

10-29-2010 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting for October 29, 2010

Approved by the Council on November 19, 2010

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), R. Beach, F. Bolton (staff),
S. Commuri, N. Fahrenkopf, C. Fox, L. Fuller, T. Groves, L. Kranich (Chair),
W. Lanford, F. Leiva, H. Miller, T. Timmons, K. Williams

Unable to attend: J. Aini, S. Chittur, S. Kazanas

Guest: R. Matyi, Chair of Council on Academic Assessment (CAA)

1. The Chair e-mailed members the minutes from the 10/12/2010 meeting. A vote will be conducted via e-mail.
2. Dean's report – K. Williams

A double degree program agreement has been signed between the University at Albany and the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi (in Italy). According to this agreement, Bocconi University and the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy will develop a dual degree program at the Master's level. Students enrolled in the double degree program will receive a Master in Public Administration from UAlbany and an equivalent Italian graduate degree (the Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Management delle Amministrazioni Pubbliche e dell'Instituzioni Internazionali [CLAPI-LS]) from Bocconi.

3. Chair's report –L. Kranich

Robert Beach, an Undergraduate student, attended today's meeting. His membership in GAC must be approved by the Senate. The Chair will present the revised roster at the next Senate meeting.

The Chair will be attending the Governance Council meeting later today to address the question of the role of the Academic Program Review Committee of CAA. He sent Susanna Fessler, Chair of GOV, examples of recommendations from past APR assessment reports. The question is whether CAA's role is limited to the review process itself or whether they might make programmatic recommendations. Professor Richard Matyi, Chair of CAA, was in attendance and mentioned that CAA's role is to insure that program reviews have completed three facets: (1) a departmental self-study, (2) a review and report by external evaluators, and (3) a departmental response to the external reviewer report. The key question is how to port information over to GAC and UAC. Professor Matyi suggested having a GAC and UAC member serve ex officio on CAA.

The Dean is available next Tuesday, November 2. However, the Provost has not yet confirmed her availability. Until she does so, the meeting will be on hold. The Chair requested Council members keep their calendars open for the 9th from 8:30-10:00AM.

Since the Council has new members this year, the Chair reminded both new and continuing members that all matters being reviewed in the CAA reports are strictly confidential and should not be discussed outside the Council.

4. Continued Discussion of CAA Assessment Reports

Professor Richard Matyi, Chair of CAA, participated in discussions of the CAA assessment reports. Chair Kranich recommended that GAC issue a brief report summarizing the evaluation and our recommendations, if any. The response will be forwarded to both the Dean of the College and to CAA. The response could possibly be included in the permanent record at Institutional Research along with the other materials. Members assigned to individual reviews should draft the report and forward it to the Chair. The Computer Science review was presented by the Chair, and he will draft a report. The History review was presented by Heather Miller. The format for each Council member's presentation should include the size and structure of the program including resources; strengths, weaknesses and identifiable problems; outcome measures; and reviewer recommendations. These reports are geared to student learning outcomes. A member suggested when discussing outcomes we also review what opportunities are being accessed by each department. The focus should be on what each department can do to improve. The Chair mentioned his desire to complete all reviews by the end of the academic year. Since there is a considerable backlog, this will require several additional meetings. He will try to spread them out over the year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

END OF GAC 10/29/2010 MINUTES
