

**University at Albany, State University of New York**  
**University Senate**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 12, 2007**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Katharine Briar-Lawson, Gerald Burke, Maria Chau, Fan Pen Chen, Richard Collier, Casey Crandall, Edward Cupoli, Diane M. Dewar, Peter Duchessi, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Sally Friedman, Mary Gallant, Robert Gibson, Jil Hanifan, Susan Herbst, Heather Horton, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Donald Keenan, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Pamela Lee, Zai Liang, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Matthew Martens, Steven Messner, John Monfasani, Gwen Moore, Michelle Moshier, Joy Newman, Olympia Pelosi, Marjorie Pryse, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, David Shub, Lawrence Snyder, Timothy Stephen, Brian Tregerman, Daniel Truchan, III, Lynn Videka, Wendy West, Daniel White, Adam Zonder

**Guests:** Frank D'Andraia, Jon Bartow, Sheila Mahan, Frank Thompson

**Minutes:** The Minutes of December 18, 2006, were approved.

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

**Black History Month:** The events held to honor Black History Month were well attended. Provost Herbst thanked everyone for their participation; and mentioned the great work of Geoff Williams on the University Home Page.

**Executive Budget:** Governor Spitzer announced a proposed Budget. Chancellor Ryan classified it as very good proposal for SUNY. Provost Herbst referred to the copy of the Budget Proposal prepared by SUNY, and noted there is still work to be done.

**Commission on Higher Education:** Governor Spitzer has established a Commission on Higher Education.

**Capital Budget:** The Capital Budget is an evolving process; there is some money for critical maintenance. The Business/Nano project and the money for autism and 'just for kid's organization' are important to the University. (The Governor is committed to high-technology.)

**Enrollment:** Targets have been met, there are 350 more students enrolled in Spring 2007, than were in 2006. Fall 2007 undergraduates are 12% over last year at this time. Quality remains strong; group 1 applicants are up by 2.9%; out of state applications are up by 20%; diversity applications are up about 20.02%; transfer applications are up; and graduates are about even with last year's pace.

**Campus Center Improvements:** Work to the Campus Center will be done over the Intersession (painting, lighting, and carpeting, and opening Wendys). The University

Cleaning Crews are cleaning the facility. Downtown; work at Husted is scheduled to begin soon and will be done in approximately 2.5 years.

**Sustainable Campaign:** The Campus is participating in the Recyclemania program. There will be \$25 million spent on improvement of the plaza between Collins Circle and the Podium. The area will be made more useful; there will be more green area, trees, lighting, landscaping, and a grand entrance to the University grounds. Work will begin in May.

**SUNY Faculty Senate Report, by Senator William Lanford:** Please see attached report.

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

**Faculty Forum:** Chair Dewar announced the Faculty Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, the topic will be: *Developing an Honor Code at the University*, with a community-type framework.

**Presidential Search Committee:** The Presidential Search Committee will meet for the first time next week. She will keep the Senate abreast of the process as things progress.

**Next Year's Council and Committee Volunteer Form:** Chair Dewar announced the new electronic submission form, and asked Senators to encourage others to volunteer.

**Senate Elections:** Chair Dewar reminded Senators that it is time to think about Senator elections in the schools and colleges.

**Senate Executive Committee Status:**

- Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Wayne Locust reported to the Senate Executive Committee about Enrollment.
- Vice President for Finance and Business Kathryn Lowery will speak to the Executive Committee next week on the University's Master Program.
- Chair Dewar will meet with Mark Perry, the Times Union new Higher Education Reporter. She reported that she is having an informational interview with him; it will not be for press.

**Dr. Bill Roberson, Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership:**

Dr. Roberson identified goals of the institute using the following presentation:

**What does the name change do?**

- Learning from experience: connecting the parts of faculty development to the whole
- Making explicit an often hidden but highly important dimension of faculty and institutional success

**Goals of the Institute**

- Promote teaching effectiveness and innovation, both in the classroom and on line
- Facilitate, in partnership with other entities, faculty paths to success in teaching, research, service and leadership
- Support instructional development and career preparedness for graduate student instructors

**Institute’s Programming--Samples**

- Events to stimulate campus-wide discussions
- Consulting to enhance individual faculty courses and instruction
- Departmental support for curriculum revision, assessment of teaching, and accreditation issues
- Instructional Technology research and testing
- Media Development (as budget allows)
- New Faculty events, “survival” services and seminars (partnership with departments and admin. entities)
- Retreats or other extended events to promote transformative institutional thinking

**3-year timeline:**

**2006-07 Groundwork and Infrastructure**

- Internal Staff hiring and development
- Promotions, Publications
- Web Presence and Resources
- Articulation of ITLAL Themes
  - intellectual engagement and “traction”
  - active learning
  - critical thinking
  - independence of thinking and learning
  - effective assessment

**2007-08 Focus on New Faculty**

- Using teaching time for maximum impact
- Clarifying teaching/learning objectives
- Meaningfully evaluating teaching effectiveness
- Surviving the transition---coordinating teaching, research, service

**2008-09 Focus on Community**

- How does an individual play a role in targeted, desired change?
- How do we adopt new practices that make us more effective?
- How do we have difficult but necessary conversations?

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**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment), William Lanford, Chair:**

1. CAA has finished reviewing the assessment of Biology.
2. CAA is reviewing assessments for Mathematics, and for Geography and Planning.
3. A schedule for assessment of Project Renaissance has been developed that should allow CAA to receive a full assessment report during the present academic year. Invitations to outside reviewers are about to be mailed.
4. As a result of Senate legislation from late last term, CAA now has responsibility for the Committee on General Education Assessment. This, along with CAA's responsibility for assessment of Project Renaissance, is leading CAA into new areas of assessment. Both Project Renaissance and General Education are quite different from the largely

departmentally based program with that CAA has reviewed in the past. For assessments of these programs to be effective, the key questions and issues need to be identified. To that end, CAA requests all interested parties to relay questions/issues that should be addressed in an assessment of either Project Renaissance or General Education. Communications can be addressed to me (lanford@albany.edu, or Physics Department) or to Barbara Wilkinson (bwilkinson@uamail.albany.edu).

5. Previously, the Council raised the possibility of providing comparative data that would allow individual course instructors to better understand their own student course evaluations. A meeting on this topic was organized by Bruce Szelest with the (tentative) conclusion that in the future, individuals would also received information on average scores for the Department and College. Exceptions to this might have to be made for very small departments where such a process might compromise confidentiality.

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship), Elga Wulfert, Chair:**

The council has met and discussed some changes to the CERS policy.

A bill regarding an amendment to the policy will be presented at the next senate meeting.

**COR (Council on Research), Lawrence Schell, Chair:** No report.

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) -- David Shub, Chair:** No report.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council), Sally Friedman, Chair:** No report.

**GOV (Governance Council), Reed Hoyt, Chair:** The Governance Council discussed the following three items: a clarification document from the Committee on Assessment of Governance; (2) handbooks; (3) Senate elections for next year. The clarification document was sent to the Executive Committee. The handbooks need to be made more concise. A notice will be sent out regarding elections for the 2007-2008 Senate, which must be in place on 16 April according to the bylaws, Article II, Section 8.1. The Governance Council will meet again on 5 March.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing), Daniel White, Chair:** LISC met to begin discussions about a Bill to make Email an official means of communication with students. The bill was discussed at length and the chair will re-distribute the changes for council member input this week. The council will vote on this bill shortly. We also discussed some new business that was brought to the council by Kevin Tyle and Tom Hoey. We discussed the need to develop some policy concerning the access to, use, and ownership of electronic data. In the case of an employee leaving the University, who is authorized to access data left on a computer or personal drive? The discussion was tabled until further information can be collected. Dean and Director of Libraries submitted a written report available in the minutes. The Assistant director of CETL reported that CETL has officially been renamed the Institute for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Leadership. The new Institute has been planning and hosting workshops on teaching and learning to graduate students and faculty.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council), John Monfasani, Chair:** UAC voted to give the General Education Committee authority to approve the petition of a student to have a particular course count as Gen Ed on his/her transcript, when departments do not respond in a timely manner to the Committee's request for a decision.

**ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair:** ULC held its first meeting of the semester, looking briefly at a number of issues. We learned that as of two days before the start of the spring semester, books for more than 500 classes had not been ordered through the University Bookstore. This affects the price of textbooks for students.

1) If faculty order their textbooks by the deadline set by the Bookstore, students who sell their books to the Bookstore during buy-back receive 50% of the price they paid for the book (new or used). After discussion with the ULC last fall, the Bookstore agreed to expand this policy. Since courses are frequently taught every other semester, effective for the fall '07 semester, this policy will include the entire next academic year. In other words, if faculty order their textbooks by the deadline set by the Bookstore for the following semester, or if they inform the Bookstore they will use the same textbook within the next academic year, students will be able to receive 50% of the price they paid for the book during buy-back.

This is one way faculty can help lower the cost of textbooks for students.

2) The more textbooks students sell back to the Bookstore during buy-back, the more used books are available on the shelves. Used books are sold at 25% off the price of new textbooks. Therefore, again, if your order is placed on time, students are more likely to sell their textbooks to the Bookstore for a 50% return, and those textbooks will appear on the shelves at a 25% discount for the next student who purchases them.

This is another way faculty can help lower the cost of textbooks for students.

3) Students who choose to have their financial aid awards distributed to their podium accounts may only purchase their books at the University Bookstore. We understand some faculty choose to place their book orders with bookstores other than the University Bookstore. For the convenience of those students who choose to have their financial aid disbursed on their podium accounts, we ask that you place an order for at least a small quantity of all of the textbooks you order with the University Bookstore.

This is a way faculty can help students effectively and conveniently use their financial aid.

**UPC (University Planning and Policy Council), Steven Messner, Chair:** UPC met for three hours on January 17 to review proposals for Selective Investment. The council was unable to discuss all proposals at the meeting. Nevertheless, a number of common themes emerged, and the council reached a consensus that the most productive and practical way to provide input to the Selective Investment Committee (SIC) would be to identify key criteria for the review of proposals, perhaps illustrating these criteria as appropriate. Following the meeting, the Chair solicited further commentary from council members and formulated a preliminary draft report for the Selective Investment Committee. UPC met on February 8 to discuss the draft report. The Council approved a final report that will be transmitted to the SIC.

**CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility), Lawrence Snyder, Chair:** No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Senate Bill 0607-09: Revision of Course Descriptions of the Undergraduate Faculty-Initiated Topics Courses UNI 150 and UNI 350: The bill was introduced by Senator Hoyt of the Governance Council. There was discussion on the bill and the bill was tabled and returned to the Undergraduate Academic Council for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder

## Attachment

### SUNY-WIDE SENATE REPORT

**SENATE PRESIDENT:** The President of the University Faculty Senate is **Carl Wiezalis** (Professor of Respiratory Therapy Education, Upstate Medical, Syracuse). President Wiezalis reported an extensive list of activities since our last meeting. These include: regular meetings of the Budget Allocation Program Committee (BAP-2) with Vice Chancellor Kim Cline, meetings of the SUNY Avian Flu Task Force which held a symposium November 8 in Saratoga, and a meeting of the NYS Assembly Hispanic and Puerto Rican Committee in Puerto Rico where he met with not only leaders in the Assembly but also with newly elected Governor Spitzer, Chancellor Ryan and Chancellor Goldstein of CUNY.

- There is an agreement between the Research Foundation and the Senate to hold two symposia: one on Energy and the Environment and one for new/young/changing researchers.
- With the support of Chancellor Ryan, efforts continue to develop mechanisms for improving leadership among our faculty.
- Ram Chugh (Emeritus, Potsdam) is working on developing a Service Corps that will help retired members of our community continue to contribute to SUNY's missions.
- Working with Provost Palm, discussions have been held about how SUNY can help train and retrain teachers, especially in the areas of science, technology and math.
- With the departure of Dick Collier from the Senate, we need a new Poet Laureate to deliver the Plenary Poem at the end of our meetings.

#### **KIM CLINE, SUNY CFO**

- Reported on BAP and BAP-II.
- She continues to try to make the process more open and transparent.
- Cornell and Alfred moving out of BAP.
- SUNY been collecting quotes to remind our leaders about their fundamental commitment to education.
- SUNY has been moving more items to base level budget (not just the traditional mandated increases).

#### **NYS SENATOR KEN LAVALLE**

- He welcomes the opportunity to meet directly with the faculty.
- He is a strong supporter of Chancellor Ryan and his effort to "keep rolling forward".
- He thinks SUNY needs strong capital program, especially for repairs and new technology.
- He is opposed to making SUNY Health Centers private, Asked what the faculty can do to help, he indicated that the public wants
  - to minimize waste
  - transparent management
  - to have metrics that show progress

#### **FACULTY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TALK BY SAMUEL BACHARACH FROM CORNELL**

A very interesting and amusing talk was presented by Professor Bacharach. See his recent books on Mobilization and Keeping Momentum.

- He worries about new Assistant Professors
- A good idea is not enough
- Leadership is moving ideas through the system
- Need to promote and when successful (at promotion), must produce.

#### **SECTOR CONCERNS and CHANCELLOR RYAN'S RESPONSE**

**Too many part time faculty and very uneven pay:** Ryan hopes we have turned the corner on reduced full time faculty, but we must keep working to improve faculty size.

**Privatizing Health Centers?:** Ryan wants to work constructively to solve problems pointed out by the Berger Commission.

**Library Funding is no longer sufficient, especially for monographs in the humanities and social sciences.**

Ryan seems to have received this message well and said he would "talk to the Presidents."

**Are the campus MOUs done and signed and public?** 47 of 60 are signed and they will be posted on the internet.

**Faculty leadership development:** Ryan volunteered that when the navy needs someone to run an aircraft carrier, it does not hire a "head hunting firm." to fill the job. Leadership is important and more should be done to develop it within SUNY.

## **PROVOST RISA PALM**

- Spellings Report- accessibility, affordability, accountability
- Project to revise large first year classes in science and mathematics (\$ available from her office)
- Searches for Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Economic Development and Vice Provost for Diversity and Educational Equity are underway.

## **KIMBERLEY REISER, PRESIDENT FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

- No progress yet on getting representation on the SUNY Board.

## **MANFRED PHILLIP, PRESIDENT OF CUNY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

- CUNY now has a very strong Chancellor.
- Faculty Senate now has 3 members on the Research Foundation for CUNY.
- President Phillip participates in "Las Vegas style" budget meetings.

## **FACULTY DIVERSITY STUDY REPORT**

A new SUNY faculty diversity report is nearing completion, extending the report of 2001 (available) but including study of race and ethnicity as well gender. This report should be available by June and data bases will be put on the internet.

**Interesting observation from 2001 report.** *Included in this report are the numbers of faculty lines by campus over the time frame from 1980 to 1999. The number of faculty for the 4 university centers are given below:*

	<b>1980</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>change (percent)</b>
<i>Albany</i>	651	509	-22%
<i>Binghamton</i>	467	425	-9%
<i>Buffalo</i>	816	979	+20%
<i>Stony Brook</i>	501	752	+50%

These numbers indicate one reason we have become less attractive to students relative to our peer institutions within SUNY.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, NORM GOODMAN**

- Most MOUs done and signed
- General Education Assessment plans mostly approved (and lots of attendance at workshops)
- Faculty Leadership Program getting started (Ryan)
- SUNY Libraries need more \$.

## **BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

- BY-LAW changes were passed again and now go into effect. *Note, there is still controversy over official campus names.*

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

- Lots of support for a leadership meeting associated with next Senate meeting at Brockport

## **STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

There was much discussion of a comment in the student life report that stated "...a. survey of university students conducted in the Midwest found that 40% of students were on psychotropic medications..."

This raised the natural question about the situation on our home campuses. While some doubted the accuracy of this statement, all thought it important to learn more about the situation within SUNY.

Spitzer "SUNY and CUNY need to have a rational tuition policy that avoids spikes in tuition. Any tuition increases should be used to fund an improvement in education quality, not offset reductions in state aid."

## **REMINDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE PAGE**

Although material is slow to appear on the site, eventually the full text of motions passed should appear:

<http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/>.

**Note: Albany should name an alternate Senator.**

Respectfully submitted, William Lanford, SUNY Senator, lanford@albany.edu