalovich reported that the IT Committee met and discussed privacy and security concerns, as well as how much is being monitored, and does the University have the authority to monitor content and usage. University Counsel John Reilly was invited to attend the November 23 meeting of the IT Committee to discuss privacy policy.

Other issues raised were concern with the embedded links that accompany emails and the caution that should be taken when opening these links. A discussion followed regarding the lack of subject lines in blast emails and some of the electronic classrooms being non-conducive to teaching. A suggestion to revisit "email as an official means of communication" by the Committee was made.

LISC members are asked to review and comment on the Middle States Self-Study Report, especially Chapter 3.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC approved a CAS course for training tutors under a grant.

UAC learned that the number of students electing S/U grading has greatly increased now that the last date to do so has been moved to later in the semester (877 in Fall 09 with a later deadline compared to 396 in Fall 08 with Sept. 22nd deadline). It remains to be seen if the number of appeals will go down! (Students who elect S/U grading must obtain a C or better to pass.)

UAC discussed the concept of granting blanket Gen Ed approval for topics courses. No vote was taken. The sense of the group was that each course, or in this case, group of courses, should be reviewed on its own merits, and that a general topics course in an area that fell under a particular gen ed could be approved if set up to clearly show those objectives would be met in all topics.

UAC began a discussion about determining whether a student who missed more than 2 weeks of classes due to illness or any "allowable" reason should always be allowed back in class at the request of the Dean, as is the case for shorter absences of similar nature.

The new date and time for UAC meetings in the spring 2010 semester has been set for Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am.

The UAC reviewed Chapter 9 of the Middle State Self-Study draft report and submitted comments as requested.

The UAC proposes a revision in the General Education Foreign Language requirement. The proposal has been distributed to SEC members and is on today's agenda.

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

ULC met to discuss the Middle States Self-Study draft; its comments on chapters 10 and 7 follow:

Chapter 10 typos: Page 8, course prefix is 'RSSW'. Page 8 is missing a link. Page 18 'Capitol' should be spelled 'Capital'. Page 12 number of veterans is now 221 as of fall 2009.

Chapter 10 comments: Page 3, reference to a “dip to 72.4% [retention] after eight semesters”, it is unclear whether this is correct. Shouldn't retention dip to zero given graduation after eight semesters for EOP students, especially in light of the fact that in the very next sentence Institutional Research has calculated the graduation rate at 60%?

Chapter 7 typos: Page 9, third paragraph: acronym “LGBTQ” should be “LGBTQQA” (Questioning, Allied). And, last sentence, same paragraph is a fragment “In and examine...faculty and staff.”

Chapter 7 comments:

1. Student Services for Graduate Students needs to be explicated. Notation that 30% of the crime on campus is “theft”--what is the other 70%? Is it more serious crime? Needs explanation and data.
2. Perceptions of safety? Where are the stats that demonstrate that UA is more safe than the general Albany community? There is one chart (Appendix 7.2) with ‘Students as Crime Victims OFF CAMPUS’, how about stats on students as crime victims on campus?
3. Appendices 7.1- 7.5, charts or appendices entitled “Cultural Leaders Avg. GPA “, “Prevention Program Attendance”, and “Residence Hall Programming “ are not referred to in the body of the chapter.

ULC continues to ask for three undergraduate student members for the University Life Council, one of whom must be a senator

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

The UPPC met on Thursday, November 19. At that meeting, the UPPC received a report from Kim Bessett, Associate Vice President for Financial Management and Budget, providing the UPPC with a spreadsheet showing NY State allocations to UAlbany during the last several years. These data had been requested in a prior UPPC meeting, and the prompt response from the Office of Financial Management and Budget was appreciated.

In addition, the UPPC discussed a 15-page Letter of Intent for the creation of a Master's degree program in Global Affairs at Rockefeller College. Dean Jeffrey Straussman and Professor Rey Koslowski replied to questions and comments from UPPC members on specific aspects of the Letter of Intent. The UPPC will be meeting on Thursday, December 3, to continue the discussion with Prof. Koslowski about the Global Affairs proposal.