

2015-2016 University Senate

**Monday, September 28, 2015
2:45 pm, Assembly Hall**

Cynthia Fox, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Adams, Marcus; Alaei, Kamiar; AlMahamid, Ilham; Atrey, Pradeep K; Beach, Bob L; Brandon, Peter; Burke, Gerald T; Charles, Tiffany K; Chen, Fan Pen; Chittur, Sridar; Collins, James P; Curtis, Henry W; Dai, Aiguo; Earle, Keith; Early, Bryan; Fessler, Susanna; Fox, Cynthia A; Giboney, Justin; Gulatee, Yenisel; Huang, Youqin; Jahanbani, Nakissa P; Jaromin, Michael R; Jemmott, Jarius I; Jerison, Michael; Kearney, Ann C; Kiorpes, Karen E; Kuznetsov, Igor; LaFond, Deborah M; Lawrence, Zina; Little, Walter; Londono, Johana; Malavasic, Jolene; Mamorella, David; Manjak, Martin; Marler, Janet; McDowall, David; McKenna, Holly J; Mitchell, Rachel; Moore, Chris S; Nowell, Gregory P; Pageau, Hanna Marie; Pastore, Christopher L; Petry, Greta J; Prelow, Hazel M; Roberts, Nancy; Rosenswig, Robert M; Scheck, Helene E; Schmidt, John T; Slade Jr, Leonard A; Smith, Christy; Stefl-Mabry, Joette M; Stellar, James; Toseland, Ronald W; Vergari, Sandra; Vuille, Mathias; Webb, Raymond J; Wulfert, Edelgard; Yuan, Xiaojun;

Guests: Wirkkula, Leanne; Jewell, Carol H.; Charles, Harvey; Chesin, Sorrell; Murray, Ann Marie; Tsao, Sunny; Melis, Ariana; Martinez, Danielle; Pohl, Tracy; Quevedo, Jacqueline; Slye, Katherine; Rivero, Estela; Cimini, Dolores; Winchester, Kathie; Forsythe, Celine; Janiszewski, Caitlin; Rousseau, David; Caban, Pedro; Preble, Christine; Carroll, Llana; Jemmott, Jarius; Hedberg, William B; Newman, Nancy; Bartow, Jon; Prelow, Hazel

The meeting convened at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 11, 2015 were approved with the following voting results:
Approved 35 (88), Opposed 1 (3%), Abstained 4 (10%)

PROVOST'S REPORT – JAMES R. STELLAR

Provost Stellar had recently reported to the SEC and others, and would provide a brief summary as a framework for questions. First, we have a large number of major projects in gear, a great testimony to us. We have the College of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity (CHEC), which has been active and coming before you with programs. We have the new College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, which was formerly the College of Computing and Information. These, along with any other proposals in the existing schools and colleges, are part of what the President said in his Spring Address would be our expansion of programs. This represents a robust opportunity for us to generate new students who would pay for the new faculty we will need so that we can get bigger. There is an important efficiency in this, as we would not need, for instance, a new Registrar's Office, though we might need more staff. A couple hundred students in Homeland Security would pay for the faculty, and maybe three times more for Engineering.

One of our capital projects is to renovate the Schuyler High School, an icon in which the city is very interested. We will need their support for the project in the order of \$60 million. That will be completed over stages in

many years and might be the home for the new Engineering College. The E-TEC building is still on track to be on the Harriman campus. The governor gave us \$15 million for the Homeland security office, which we married with the money for which we had already planned. We moved it, in the Provost's opinion, to a better location. It will house Atmospheric Science, Arts and Sciences, ASRC, elements of Physics and Chemistry and Homeland Security – for which about 15 faculty are planned. The faculty will be teaching virtually, from other places on campus and beyond.

We also finished 2 Blue Ribbon commissions – one on graduate stipends and one on contingent faculty. Both reports are now in the President's Office and will be shared with you. The Provost and members of the contingent committee here present will be talking with you about the topic, which has generated a lot of interest.

We just finished the compact budget planning process, in which many of you participated. These results are coming out now. One topic was the SUNY performance plan. We sent in 14 preliminary applications for one-time money. We got 11 recommended for resubmission as full proposals. We have circulated the pre-proposals to the campus for feedback. As part of the performance plan, we submitted a spreadsheet which is essentially how the president and campus will be evaluated. Even though this is a complicated document due October 21st, we will share the draft with you and ask for feedback.

We are making significant efforts to try to retain more freshmen. If we could boost our numbers from around 80.7% to 90% we could get about 640 more students. Those students, who we have already recruited, would help us grow and would give us about \$6 million in revenue over four years. That has been a major project with the Provost's office and Student Affairs that seems to be going well. It looks like we went up 1% for the retention of last year's freshman, and it is asked that any ideas to improve freshman retention be shared.

Provost Stellar's responses to questions included the following: 1) In comparison with other SUNYs, Binghamton has an 88% retention rate. 2) Retention of transfer students is an area initially overlooked, but where efforts are now being made. We have increased number of living-learning centers and reduced section size of the courses taught by Writing and Critical Inquiry faculty to student ratios of under 20. 3) We hired 4 deans from the outside due to retirements and hired Rebecca Mugridge from Libraries to be an interim dean. The Provost noted that he does not like faculty to leave, though retirement is an exception. He asked that if anyone notices faculty are going to leave to bring it to the Dean's attention and that the Deans bring it to his attention. We have had a couple of examples where we have prevented faculty from going to pretty distinguished places.

The Provost stated his intent to get go to as many departments as possible and asked that faculty also please introduce themselves.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Cynthia Fox, Chair

1. Informational

- a. On June 12, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences informed Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry that the Religious Studies Program had been moved from the Department of Art and Art History to the Department of History, effective fall 2015.
- b. On May 21, Senate officers were asked to provide feedback on the Middle States Periodic Review Report (MSPRR); feedback and suggestions from Chair Stefl-Mabry were incorporated into the document that was due June 1. Two recommendations that remain only partially addressed include amending the process by which part-time faculty Senators are elected (currently by “voting faculty,” of which they are not a part) and consideration of representation on the Senate by emeritus faculty and those employed by the Research Foundation.

- c. Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry and Vice Chair Fox met with Provost Stellar and Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula on July 1. Topics discussed included the MSPRR report, SUNY EXCELS, faculty evaluation of administrators, the status of the yearly reports from the Vice President for Research on the occurrence of cases pertaining to violations of academic integrity principles in research and scholarship and their disposition, and the need to replace Albany Law student Andrew Howard as Senate Parliamentarian. As a follow-up to that meeting, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent Provost Stellar documents related to the proposed Senate Council on Administrative Review and Evaluation (CARE) which the Governance Council has been working on since 2011.
- d. In mid-July, Senate officers received materials from Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Strategic Leadership and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Jason Lane relative to the implementation of SUNY's Seamless Transfer framework. As per a Memorandum to Campus Presidents of 6/13/13, the Final Program Status Inventory and STR Attestation Letter need to be completed and submitted to system administration no later than COB on October 15, 2015.
- e. In August, Barry Trachtenberg, Vice President for Academics of the Albany Chapter of UUP, asked to meet with Senate officers to convey some concerns regarding CPCA.
- f. The schedule of monthly meetings between the Senate Chair, Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair, the Provost and the President's Chief of Staff has been established for the 2015-16 year. The first meeting was held on September 15.
- g. Chair Fox learned on September 14 that SUNY Central administration has invited campus governance bodies to provide input by October 9 on a revised Patent and Inventions Policy that they plan to submit to the Board of Trustees in November.
- h. Senate officers were informed on September 15 that (14) proposals were submitted to SUNY System Administration on August 28 in response to their invitation for ideas that support SUNY Excels and goals for student completion, and on September 16 that eleven (11) of these proposals (listed below) have now been given the go ahead for development and submission by October 15.

- # 123 Advanced Data Analytics Institute
- # 124 Data Analytics for Transforming SUNY
- # 126 Developing Cyberstructure to Advance Sensor Research and Development
- # 127 Expansion of EOP program
- #129 Faculty Start Up packages for CEHC
- #129 Increasing Access Completion and Seamless Transfer Success through the Development of Common Student Learning Outcomes
- #130 Increasing Student Enrollment and Minority Representation in the STEM Fields and Licensed Professions
- #132: Renovation of the Schuyler Building as the New Home of the UAlbany College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- #133 SUNY Global College of Multilingual Online Learning
- #135 The Steps 2 0 Evidence-Based Early Intervention Program for Alcohol Marijuana and Non-Medical Prescription Drug Use
- #136 UAlbany Advantage Enhancing the Student Experience

- i. Chair Fox received a request for Senate consultation in the appointment of faculty members to the Honors College Governing Board (HCGB) on September 16.
- j. The fall faculty meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 27 from 3-4pm in the PAC.

2. Actions Taken

- a. Chair Fox attended the first meeting of CPCA on August 30 to share UUP concerns.
- b. Materials relevant to SUNY's proposed Revised Patent and Inventions Policy were forwarded to COR for comment on September 14.
- c. Materials relevant to appointment of faculty members to the Honors College Governing Board (HCGB) were forwarded to GOV for action on September 16.
- d. The 11 proposals that support SUNY Excels and goals for student completion were forwarded to relevant Senate Councils for comment on September 16 and 18.
- e. Following consultation with the SEC on September 16, Chair Fox has appointed Ronald Vero as Senate Parliamentarian for 2015-16.

3. Recommended Actions

- a. In accordance with Senate Charter X.1.3.3., the Senate, via the Governance Council, is charged to develop and administer the next survey of effectiveness of governance and consultation in Spring 2016.

Chair Fox noted that anyone may ask about the Senate reports. She underscored that the fall faculty meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 27 at the PAC. The chair had hired a new Senate parliamentarian Ron Vero. Chair Fox was asked to elaborate on the references to issues between UUP and CPCA. She stated that the issues were mostly about tenure and promotion procedural concerns brought to UUP by their constituents which they wanted to remind the CPCA about.

Chair Fox offered a brief welcome and noted the meeting schedule. She introduced the Senate officers and Staff Support. She pointed to information available on the senate website, including the following: Faculty Bylaws, Charter, Senate and council memberships and history, University Senate FAQs for Senators, Robert's Rules of Order, Senate Handbook, Senate legislation, and meeting agendas and minutes. She read aloud sections of the bylaws including the preamble and portions of

Article I. Section 2 — Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculty

Article II. Section 1 — Powers and Responsibilities of the Senate

Article II. Section 2 — Composition of the Senate

She introduced the Senate council and committee chairs, student Senate leaders and SUNY-wide Senate representatives, all of whom serve on the [SEC](#). The Chair also outlined the Senate composition. She named and explained about its councils and committees and membership, including calls to the campus community for volunteer service. She explained how items come out of the councils and committees to the Senate as bills, resolutions or amendments. Chair Fox then ran practice votes.

OTHER REPORTS

College of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity) (CHEC) – Interim Dean David Rousseau

In the spring, Interim Dean Rousseau summarized, we had approved the new minor, and in the summer the college was institutionally created. Courses are being offered in the fall and spring. Two fall courses have been filled, so we are making great progress. We announced the hire of 4 new faculty. We have a search committee consisting of members of Rockefeller College, School of Business, Colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Arts and Sciences, and Public Health to evaluate a broad range of applications. The major that is in progress went through UPPC to SUNY, to hopefully come back out this Friday. This will be followed by the 30 day comment period, then external reviewers coming to campus, and then back to university committees in November. We are in the process of establishing an external advisory board to consist of public and private and nonprofit entities. They will comment on the new major and also any new programming for the college going forward. They will be meeting in a month. In response to questions Interim Dean Rousseau answered there has been program review by a wide variety of practitioners including state agencies and the private sector. We will also have a large group provide feedback through the advisory board.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – J. Philippe Abraham, Walter Little & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

The UFS Senators look forward to the Fall Plenary at Buffalo State on October 22-24.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Robert Beach, GSA President

I am happy to report that we have put together an exceptional senate and senate council team in the GSA. Our representatives are as follows:

GOV: Caitlin Janiszewski

COR: Hanna Pageau (Lead Senator), Hirah Mir

GAC: Rebecca Prince, Cristina Herrera, Tiffany Charles (Senator)

UPPC: Nakissa Jahanbani (Senator)

UAC: Derek Ellis

ULC: Yueyue Wang

LISC: Nicholas Schiraldi

CAA: Henry Curtis (Senator)

The GSA itself is in a very good position. It has a pretty big budget and is seeing increased participation by graduate students. We are looking forward to a very productive year.

There were two adjustments. The LISC representative will be Cathleen Green, and the CoR representative was changed to Amanda Pawlowski.

SA (Student Association) – Jarius Jemmott, Student Association President

Nothing to report

The Student Association's theme is to take into account the student experience. A few goals this year include transparency, accountability, innovation, advocacy for students, increasing student involvement, and improved relations between students and faculty, GSA, athletics and other departments across campus. Our organization has put forth a lot of new initiatives for students. For example, the President's Council and Student Leader Hall of Fame will acknowledge students and alumni who have contributed a lot. Our first town hall meeting is on

October 12th in the campus Center ballroom at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. There will be a mixer for administration, faculty, and all student leaders. The Pine Hills cleanup will be on October 11th, the Sunday of homecoming weekend. We opened it two more locations, as last year we had over 500 volunteers, and we anticipate more. We also want to open it to administration and faculty to help build the bond between them. We are working with Residential Life to do tutoring through the midterm and finals weeks. Our speaker series will be in November. More information will be provided, and all are welcome to attend. In response to an inquiry, SA information is available on the website and on social media. Chair Fox requested that GOV consider adding a link to the Student Association on the Senate website.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair

CAA is still forming committee assignments but otherwise has nothing to report.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

CAFFECOR met on Sept. 17. We discussed several issues, which we will work more on in the coming months, particularly as they relate to or impinge upon Academic Freedom.

We met on the 17th and discussed the proposal assigned to us by Chair Fox from the SUNY Expanded Invested Performance Fund. Members were asked to send their feedback by October 1st, to be compiled and forwarded to the SEC. We also talked about the Chancellor's Tobacco Free SUNY Policy initiative and how that might affect student retention. We will also talk about the administration's outsourcing to consultants in the areas of study in which faculty have expertise.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

The COR had its first meeting on September 17. We started to fill up the rosters of the various subcommittees and discussed the major item in the agenda, which consists of the new amendments of patent policies suggested by SUNY central. A document/report on this item will be percolating among the COR members.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Lynn Warner, Chair

CPCA met on Sep 15 and reviewed 1 promotion case and 1 tenure and promotion case.

CPCA is scheduled to meet on Sep 28 to review 2 tenure and promotion cases.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair

Nothing to report

We still need one person and one faculty member to serve. Please send any names to Jon Bartow or me.

GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair

Nothing to report; the dates for the GOV meetings are scheduled.

GOV met last Monday. One of the subcommittees, the Committee on Assessment of Governance & Consultation, puts out a biannual survey on the body that we represent. It will be sent out by December and analyzed and reported back to the Senate before the end of this year. The point that came up about

improving relations and considering putting a link to essay on the Senate website is one of our subcommittee's areas – Committee on Liaison & Elections. Other outreach can include forums, workshops and information sessions. Chair Collins outlined the charges of GOV's other 2 subcommittees: Committee on Council Nominations and Committee on Mediation. They had discussed the role of contingent and emeritus in the Senate. They also discussed the issue of administrative review, which had been on the agenda at points in the last decade and would be on this year's agenda.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

LISC will have their first meeting on Sept. 21.

LISC had its first meeting and chose subcommittee members and chairs. Chris Haile, CIO, retired.

Carol Sweeton is serving as Interim CIO during the search.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

Report of UAC Activity, May 7-September 15, 2015

The Undergraduate Academic Council, led by Chair Robert Yagelski, held its last meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year on May 7.

The Council reviewed and approved a proposal from the Psychology Department to change the terms of conditional readmission to the Psychology major from 2.50 in Psychology courses after completion of core courses to 2.75. This higher GPA requirement will increase the likelihood that students will meet the full admission requirements to the major the following semester.

The Council also reviewed two proposals forwarded from the Provost and Vice Provost. English is proposing a Joint 3+2 Degree Program with the School of Foreign Languages of Shanghai University, and English/Liberal Studies submitted a proposal to create a new B.A./M.A. program. UAC does not need to act or vote on either proposal but reports support for them. GAC will review the proposals in the fall.

The Curriculum and Honors Committee reported out approval of the following proposals:

- Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences is revising the B.S. in Atmospheric Science. A new capstone course has been added and the program will require 70 credits, up from 66, in part because of the guidelines associated with SUNY Seamless Transfer initiatives
- Chemistry is deactivating the Chemistry/Comprehensive Forensics Chemistry Emphasis B.S. since maintaining the Emphasis to meet the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission was become unwieldy
- Geography and Planning is revising the Globalization Studies language requirement so that it is clearer and simple
- Political Science is clarifying the requirements of the B.A. to ensure 18 credits must be taken at the 300 or 400 level at that a minimum of 15 credits must be completed

The Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing reported that the subcommittee, Committee on Academic Standing has been meeting weekly to review student petitions for exceptions to academic policy. CAS will convene for two full days in June to review petitions for reinstatement from students who will be dismissed when grades are posted at the end of the semester.

There was a correction to the report submitted by UAC as follows: "Political science is clarifying the requirements of the B.A. to ensure 18 credits must be taken at the 300 or 400 level and that a minimum of 15 credits of electives must be completed beyond the required core and concentration."

ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair

Nothing to report

ULC met once and is forming the agenda for the year.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Joette Steffl-Mabry, Chair

Nothing to report; UPPC's first meeting is Thursday, September 24th.

UPPC had its first meeting on September 24th. The proposal for the College of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity undergraduate degree was approved to move forward. As Interim Dean Rousseau explained, it has been sent out to SUNY. UPPC voted to conditionally approve the School of Education's embedded MS program within its PHD program in Counseling Psychology pending additions to the proposal application. The Chair supported the request for review and input on the 11 SUNY Expanded Invested Performance Fund proposals, which have a short turnaround.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senate Bill 1415-04: Deactivate and Discontinue the Puerto Rican Studies Major in the Department of Latin American & US Latino Studies

Chair Fox explained that this bill was approved to be tabled last spring due to the Professor Cruz's concerns voiced last semester, which had been shared via email and which Chair Fox outlined. An individual was under the impression that Senator Cruz was out of the country and not available for the Senate meeting. Chair Fox clarified that in fact he was in town and was invited to attend the meeting but declined to do so.

Election of Senators Selected by their Council as Council Chair:

Before a vote to un-table the bill could be taken, first membership changes were reported as follows:

UAC Christy Smith (Co-Chair); CPCA Lynn Warner;
COR Daniele Fabris

A motion was made to approve the above changes with the following voting results:

Approved 42 (84%), Opposed 5 (10%), Abstained 3 (6%)

A motion was then made to un-table Senate Bill 1415-04: Deactivate and Discontinue the Puerto Rican Studies Major in the Department of Latin American & US Latino Studies with the following voting results:

Approved 29 (67%), Opposed 12 (28%), Abstained 2 (5%)

Professor Pedro Caban Chair of LACS responded to Professor Cruz's concerns and statements, here summarized. Regarding concern that the then Chairperson of LACS Professor Max Lifshitz had failed to adhere to departmental procedures, Professor Caban stated that Professor Lifshitz had in fact conducted a fair and transparent process, resulting in the decision. He had provided opportunity for Professor Cruz to voice any concerns he may have had. Professor Cruz was indeed invited to the meeting on the deactivation, supported by an email from department Chair Lifshitz, dated May 6, 2014. Professor Cruz was among the recipients of that email. A formal vote was not requested as, per the Bylaws, a decision was reached by consensus. Emails of faculty present at the meeting, including Professor Caban, attest to this consensus. Professor Caban added that the Senate could be assured that LACS gave serious thought to the deactivation, and the dismantling of the major does not pose a threat to the integrity of the field nor diminish the field or scholars. The department decided a decade ago that the program was to be subsumed within Latino and Caribbean Studies. The Puerto Rican Studies major at UAlbany is in fact anachronistic, which is different from saying that about the field. The department did not claim the major had been superseded but rather subsumed under the more comprehensive field of Latin American and US Latino Studies. Professor Caban read a portion of Professor Griffith's statement last semester in which he was considered to have nicely captured the department's thinking on the subject. Not one student had declared a major in Puerto Rican studies in the last decade. Finally, LACS does not have the resources to supply the courses required for the major. It is for these reasons only that LACS proposes the deactivation.

In response to further questions, Professor Caban answered that essentially all the CUNY programs have been subsumed, so this is in line with current practice. Enrollments were on the decline and have been consistently zero. Enrollments have declined slightly in Latin American studies, but not noticeably. Regarding concerns voiced that we are not protecting the core Liberal Arts mission of the University, Dean Wulfert of the College of Arts and Sciences assured that we do not take the deactivation of programs lightly. We had 0 enrollments in the last 10 years, as was stated, so the reasonable thing to do was to deactivate. Dean Wulfert had followed up with Professor Lifshitz and had personally spoken with Senator Cruz about what had led to the decision, having been a little late to the meeting this past spring to oppose the tabling and explain what had taken place. She believed that Professor Cruz no longer opposed the decision. Professor Caban added that the content will not be removed at all from the program and that a student could have a focus in Puerto Rican Studies. A minor was proposed, which he agreed was a good idea that the department should take under advisement and discuss.

A quorum call was made, and Chair Fox had to adjourn the meeting having established that quorum had been lost.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder