

**University at Albany
State University of New York**

**2005-06 University Senate
Monday, December 19, 2005
Assembly Hall 3:30pm – 5:05pm**

Present: Abraham, J.P., Bessette, T., Bisbing, R., Blum, M., Burke, G., Button, K., Chaiken, S., Chinnam, S., Collier, R., Craig, R., Cupoli, E., Dai, D., Dewar, D., Faerman, S., Friedman, S., Geer, R., Gibson, R., Hanifan, J., Hauser, F., Herbst, S., Hong, C., Hoyt, R., Idone, V., Israel, A., Jersion, M., Kim, S.B., Kranich, L., Lanford, W., Leonard, P., Levine, S., Liang, Z., Lowery, K., Lyons, A., MacDonald, C., McNutt, L.A., Merbler, C., Messner, S., Monfasani, J., Murphy, J., Ongiti, O., Pelosi, O., Pryse, M., Range, R. M., Razzano, J., Redkey, E., Rodriguez, M., Savitt, J., Schell, L., Sherman, M., Snyder, L., Stromer-Galley, J., Tenenbaum, S., Videka, L., Wagner, D., Weaver, B., Worden, A., Wulfert, E., Yagelski, R., Zitomer, R., Zonder, A.

Guests: Joseph Bowman, Associate Professor,
William Hedberg, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Fanfeng Liu, Office of International Education,
Sheila Mahan, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Jenny Wagner, ACE Fellow
Vivien Zazzau, User Education Reference Librarian

Minutes: The meeting minutes from November 21, 2005 were approved with amendments.

President's Report:

Dashboard: President Hall noted that the current dashboard does not represent significant change from the previous month, except for "State Appropriation as a Percentage of All Funds." This category was previously reported at 14% and now at 28.5%, because tuition was added to this number, but there is some question whether it should have been included in the first place.

Inaugural Scholarship Fund: The Inaugural fund is at approximately \$1.5 million, with 940 contributors. There was a donation from the estate of Irving Harold Losee for \$700,000 that has helped to push the goal ahead of schedule by two months. \$100,000 is earmarked for The Honors College with 12 to 14 scholarships on an ongoing basis.

Enrollment: President Hall is "cautiously optimistic" about enrollment. Encouraging signs include: a 5% increase in inquiries from prospective students, about 1700 above last year at this time; a 22% increase in people visiting the campus; and an 8% increase above last year for early applications. President Hall finds the increase in online applications hopeful as well, which includes 350 graduate students at this stage.

Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program: The Enrollment Management office has launched an "Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program." The committee has solicited alumni and has begun training them to recruit students and promote the academic experience at the University at Albany.

Mission Review II: R. Collier, D. Dewar, W. Lanford, and S. Messner participated in the Mission Review site visit that lasted for four hours. It was helpful for all concerned, and President Hall was pleased with the presentations of all of our colleagues from the University. The State University understands fully that the University at Albany is going through an extensive Compact Planning process, which will ultimately drive the MOU between our campus and SUNY which will satisfy the Mission Review II process.

Research: The first endowed undergraduate research award for twelve students has gone out. This endowment is to enrich the students' experiences. This endowment was paid for from gifts from the class of 1932.

Student Achievements: President Hall recognized the students who were honored at the Valedictorian dinner. President Hall also recognized the following students: Oliver T. Tang, who received the first graduate degree in biology with a concentration in nanotechnology at the Winter Commencement on December 11th; Lauren Mendolera, as the recipient of the Stanley Fink Legislative Internship for the spring 2006 semester; Alison Bain-Lucey and Matthew Laroche, who won the Eastern Regional of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association Tournament. In Athletics, President Hall recognized Colin Disch, who has been named to The Sports Network's 2005 I-AA Mid-Major All-American Football Team. There were also four student athletes that have made the inaugural "American East Conference All-Academic Team" for the fall sports of cross country, volleyball, field hockey and soccer. They are: Ashley DeNeal, Shelby Goldman, and Ashlee Reed of the volleyball team, and Stephan Hall of the Men's soccer team.

Emergency Response Exercise: President Hall noted that there was a useful emergency response exercise, and the first response team did well. This was a learning experience for all involved.

Enhancing Contacts with High Schools: President Hall noted that there have been two groups of freshman from Albany High School who visited the University. Dean Carr is doing a great job.

Pine Hills Neighborhood Association: President Hall noted that a productive meeting was held with members of the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association. There are additional steps needed, and there is more to come. The midtown employers and associate employees program is a real step forward. There are 14 businesses in Pine Hills that have been supportive.

Board of Visitors: The Board is now complete with 20 distinguished leaders who are coming in March 2006.

Senate Bill No. 0506-09. No Suspension of Classes for Religious Holidays: President Hall distributed a memo to the Senate explaining his decision not to sign the bill. Chair Messner reported that he had checked with R. Gibson before the meeting about the logistics of setting the calendar. Normally, a draft bill is considered by UPC in March, so there is time for further deliberation. Chair Messner will bring this back to the Senate Executive Committee in January to determine what, if any, action to initiate.

University Faculty Senate Report: No Report.

Chair's Report:

Academic Calendar: The Chair reported for the record that the Student Association had passed a resolution requesting that the President oppose the Senate Bill on No Suspension of Classes for Religious Holidays and had forwarded the resolution to him.

Mission II Review: The Chair concurred with President Hall that the visit from the SUNY Provost was successful, and it appeared that the visitors were impressed with the presentations. It is anticipated that Mission Review II will lead to an MOU with SUNY.

Undergraduate Elections: The Chair welcomed the undergraduate Senators, and encouraged them to participate actively in the Senate and the Senate Councils.

Welcome Back: The Chair welcomed J. VanDenburgh back, and the Senate joined in with a round of applause.

MOU: C. MacDonald asked if there would be governance input into the MOU process beyond the representation on the site visit committee. The Chair responded that the compact planning process will be critical in defining mission goals but that there is uncertainty at the moment about how the process will play out. The President has assured the Chair that there will be input by governance.

Council Reports:

- a. CAA, Malcolm Sherman: Nothing to add to the summary.
- b. COR, Vince Idone: Nothing to add to the summary.
- c. CPCA, David Shub: Nothing to add to the summary.
- d. GAC, Monica Rodriguez: M. Rodriguez reported there are two bills for the Senate today.
- e. GOV, Diane Dewar: Nothing to add to the summary.
- f. LISC, David Wagner: D. Wagner reported that LISC will bring a bill to the Senate for “E-mail as an official means of communication with students,” at the beginning of the next semester, but LISC would like to begin discussion on the matter today.
- g. UAC, Philippe Abraham: Nothing to add to the summary.
- h. ULC, Joan Savitt: Nothing to add to the summary.
- i. UPC, Carolyn MacDonald: C. MacDonald reported that UPC is reviewing the report on the recent student satisfaction surveys. Also, UPC is considering some specific recommendations, such as how assessments of teaching are done for promotion cases.

Committee Reports:

- j. CAFFECOR, Lawrence Snyder: L. Snyder reported that they are bringing a resolution today concerning “The Academic Bill of Rights.”
- k. CERS, Richard Zitomer: The Chair reported for R. Zitomer, who was not able to attend the meeting, that there was nothing to add to the summary.

Old Business:

Senate Bill 0506-08. Proposal for Standards for Social Work Education: GAC, UAC

At the last Senate meeting, this bill was postponed for further discussion and action. The bill was again introduced to the floor for debate. Discussion ensued with concerns about due process protections for students. There was general consensus that the basic idea for standards for social work education was sound, but that the document may need some changes to address concerns and to be consistent with other University policies. A motion was introduced and seconded to refer the bill back to GAC for overall review of academic policies, and to the Governance Council for review of governance issues. By a show of hands, the motion was passed with 38 in favor and 16 opposed.

New Business:

- l. Nominations for Council Membership: Committee on Council Nominations: D. Dewar put forth the nominations of undergraduates for council assignments as follows:

Kate Button for UPC
 Stephanie Kernizan for COR
 Daniel Truchann III for UAC
 Vanessa Mejia for CAA
 Emma Roszko for UAC
 Helen Ehmann for CPCA

Paul Porter for GAC
Jackie Simone for ULC

The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEW CHANCELLOR: President Hall asked if he could interrupt the agenda for a moment to announce that the current interim Chancellor John Ryan has been named the new Chancellor of SUNY. The Senate extended best wishes and congratulations to him.

2. Senate Resolution 0506-03R. Resolution to Endorse the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate Bill Opposing the “Academic Bill of Rights”: CAFFECOR: L. Snyder introduced the resolution, explaining that the issue has been a concern for about a year. He distributed copies of a document written by David Horowitz, a proponent of the Academic Bill of Rights (ABOR). The stated justification for ABOR is to protect students from being subjected to ideological indoctrination in their courses. To gather information on student concerns here on the Albany campus, members of CAFFECOR met with students and Dean Faerman this fall. They asked about grievances but did not specifically ask about political indoctrination. The students did not raise the issue at all, suggesting that this does not appear to be a major concern to the students. However, CAFFECOR plans to look into creating an Ombudsoffice, similar to the newly created Graduate Ombudsoffice, to provide guidance to students who may have grievances. The specific resolution introduced by CAFFECOR calls for an endorsement of a resolution passed by the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate. The SUNY-wide Senate has gone on record opposing ABOR on the grounds that there are adequate protections for academic freedom in place, and that ABOR might actually lead to a greater politicization of higher education by allowing for interference with curricular decisions from outside of the academy. Questions were raised about the precise meaning of the proposed resolution. The bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by a show of hands.

3. Senate Bill 0506-10. Proposal for a Certificate in Public Health Surveillance: GAC:

The bill was introduced by GAC and has been reviewed by UPC. This bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by a show of hands.

4. Senate Bill 0506-12. Proposal for an English as a Foreign Language Graduate Certificate Program: GAC:

This bill was introduced by GAC and has been reviewed by UPC. A question was raised about the availability of faculty to teach these courses. C. MacDonald responded that enrollment is likely to be limited.

This bill was passed with an overwhelming majority by voice vote.

5. Discussion of Potential Amendments to the E-mail as an Official Means of Communication with Students Policy: LISC:

D. Wagner referred to the handout on the current policy for E-mail communication with students. He opened the discussion by explaining that LISC would like to bring a bill to the Senate at the next meeting but would like some input prior to making adjustments to this policy. LISC had approved the current policy under the assumption that it did not require any additional Senate action but could simply be reported. Upon further consideration, the members of the council have concluded that such matters should be brought to the full Senate. In explaining the rationale for the policy, D. Wagner noted that the most reliable means of communication with students is typically their e-mail address; it is better than the phone or campus address. Discussion ensued on the following issues: assuring that students have activated their e-mail account; access to computers for checking email accounts; the possibilities of missing important email messages due to spam filtering, and the major problem of mail quota space. J. Horney noted that most of these issues have been raised in discussions leading to the development of the current policy. She noted that all students are issued an e-mail address, and they are instructed on how to log on to their MyUAlbany account to access important information. She also noted that the policy states that students may use their own equipment, but that the University provides access to computers. It

was suggested that the bill include a request for the expansion of mail quota space. R. Collier expressed concerns about access to email messages when the University is not in session.

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes was passed.

J. Horney stressed that it is impossible to devise a policy to cover every contingency. The key considerations are the reasonableness and practicality of the policy. Concerns were brought up that email communication might alter the quality of contact with students, making it more impersonal. S. Kim also expressed concerns about students wanting to submit papers electronically, and worried it may become policy. D. Wagner responded that departments and faculty can establish their own policies about submitting course work by email.

D. Wagner requested that anyone with questions or suggestions please contact him by e-mail and indicated that he would be happy to discuss anyone's concerns in person.

Motion to adjourn was passed by voice vote.

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