

University at Albany, State University of New York
University Senate
MINUTES
Monday, December 18, 2006

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Roger Bisbing, Ana Cervantes-Rodriguez, Maria Chau (President GSO), Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Diane M. Dewar, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Sally Friedman, Mary Gallant, Robert Gibson, Jil Hanifan, Susan Herbst, Anne Hildreth, Heather Horton, Reed Hoyt, Jon Jacklet, Donald Keenan, Laurence Kranich, Kevin Lahey, William Lanford, Pamela Lee, Eric Lifshin, Irene Lurie, Carolyn MacDonald, Steven Messner, John Monfasani, Joy Newman, Olimpia Pelosi, Marjorie Pryse, Sanjay Putrevu, R. Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, David Shub, Lawrence Snyder, Scott Tenenbaum, Daniel Truchan, III, Wendy West, Daniel White, Alissa Worden, Adam Zonder

Guests: Jon Bartow, Paul Leonard, Sheila Mahan, Bruce Szelest

Minutes: The Minutes of November 27, 2006 were approved.

Provost's Report, Presented by Susan Herbst, Officer In Charge:

Winter Commencement: Provost Herbst thanked faculty and staff members who worked at Commencement and acknowledged the great speeches of Judge Wesley and the "last-minute" speaker, Senator Charles Schumer.

Selective Investment: Provost Herbst reported that there are currently sixty-six proposals, which are fewer than last year. It is hoped to have all available next week; they will be circulated to UPC. Members of UPC will provide feedback to the Selective Investment Committee.

Second Annual Campus Reading Project: The book chosen this year is Elizabeth Kolbert's, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. William Hedberg is coordinating the project. More to come; check the UAlbany website.

Elder Network: The Elder Network received a key state grant, \$800,000. in funding. It will help establish a sustainable community. More on this topic from Dean Briar Lawson soon.

"GetNANO" Initiative: An initiative with CNSE and Hudson Valley Community College, with a goal to bring their students from HVCC to UAlbany to train them for the business world.

Student behavior at athletic events: Provost Herbst reported that there have been reports of shouting of obscenities at basketball games. The Student Association is willing to work with administration on shaping up fan culture; possibly running a contest for creating some new, positive, and non-obscene cheers.

Enrollment Management:

UAlbany's response to the need for additional general education seats has paid off. There have been 3,000 new seats added for the fall and more than 2,000 for the spring. The Course Availability Project has put a dent in the project. Applications for 2007 are very strong, at about 40 percent ahead of last year. The University is seeing the effect of a new marketing approach and possibly class AA sports; a lot of factors taken together. Provost Herbst thanked the faculty for a great semester.

University Faculty Senate Report, presented by Senator William Lanford: Senator Lanford introduced the SUNY-wide Senate Resolution on Enhancing SUNY Access to Electronic Databases, noting that it was passed at last SUNY faculty Senate meeting. Senator Lanford noted other university centers also endorse the Resolution. The Resolution came to the floor as a motion from the Senate Executive Committee; it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Senate Chair's Report, presented by Diane M. Dewar:

December 11, 2006 Special Senate Meeting: Chair Dewar announced the names of the six members of the faculty who were nominated by the Senate at the meeting. The names have been passed on to George Philip, the Chair of the University Council. No further information on the Search Committee has been reported. The six Faculty Representatives are: Carol L. Anderson, University Libraries, Diane M. Dewar, School of Public Health, Senate Chair, Reed Hoyt, Music Department, Senate Chair-Elect, Sung Bok Kim, History Department, John Pipkin, Geography and Planning Department, and R. Michael Range, Mathematics Department

College of Computing and Information: Chair Dewar reported that she met Dean Bloniarz to discuss infrastructure issues for the college. Dean Bloniarz will meet with the Senate Executive Committee in the spring to work on any issues Council members may have.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code Committee: Chair Dewar noted that she is still waiting for faculty member volunteers to the Committee from councils that have not yet submitted any names.

Council Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment): William Lanford, Chair. The CAA is working on the following topics: CAA has completed reviewing assessments of Spanish and French. CAA is currently reviewing assessments for Biology, Mathematics, and Geography and Planning. A schedule for assessment of Project Renaissance has been developed. This should allow CAA to receive a full assessment report during the present academic year. The Council has begun discussion of providing comparative data that would allow individual course instructors to better understand their own student course evaluations. UPC has also raised this topic. Bruce Szelest has formed a committee involving CAA, UPC, and Institutional Research to discuss what can be done. The committee has had its first meeting. The Council also discussed possible changes in procedures that might make assessments more effective, including involvement of a Council

member from the beginning of the process (department self-study), to the end (reporting to the CAA).

COR (Council on Research): Andrew Haas, Chair. Vice President Videka reported to the Council on the status of the Indirect Cost Recovery at UAlbany. She noted also that the 2005-06 Council on Research approved a recommended proposal for revision to the ICR Distribution policy, which is currently under consideration. Mary Louise Malice, former Secretary of the Senate Financial Committee, was introduced. She will oversee the development of the East Campus. The Council on Research voted to forward the conference/Journal and FRAP Committee's recommendations for funding to the Vice President for Research. The *Voice of the PI Forum* was held on December 5. The forum was a joint collaboration of Lynn Videka, Vice President for Research, Kathy Lowery, Vice President for Finance and Business, and Cheryl Frye and David Strogatz, Co-Chairs of the Researchers Liaison Committee, a subcommittee of the Council on Research. A summary of the forum will be sent to deans, department chairs, and PIs. Those who were not able to attend can share their ideas and insights at <http://www.albany/research.edu>.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments): David Shub, Chair. Chair Shub reported that CPCA had its first meeting of semester to consider the only case this semester and that it will have 46 cases for next semester.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council): Sally Friedman, Chair. At the November 30 GAC meeting, two items took up most of the agenda. GAC voted to agree to a request to suspend admissions to the PhD program in Organizational Studies (a request also being considered by UPC). The Council also engaged in a lengthy discussion (to be continued) reviewing the writing proficiency requirements for international students. Finally, because GAC sponsored the relevant Senate bill, the Council briefly began a discussion of GAC's ongoing role in monitoring the activities of the recently created Ombuds Office for graduate students.

GOV (Governance Council): Reed Hoyt, Chair. The proposed amendments to the University Senate Charter were emailed to University Senators and will be considered today in New Business.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing): Daniel White, Chair. LISC met on Nov. 17, 2006 to continue discussion about a resolution for e-mail as an official means of communication. No action was taken at the time of the meeting. The Dean and Director of Libraries provided an extensive report about the state of affairs in the University Libraries. This report will be available in the minutes posted on the Senate website. Highlights from this report include: Libraries were able to maintain rank as a top one-hundred library in a report by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) that appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Libraries will announce the need to begin the process to trim subscription costs in January (the shortfall is again in the \$500,000 zone), and Final exam week the University Library will be open 24/7. Dean D'Andraia indicated that on Tuesday, 12 December the University Library began operating on a 24 hour basis. Preliminary data show that students are making good use of the Libraries during these times. Dean D'Andraia notes "Tuesday night more than 400 students entered the building between 1:00AM and 7:00AM Wednesday, 13 December over 1000

students entered the building between 1:00AM and 7:00AM. Students used study space on all four levels of the University Library. At 2:00AM, 95 % of our computer work stations were in use. At 3:00AM, about 90% of our computers were in use. Our data indicates students were accessing resources on line throughout the night. Students also checked out all available lap tops on Wednesday night.” The CIO has also reported a very positive response to her request for student involvement in a Student Advisory board. There were over 100 responses and the CIO’s staff is developing ways to include all of these students in the advisory process. LISC will begin meeting again in late January or early February.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council): John Monfasani, Chair. The UAC approved three proposals to bring to the Senate for a vote: one concerns a revision of post-matriculation transfer credit policy; another is a revision of the membership of the Honors College's Governing Board; and a third is a revision of admission requirements to the School of Business. The texts have been distributed electronically to members of the Senate. Also, the UAC has under discussion the issues of how particular courses get accepted as UNI 150 and of the reform of Gen Ed requirements.

ULC (University Life Council): Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC has no bills to present at this point. It is struggling with how to implement a mandatory health insurance rule without pricing students out of our market, having learned that Albany is already more expensive than any of the other SUNY university centers and also having learned that our financially poorest students already have a \$1000 gap between their maximum aid and our current costs. The Council would like to bring to the table a question about how Albany might work to reduce its other fees. Who sets the comprehensive fee now? Who could change it?

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council): Steven Messner, Chair. UPC met on November 30. The Council approved a proposal to create an Undergraduate Ombuds Office. This proposal will be introduced as a bill at today’s Senate meeting. The council also discussed a proposal from Professor Gary Yukl, Director of the Organizational Studies Doctoral Program, to suspend admissions to that program. Professor Yukl and Dean Marjorie Pryse attended part of the meeting to provide background information and to answer questions from council members. The council voted unanimously to recommend that the Senate approve the proposal to suspend admissions to the Organizational Studies Doctoral Program.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility): Lawrence Snyder, Chair. The Chair of CAFFECOR met with Erika Snyder, a reporter for the Albany Student Press, ASP. She will be writing an article soon on academic freedom, political correctness, and the possible role of CAFFECOR for undergraduates.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship): Elga Wulfert, Chair.
Nothing to report.

New Business:

Senate Bill 0607-03: Proposed Amendments of Charter Sections SX 3 and SX 7. Introduced by Governance Council Chair, Reed Hoyt. The bill passed, with one opposition and two abstentions.

Senate Bill 0607-04: Establishment of an Ombuds Office for Undergraduates. Introduced by UPC Chair, Steven Messner. There was discussion on the liability of the person giving advice. Professor Messner noted that University Counsel J. Reilly addressed this issue with UPC. J. Reilly noted that the Ombuds representatives would have to receive training on what kinds of advice can be offered by the Ombuds office and the circumstances under which students should be directed to other units of the University.

After further discussion, Dean Pryse suggested there be a coordinated training committee with the undergraduate and graduate Ombuds offices, which would cover liability and the role of the Ombudsperson. Student Senator, Dan Truchan voiced concerns regarding documentation / liability. Dean Faerman agreed that coordination between the undergraduate and graduate Ombuds Offices is important. There was a motion to approve the bill; it was approved with two abstentions.

Senate Bill 0607-05: Proposed Revision of Membership of the Honors College Governing Board. The bill was introduced by UAC Chair, John Monfasani. The bill passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 0607-06: Revision of Post-Matriculation Transfer Credit Policy. The bill was introduced by UAC Chair, John Monfasani. The bill passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 0607-07: Business Admissions Proposal. The bill was introduced by UAC Chair, John Monfasani. There was lengthy discussion on this bill regarding placing caps on admissions. Dean Leonard spoke in favor of the bill and explained that this bill refers to an accreditation issue, and about the student teacher ratio. The bill passed, with two abstentions. An amendment that was brought to the floor, proposing that the UPC and UAC look in to whether a department should be allowed to place caps on admissions was further discussed. The amendment to the bill also passed, and the UPC and UAC will look in to the matter of caps on admissions to certain majors.

Senate Bill 0607-08: Proposed Suspension of Admissions to the Organizational Studies Doctoral program. The bill was introduced by UPC Chair, Steven Messner. Professor Messner reported that both GAC and UPC recommend this action to the Senate. Professor Yukl and Dean Pryse spoke in favor of the bill. The bill passed with five abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder