

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

Meeting of the University Senate, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Christine Wagner, Chair**

Senate Bill 1314-06: Proposal to Establish a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Major in Bio-Instrumentation was approved in the Senate on 4/28/14.

The Faculty Athletics Representative, Teresa Harrison, requested to make a report to the University Senate about the intercollegiate athletics program at UAlbany. She will report to the Senate on 5/12/14.

Senate Bill 1314-05: Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Teaching Composition was approved by the Senate on 4/28/14.

A letter of intent from the Department of Geography and Planning to establish a Master of Science Program in Environmental Geographic Information Science (MSEGIS) has been approved by UPPC and GAC.

A Charter Amendment (1314-03A) regarding the charge of CAFFECOR, introduced by GOV, was approved by the Senate on 4/28/14.

The Senate Chair has received a proposal from the College of Arts & Sciences for a reactivation of the Theatre Major. The proposal was forwarded to UAC and UPPC.

The Senate Chair has received a request for comment from Provost Phillips regarding a plan for deactivation and discontinuation of programs associated with CNSE. This will be discussed in the SEC meeting on 5/5/14.

### **UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators**

167<sup>th</sup> Plenary Spring Meeting

May 1-3, 2014

Hosted by Empire State College

Attended by UAlbany's John Schmidt and Danielle Leonard

Gwen Kay of SUNY Oswego was elected to a two-year term as Vice President/Secretary of the UFS.

### **Resolutions.**

Resolution of Textbooks Costs. This resolution concerned measures that might be used to keep costs down for students, including faculty choosing open-source online textbooks or lower cost

textbooks, and libraries putting textbooks on reserve. There were some concerns with details and costs, and the measure was sent back to committee for revisions.

Resolution on edTPA. This resolution ratified the Executive Committee's resolution asking for removal of the edTPA requirement for teacher certification and the appointment of an advisory committee to study the flawed implementation of the edTPA requirement (see below). It passed without dissent.

Resolution on the Evaluation of Campus President's commitment to the principles of shared governance—was passed without dissent. This sent advice to the Chancellor on criteria for the periodic evaluation of campus presidents in this area. The Chancellor previously requested the UFS's input on this critical component of Campus Presidents' Evaluation.

Resolution on extending SUNY Board of Trustees guidelines for Presidential Searches to the search for a Campus Executive Officer (not using the title of "President"), as a recent appointment used this term rather than President. (This appointment would make the CEO of CNSE also the CEO of SUNYIT, without a search.) The resolution passed without dissent.

**Teacher Education.** Interim Provost Bringsjord is establishing of an advisory committee on teacher education. In the meanwhile, the UFS has been working with our colleagues at UUP regarding the edTPA initiative of the State Education Department. The requirement that edTPA be passed by a student in order to achieve initial teacher certification has been delayed one year by the Legislature. The UFS Executive Committee passed a resolution in April that calls for a removal of the edTPA as a requirement for initial certification (endorsed by the full Senate). The Executive Committee of the Faculty Council of Community passed a resolution endorsing ours, and the Student Assembly of SUNY passed a similar resolution. Meanwhile, the resolution has been sent to legislative leaders, the Commissioner of the State Education Department, and the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of the State Board of Regents.

**LICH and SUNY Downstate.** Since the Winter Plenary in January, SUNY agreed to conduct a new call for proposals to purchase the LICH properties, leading to a settlement of all litigation over the closing of the hospital and layoffs. SUNY had been attempting to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked proposer, Brooklyn Health Partners but now Brooklyn Health Partners is being sued because it seems questionable that they can do what they proposed. If this is not settled by May 4; SUNY moves on to the next highest-ranked proposer. The bottom line: SUNY is allowed to exit LICH operations after May 22. Due to the delicate nature of this situation at this time, the UFS decided to delay to mid-June a resolution from the Health Sector which calls for an investigation of the LICH-Downstate situation.

**Data-driven policy making/ metrics.** Chancellor Zimpher and Interim Provost Bringsjord's presentations both highlighted a move by SUNY in the direction of data-driven policy making in order to address President Obama's proposal for a national rating system that will tie certain

metrics to financial aid allocations. SUNY expects to develop its own metrics and influence the metrics adopted by the federal government.

**Seamless Transfer Initiative.** Interim Provost Bringsjord reported that the Transfer Pathways faculty review has concluded and 94% of recommendations were adopted as proposed. Final pathways will be emailed this week. Full implementation of the pathways is on schedule for Fall 2015.

**Open SUNY.** The call for proposals for the second “wave” of Open SUNY online degree programs and courses was sent to the campuses on April 11 and are due May 16<sup>th</sup>. This time SUNY is seeking both existing degree programs in high-needs areas and courses that can be shared across/between campuses to satisfy or complete curricular offerings to meet the goals of the revised Transfer Paths. The Provost’s Open SUNY advisory committee will make recommendations to the Interim Provost soon. SUNY System Administration continues to explore how best to offer support services to students and faculty at a scale that can meet the Chancellor’s ambitious goal of adding 100,000 new students to the SUNY family.

**Announcements:**

June 2-3: Conference on Sustainability in the Curriculum

Nov. 12-13: Making Diversity Count

Fall (TBD): Two-Day Workshop on Applied Learning

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President**

The GSA has been very busy. We are preparing to move our offices due to the initiation of the campus center expansion project. It is of course a very stressful endeavor. Much of what we need to do depends on campus center management and we are understandably a small blip on their radar for this massive project. Our election results are the following:

President - Caitlin Janiszewski

Vice President - Kat Slye

Treasurer - Justin Chase

MCAA Chair - Brittany Glenn

Lead Senator - Ryan Gregoire

Appointments of Senators and other chairpersons are in process. We have already received notice from Senate council members that they would like to continue their services on their respective councils. We also successfully put on the Spring Presidents Forum. We look forward to following up on the issues discussed and improving for the next President's Forum in the fall. We hope to encourage more faculty to attend in the fall. We continue to hammer out the details of our bylaws.

And finally, we are working on following up with the University Auxiliary Services regarding what seems to be a display of incompetence regarding tax law. The treasurer and I have scheduled a meeting with UAS Executive Director and some staff to work through the nuances of why it seems they have been instructing us to do things for 10 years which are out of compliance with tax law. We hope to discuss our relationship as a whole and hammer out what responsibilities UAS must fulfill to allow us to do our jobs professionally. We are dependent on UAS for critical information regarding our financial processes. We will review our contract with them and attempt to clarify as well as standardize our interactions so that they are fair, regular, and professional. I should note that some members of UAS are very helpful when it comes to human resources issues, etc. but it is in regards to our overall processes that we have experienced major issues with UAS neglecting to provide critical information or following up with questions. Small issues of miscommunication are of course inevitable but we will be addressing those which have resulted in many hours of graduate student officer's time compensating for something that **could** have and **should** have been communicated well in advance.

**SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative**

Interviews for next year's directors are being scheduled and conducted.

Purchase Requests for the comptroller's office have a deadline of Tuesday, 29th.

The senate passed a budget for next year.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Pine Hills clean-up was a success!

Hackett Middle School program still going on

Academic Affairs

UA U Should Know videos out

Gender and Sexuality Concerns

Started planning for conference for next year

Multicultural Affairs

Planning Cultural Carnival

Student Group Affairs

Prepping for Purple and Gold Awards

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernard, Chair**

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair**

Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) – John Monfasani, Chair**

COR voted to change the guidelines for support of conferences so as to allow support for conferences at the SUNY Global Center in New York City when UAlbany faculty are principles in organizing the conference. We also have under consideration the establishment of three new centers at Albany. Finally, we are still grappling with several issues concerning eligibility for FRAP awards.

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair**

The next CPCA meeting is on April 30.

[Update: The CPCA met on April 30 and is scheduled to meet on May 7, 14, and 21.]

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair**

GAC will be meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> to consider a petition from a graduate student to be reinstated in the psychology graduate program. We may also have other reports to consider at the meeting from the two standing committees of the Council. Remaining business will be taken up during a meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> if needed.

**GOV (Governance Council) – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair**

**GOV met on April 28, 2014**

GOV discussed how frequently the *Survey for the Evaluation of Shared Governance and Consultation* should be conducted.

According to the *Charter* Section X.1.3 the *Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation*, a subcommittee of GOV “shall evaluate the effectiveness of governance in

representing its constituencies, in addressing issues and concerns, and affecting institutional decisions” and, as further described in the Charter:

X.1.3.2 The Committee shall assess:

X.1.3.2.1 the structure and functioning of governance;

X.1.3.2.2 the responsiveness of governance bodies to their constituencies;

X.1.3.2.3 the effectiveness of Faculty participation in decision-making as specified in Article I, Sections 2.2 and 2.4 and Article II, Section 5.2 of the *Faculty Bylaws*.

X.1.3.3 The Committee shall develop and regularly administer assessment instruments, conduct data analysis and report findings to the Council.

After considering a variety of options it was decided that the survey should be conducted every two years. Several members recommended that on alternating years GOV should be examining the results of the previous year’s survey and making recommendations for the next year’s survey or making plans to administer and analyze results of the current year’s survey. Therefore the next survey should be conducted in the spring of 2016.

GOV also discussed the current term limits for Senate Officers, noting that at some other institutions Senate leaders remain in office for two years, and at others elections are held yearly but Senate Officers may choose to run again for 4 consecutive terms. It was recommended that GOV should research the organizational structures at other institutions and continue the discussion after more information has been gathered.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair**

LISC held a meeting on Monday, April 21. CIO Chris Haile provided updates on the plans to migrate to the new data center. Dean Mary Casserly, provided an update on the progress made in developing an Institutional Digital Repository. The library hopes to be able to rollout the digital repository to the campus in Fall 2014. If another LISC meeting is needed this year, it will be held on Monday, May 19th

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Anthony DeBlasi, Chair**

Nothing to report

**ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair**

The ULC met last week and identified the impact of construction projects on University life as a significant topic for the committee to discuss next year in regard to improving the quality of life for students, faculty and staff.

**UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Andi Lyons, Chair**

Nothing to report