

**2008-2009 University Senate
September 22, 2008
John Delano, Chair**

MINUTES

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Heide Andrade, Hassaram, Bakhru, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Zakhar Berkovich, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, Irina Birman, Lance Bosart, Christine Bouchard, Ray Bromley, Daryl Bullis, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, Kirsten Davison, John Delano, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Sally Friedman, Robert Gibson, Andrew Haas, Eric Hardiman, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Donald Keenan, Sung Bok Kim, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Kathryn Lowery, Carolyn MacDonald, Candace Merbler, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Benjamin Shaw, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Lawrence Snyder, Scott South, Eszter Szalczzer, Daniel Truchan III, Lynn Videka, Michael Werner, Ann Withington, Robert Yagelski

Guests: Jonathan Bartow, William Hedberg, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan

The meeting convened 3:32 PM.

Minutes: The Minutes of May 12, 2008 were approved with an amendment to the discussion associated with Senate Bill 0708-23 as follows:
“A discussion ensued concerning the fact that in contrast to existing MA/MA and BA/MA joint programs, this proposal allowed for the full 32 credits for the MA to be double counted towards the PhD.”

Joan Savitt noted that the Council and Committee reports following COR were not included.

The Minutes of May 16, 2008 were approved as amended.

President's Report by Interim President George Philip

Interim President Philip commented on the busy summer and the great job everyone did to make the summer planning conference successful.

Campus Highlights:

- Albany Alliance Agreement: The agreement is to continue to discuss a future agreement. Nothing has been signed as of this date, except an agreement to continue talking.
- IBM Agreement: The \$1.64 billion will be a major boost to the Hudson Valley and CNSE.
- Senator Bruno's Farewell: The Senator made a final tour of the campus upon leaving office. His papers will be archived at the University.
- Giants Training Camp: This was the shortest camp in length but brought ~44,500 visitors to the campus, which is the 2nd largest attendance to date.
- China-150 Project: Six students have arrived from China at UAlbany and were welcomed.
- Student Activities: Attended Student Association retreat at Dippikill; met students at GSO picnic; assisted during Move-In Day, which was also attended by Mayor Jennings; attended the Student Leadership reception which that was energizing.
- New Entry Plaza: The entry plaza was officially opened at the beginning of the semester with a ceremony attended by many dignitaries.

- \$1 million federal grant: Will establish center for science and technology and will also bring positive press and distinction to the University.
- A new Five Quad ambulance was christened with a “wet down” on September 16.
- The Governor General of Jamaica visited the campus. A former adjunct professor of the University, he was impressed with the Africana and Caribbean Studies departments.

Budget:

The impact of three budget cuts plus the Governor’s recent announcement of a zero-growth budget will be difficult for the campus to bear. If the Governor chooses not to fund UUP increases, this will fall on the back of the University. Further budget stress could result from the financial difficulties on Wall Street in recent weeks as its impact on the State Budget is realized.

Enrollment:

- The University has an all time high enrollment, exceeding 18,000 for the first time. There are 2,400 new freshman and 1,650 transfer students.
- The University is seeing more diversity in its student population, and the male population exceeds that of females.
- There was an increase in SAT scores and GPAs within the entering freshman class.
- The report from the Commission on Higher Education was released, but its strongly positive recommendations will need to be deferred in response to political and financial events.

The Interim President ended his presentation with a question-and-answer period, and then needed to rush to deal with the consequences of a water main break on the Harriman campus.

Provost’s Report by Interim Provost Susan Phillips

- The School of Criminal Justice will celebrate its 40th anniversary in October. The School has been ranked number two in the country.
- The School of Public Health has partnered with the International Peace Corps Master’s Program.
- The School of Social Welfare dean, Katherine Briar-Lawson, has been selected as a “Women of Excellence” by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce.
- The College of Nanoscale Science has formed a partnership with the US Army Research Laboratory. The College has had its first graduating class from NanoHigh.
- Funding for research at the University exceeded that of the Universities of Stony Brook and Buffalo, and placed UAlbany 15th in the nation in research expenditures among universities without a medical school.
- Athletics: The men’s football team handed and upset to Hofstra University.
- Finance and Business: The largest of the Capital Plan projects is underway, and improvements are being made to the Indian Quad cafeteria.
- School of Education: Dr. Abbe Herzig was awarded \$1.7 million by NSF for project GEMSTONES, with a five-year goal of increasing the number of women and minorities who complete PhDs in the mathematical sciences.
- A new environmental sustainability officer has been hired.
- The Health and Counseling Center has moved to a new, modern location.
- Conversations with Albany Medical College have begun. There is a possibility of developing a medical school pathway.
- FYE first draft report is expected in late October.
- The Going Forward Plan will begin its six planning conferences in September.

Provost Phillips thanked everyone who has worked with her during her first six months as Provost.

Senate Chair's Report by John Delano

Chair Delano gave a PowerPoint presentation (*Hope for the Future: Powered by Optimism, Tempered by Realism, and never Encumbered by Cynicism*) outlining his vision for future accomplishments of the Senate, and the characteristics that would guide the Senate members towards achieving those goals. He would like to see the members accomplish goals using a team approach and to be vigilant in guarding against conflicts of interest. He asked council chairs to avoid a flood of bills at year end. A call was made for the names of Senators by the required April/May 2009 time-frame, instead of the several months of delays that characterized some departments/schools/colleges at the end of the 2007/2008 academic year. A copy of the PowerPoint file is available at the Senate web site.

SUNY-wide Senate Report by William Lanford and R. Michael Range

William Lanford explained that the SUNY-wide Senate is a body that works in committees, with legislative action taking place.

The mission of the last meeting was setting an agenda for committees. The budget was a topic of discussion with no good news. The status of the search for a new chancellor was discussed at the last meeting. Reports that have been appearing in the media are inaccurate and the search is still open.

The Senate is under pressure from the Legislature and the Board of Trustees to solve problems related to the controversial issue of transfer and articulation. There is a committee in place addressing the issues and they will make a recommendation which will come to a vote at the next Senate meeting. If the Senate does not act, the Board of Trustees will.

Michael Range reported the first plenary meeting will be held on October 16.

Council/Committee Chair Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) Henryk Baran, Chair: The Council met on Wednesday, 17 September 2008, 10:00–11:30 in UNH 306. The business of the day included an orientation session for new members, elections of chairs of CAA standing committees, a review of the CAA schedule for the 2008-2009 academic year, and an exchange of ideas regarding the role CAA currently plays within the assessment process and possible ways in which its activities might be enhanced. Discussion on the last of these points will continue at forthcoming meetings. Irina Birman (School of Public Health) was nominated and elected chair of the Program Review Committee, Joette Stefl-Mabry (Information Sciences) was nominated and elected chair of the General Education Assessment Committee

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) Malcolm Sherman, Chair: The goal is to get a recorder.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) Carolyn MacDonald, Chair: Submitted a draft policy change to the University Council at the beginning of the summer.

COR (Council on Research) Lawrence Schell, Chair:

The first meeting of the Council on Research was held on Wednesday, September 17. The Council reviewed accomplishments of last year, discussed the report of the Vice President for Research and considered issues raised last year still to be resolved.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) Eric Lifshin, Chair: The council is one member short. An orientation meeting is planned for later in the week of September 22nd.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) Laurence Kranich, Chair:

Nothing to report. Our first meeting is on Tuesday, September 23rd.

GOV (Governance Council) R. Michael Range, Chair:

The Governance Council (GOV) met on Sept. 5 and on Sept. 15.

The Council unanimously agreed on recommendations for Interim President Philip concerning positions on the Committee to Select DTP and DSP that had become vacant.

GOV began a review of the charter amendment originating from LISC (Senate Bill 0708-12) that the Senate had referred to GOV at the May 12, 2008, meeting. The main issue to resolve concerns the question of whether non-elected ex-officio members on a senate council or committee could be designated as chair of a council / committee, or, more generally, whether they would be eligible to be nominated and elected as chair. The discussion included a question brought to GOV by Senate Chair Delano, namely whether there are or should be any restrictions on department chairs to serve as chair of a governance council / committee. Discussions will continue, and the Council welcomes any input regarding these questions.

For its 9/15 meeting, GOV invited Senate Chair Delano (last year's chair of GOV), and the two co-chairs of the Middle States Self Study Steering Committee, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Sue Faerman and Distinguished Teaching Professor Steve Messner, to review and answer questions about the time line and process involved in the formation of the Self Study Steering Committee. GOV also inquired about the status of its May 2008 recommendations to Interim President Philip concerning this committee. GOV is analyzing the information, and it is anticipated that a report will be made to the Senate Executive Committee and to the Senate in the future.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing) Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair:

LISC met Friday afternoon. None of the ex-officio members could attend. CIO Chris Haile was elected chair of the ITUPC. Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia is chair of the Library Committee. Minutes from May 2 were approved by those who attended. Among the issues discussed:

- Simplifying and consolidating the process through which graduate students purchase University licensed software;
- IT anti-phishing procedures
- Budgeting for ICPSR membership

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) Joan Savitt, Chair:

UAC has met a number of times, with council meetings alternating between Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. We are still awaiting the designation of the final members of the council itself, and therefore have only partially constituted our sub-committees. We are discussing possible additions to the rules for syllabi, requirements for a second Bachelor's degree, and a modification of Dean's list rules or an appeals process for cases where an Incomplete was assigned because of a serious illness or for other compelling circumstances beyond the student's control.

ULC (University Life Council) Daniel Smith, Chair:

The University Life Council met for the first time since the organizational meeting on Wednesday, September 17th. We reviewed the charge of the council, as well as the charges of the standing subcommittees.

We still lack one member from the Teaching Faculty due to a resignation, three undergraduate students, and one graduate student member, and hope these open positions will be filled quickly so we can move forward with a full council.

The council members are volunteering for subcommittee assignments. When the subcommittees meet, chairs will be elected, and additional members recruited.

We have one issue that is a holdover from last year which involves the campus smoking policy, and reported inconsistency in implementation, and in some cases community members ignoring the policy altogether. ULC will engage the administration and other constituencies, and discuss possible solutions. If we conclude there is a need to alter the current policy based on our consultations, a bill altering the policy will be written. If we conclude the current policy is adequate, additional implementation advice for the current policy will be sought and disseminated.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) Reed Hoyt, Chair:

The UPC met on Tuesday, 20 August to discuss plans for the next year.

The UPC needs to be kept abreast of budgetary and facilities issues. The Resource Analysis and Planning Committee and the University Facilities Committee have been constituted. The plans for the Campus Center Expansion are unlikely to be set in motion until February at the earliest.

The Council is considering the idea of having qualified professional staff act as part-time instructors. The UPC should bring at least two items to the Executive Committee for approval for the Senate meeting of 20 October. We have been given to understand that another item from Rockefeller College is forthcoming but have not seen it in writing.

The UPC is scheduled to meet again on 16 October.

Daniel Truchan, III, President of the Student Association, made a request for inclusion in meetings. He also made a request for the scheduling of meetings at a time when students might be able to attend. Chair Delano apologized for having not included Mr. Truchan's report on the agenda, and promised that future Senate agendas would do so.

Report on Middle States Self-Study by Senate Representative, Reed Hoyt:

Middle State Liaison, Dr. Luis Pedraja will visit the campus on September 25th and will meet with the Senate Executive Committee during his visit. He will also meet with the Steering Committee. Everyone involved has been working very hard.

Sue Faerman, Co-Chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee, noted the wiki site on the University's home page, where information can be obtained on the status of the Self-Study.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Council and Standing Committee Memberships:

Senate Secretary, Richard Collier announced the addition of Jane Domaracki to the Governance Council. There are still membership openings within some of the Councils. A motion to approve the membership was made, seconded, and passed.

Election of Senators Selected by Their Council as Council Chair LISC: Lawrence Raffalovich, Sociology:

A motion to approve Lawrence Raffalovich was made, seconded, and passed.

Report on The Honors College by Jeffrey Haugaard, Director

Director Haugaard stated the goals of the college are to increase the number of highly qualified students admitted to the college and to challenge them intellectually. Important strides have been made to meet these goals, as well as having the college recognized at the national level.

Of the 335 students in the Honors College, 44% had a GPA of 3.8 or higher last year, 47 had a 4.0 GPA last semester.

During the first two years, students take six intellectually challenging and advanced courses from a wide range of disciplines. In the last two years, they are encouraged to become involved in research and to begin research of their thesis. Eighty faculty have participated in the Honors College.

Honors students excel both inside and outside the classroom, and they are involved in the larger community. They have participated in weekend and evening events on campus, some of which were organized and led by the students themselves. Students have participated in off-campus activities, such as a tour of the capital and Albany.

From a development perspective, the program, in its infancy, had good support from the administration and other groups on campus. As the program enters its childhood phase, it is hoped there will be continued support from those groups.

Senator Lanford encouraged the Director of the Honors College to bring greater campus visibility to the Honors College.

Senator Savitt encouraged the Director to promote international perspectives and opportunities (e.g., travel abroad).

Senator Collier reminded the Director that, according to the original legislation (Senate Bill 0506-05), the retention standards for the Honors College need to be reviewed by the University Senate.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. A motion to extend that period for five minutes was made and approved to continue a discussion of retention standards.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Cameron, Recorder