

University at Albany - State University of New York
2006-07 University Senate
Minutes of September 25, 2006
Diane M. Dewar, Chair

Members

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Bradley Armour-Garb, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Roger Bisbing, Katharine Briar-Lawson, Gerald Burke, Ana M. Cervantes-Rodriguez, Maria Chau (President GSO), Fan Pen Chen, Nick Chiuchiolo (President SA), Richard Collier (Senate Secretary), Edward Cupoli, Diane M. Dewar (Senate Chair), Sue Faerman, Sally Friedman, Mary Gallant, Robert Gibson, Andrew Haas, Frank Hauser, Susan Herbst, Anne Hildreth, Timothy Hoff, Heather Horton, Reed Hoyt (Senate Chair-Elect), Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Donald Keenan, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, Kathryn Lowery, Irene Lurie, Carolyn MacDonald, Matthew Martens, Steven Messner, Robert Miller, John Monfasani, Gwendolyn Moore, John Murphy, Joy Newman, Olimpia Pelosi, Marjorie Pryse, Sanjay Putrevu, R. Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, David Shub, Lawrence Snyder, Lynn Videka, ThomasWagtowicz (GSO Lead Senator), Rose Marie Weber, Wendy West, Daniel White, Kehe Zhu

Guests: Seth Chaiken, Computer Science
Nick Chiuchiolo, GSO President
Casey William Crandall, SA President
Dean Paul Leonard, School of Business
Sheila Mahan, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Daniel J. Smith, Student member of GAC
Paul Truchan, III
Edelgard Wulfert, Psychology Chair

Minutes: The minutes of May 15, 2006 were approved

Welcome: Senate Chair Dewar asked for a moment of silence to honor President Hall and members lost during the year. She also noted the continued “paper reduction” plan carried over from last year and introduced Provost Herbst.

Provost’s Report, by Susan V. Herbst, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Officer in Charge):

The Provost’s Prepared Notes:

1. Presidential Search

- I have no news to share
- I am officer in charge for now; it is possible we will have an interim president but I do not know and have no information
- There is no timetable on a national presidential search, but when there is information, George Philip, Chair of the University Council – will announce it.
- Accurate news on leadership will come from only two sources: Chancellor Ryan and George Philip.

2. Our Course: What is our course and are we staying it?

- Our course has not changed. It is academic **excellence and achievement**
- Beyond that, we are flexible and always were. Kermit did not have a rigid or even structured master plan or any sort. There is no secret plan.
- A grand master plan does not exist and – in both his and my view – was not needed for the UAlbany. We have our established **values**, and from those – academic excellence and achievement – we do not waiver. But we are, and must be, innovative, and extraordinarily flexible, focusing on *projects*, most of which you know and I'll mention in the time I have today.
- We must be very sophisticated about external cues – from SUNY, from our elected officials, from our alumni. That's what a great university with aspirations does, and that's what we'll do.
- So yes, we stay the general course, but our course is the course of any great university: focus on faculty research, on student excellence, on learning and on our external community and alums.

3. planning

One of the pleasant surprises for me, upon landing here, is that most all divisions had already been engaged in some form of strategic planning over the years. So while compact planning had its particularities, I found many strong ideas/plans already in development.

We now have compacts for most all departments and units. Like any plans, they won't be useful for very long. Maybe two to three years. But at any one time we should know our roadmap, so this is a good thing. I think of it as I do writing a book: You may not know what it will look like in the end, but at any given moment you should be able to say where it is heading, or you'll never progress.

We will go ahead with a streamlined version of selective investment this fall. Call went out; you have it from your deans. (To deans/Vice Presidents, to UPC, to Selective Investment Committee and to me.)

Still setting aside 800k for faculty lines and 1M one time funds.

Two major changes: unlike match of last year, all lines are fully funded. And this year you may pitch for senior or junior lines.

Kermit's original idea was to add 100 new junior faculty lines to the university over five years, and as you know, we search for the first 20 right now. 100 lines was not a promise set in stone and should not have been seen that way. It was a goal, and it was – as Kermit said many, many times in public – based on a stable and hopefully expanding campus economy.

I have studied the budget and 100 lines may or may not be in reach over five years. We will see. One of the challenges of that plan, and it is something he and I discussed before his death, is that it demanded the deans make matches with funds they don't have, and it does not account for faculty set up costs. So we were going to re-visit the entire matter.

Most important was that the 100 line goal was determined before study of course availability. That study is nearly done, and does not somehow logically lead to the appt of 100 new junior faculty over five years. He'd have been interested in this finding.

So, we take a middle path, cautious but still grows the faculty. Let us expand but be extraordinarily careful with our finances. We still have a 4M deficit I simply will not make matters worse on my watch.

I promise you that the next president is very unlikely to pursue compact planning or selective investment in the manner of this past year. Not because it was wrong, but because they will have their own ideas, on how to plan, on priorities, on a budgeting system and on the entire campus financial plan. For example, they might want to pay down the debt faster or slower.

4. Our undergraduate Students

This faculty has long cared about students, and this past year we accelerated programs and energy directed toward their success, through schools, departments and in Student Success.

Projects underway, all of which YOU participated in:

- Honors College
- Blue Ribbon Writing; I thank Bob Yagelski for leading this effort
- Course Availability
- Study of retention/I thank Wayne Locust and the Retention Committee
- FYE
- Transfer coordinator
- Student housing; alumni quad developer
- International programs – Ray Bromley
- AA and SS: tolerance, integrity, diversity, citizenship

5. Graduate Affairs

- won't say much here as Marjorie Pryse, Dean of Graduate Studies, just visited UPC and has been working with many senior faculty leaders all year.
- our priorities:
 - higher stipends
 - more rigorous march to excellence across programs
 - accountability: we do need to be sure the 13M we have for grad support is spent wisely
 - we need to be attuned to national metrics, such as the NRC data collection now underway
 - let's place our graduate students well, do best by them.

6. Economic Development: a theme song for the state of NY

All cues from SUNY and from our elected officials underscore the need for research universities to contribute to the economic development of NYS. Now more than ever, as the state loses population.

We must re-orient a bit around this, and keep it top of mind into the future as we plan and grow, uptown, downtown and on the east campus. Serving the state in this regard is non-negotiable, and I urge you to have Charlie Williams speak to the faculty after the election in November to elaborate on our political and economic environment.

It's a good thing. And there is no need to worry if you do research – as I do! - that does not have clear impacts on the economy. But the university as a whole must contribute, and it is something Kermit and I discussed daily.

7. Development/fundraising

- of highest priority
- no campaign, but major gifts and alumni, can count this year
- we must grow endowment; we have no protection
- deans work on priorities, but I tell you right now that – under ANY president - major fundraising will be directed toward:

- a) Capital – high priority at present is a School of Business building/free up room on podium
- b) Scholarships
- c) Endowed professorships
- d) Non-earmarked contributions to endowment

* We have a highly experienced Vice President development with a fine team; find her with questions.

8. Our faculty

- although there is no precise number, we need to grow and we will, within the limits of the campus financial plan. Again, we will absolutely not take on more debt.
- Empire lines: let's be hopeful
- Better support – Lynn Videka will continue as Vice President of Research; she has terrific plans. Suggest you work with her and invite her to large meetings
- CETL

9. The city of Albany

Our relations are strong and on many levels. We continue Albany High, but not the students on campus (never the plan). Mayor is a terrific partner; we look forward to mid-city development, with him and St. Rose.

10. Finally: Stability. Are we stable, should we be worried?

Absolutely not. I'll let Steve Portch give the bigger national picture on leadership change at universities, but in larger research universities, things do not turn on a dime so they are quite stable, due primarily to a tenured faculty, staff with continuing appointments, professionals at all levels here to stay.

No one likes uncertainty, and I realize that. But we focus on leading, research and teaching, all will be well.

I want to leave you with two statistics:

According to recent NSF data reports, we are 100th in the nation in federal funding for research. This is excellent, and indeed astounding, given that we have no medical school or longtime engineering school. Just incredible and we should be very proud.

In the Carnegie Classifications, there is a category – the highest category for research activity – called (creatively) “very hi research activity”. There are only 96 institutions in this category of 4,387 in the nation. We are one of those 96. The University at Albany is a special place and it is an important place, as a leader in research.

The future is bright here in my view. This university will be what we make it, and we have within our power to make it great!

[End of Provost’s Notes]

SUNY Senate Report, presented by R. Michael Range: Senator Range reported that he attended the Fall Planning / Orientation meeting in September at SUNY Systems Administration. Details will transpire at the next Senate meeting. The main item discussed was that the Governor passed legislation naming the President of the SUNY Senate, a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. The effective date is not yet known. Professor Range also reported that no one from UAlbany is on any of the standing committees for the SUNY Senate. He explained that there are about a half-dozen different committees constituted with approximately 65 individuals from colleges all over the State, none from UAlbany.

Senate Chair Report, presented by Diane M. Dewar:

Presidential Search Committee: Chair Dewar reported that she spoke with George Philip about the make-up of the Presidential Search Committee. He indicated that he is looking for gender and ethnic diversity and that he wants a slightly larger committee this year (more than 15) maybe 17, including the following:

- six faculty representatives that focus across the campus schools and professional schools
- two deans
- four members from the University Council
- one representative from the Athletics Department
- one from the Alumni Association
- one from the Albany Foundation or the community at large
- one graduate and one undergraduate student

The process will be slow and deliberate for the reason that there is an uncertainty in state government; there is not great urgency. The goals are to create UAlbany as a flagship university center. Chair Dewar reported that Chairman Philip did ask the Senate to begin thinking about who would be willing to serve on the committee, and that a ‘head hunter’ has been hired. Chairman Philip said he is happy to speak at a Senate meeting about this and Chair Dewar suggested that after the election in November might be best for that.

The Governance Task Force on Academic Integrity and Tolerance: Chair Dewar reported that she met with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse and Sue Faerman respectively, and representatives from the Student Government. She asked for feedback from Senators; if they would like to see Senate involvement in this on this Task Force.

2007-2008 Council Volunteer Forms: Chair Dewar reported that next year’s volunteer forms will be distributed electronically; similar to how the Campus Clean-up Day volunteer sign-up forms are done. This will help expedite the sorting process and provide more accuracy. Some of the paper forms are submitted sloppily and are difficult to read.

Council Reports:

Council on Academic Assessment (CAA): William Lanford, Chair. No report.

Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility, (CAFFECOR): Lawrence Snyder, Chair. CAFFECOR is organizing its first meeting. It will be reviewing the "Guidelines and Procedures for Campus Freedom of Expression, Protests, Demonstrations" submitted by Michael Jaromin, Director of Student Activities, University at Albany.

Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship (CERS): Elga Wulfert, Chair. CERS met on August 31, 2006 to discuss an amendment to the existing policy. For reasons beyond the committee's control, work on this amendment had to be postponed until later in the fall.

Council on Research (COR): Andrew Haas, Chair. Interim Vice President for Research Videka gave a brief overview of Research, including end-of-year data regarding total awards received, expenditures by discipline, awards by sponsor type, number of animal subjects and human subject protocols, increase in invention disclosures and in patent applications. COR will continue discussion and take appropriate action regarding the following: ICR Distribution Policy; Revisit Senate By-Laws; Decentralization/Centralization of Administrative Services; Centers/Institutes Evaluation. Under new business, a request was made for the FRAP-A Review Committee to provide more detailed feedback for applicants who do not receive the award.

Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments (CPCA): David Shub, Chair. CPCA had unfinished business at the end of the 2005/2006 academic year. A quorum could be obtained that permitted the Council to meet several times during the summer break. With the exception of one case that had been tabled for additional information, all cases were cleared and we have no backlog entering this academic year. Provost Herbst has informed the Deans of a strict schedule for receipt of files at her office for the current academic year, which should allow the Council to complete all cases on time.

Graduate Academic Council (GAC): Sally Friedman, Chair. Nothing to report for GAC except the Senate has to approve three graduate students for service on the committee.

Governance Council (GOV): Reed Hoyt, Chair. On August 28th, the Governance Council held its organizational meeting. Committees were established, and the issues for the coming year were outlined. These include: recommendations for new senators as needed, the inauguration of the Honors College and the necessity of involving governance in the formation of its oversight committee, the establishment of one-credit courses for incoming frosh, the construction of handbooks, and the status of the Presidential search. The Council will need to elect a member of the Committee on Council Nominations. The Council again met on September 18th to discuss some of the matters listed above. Correspondence to individuals and Councils is being sent, but there is no legislation coming from the Council at this time. The Council will continue to work on handbooks and will consult with the Provost's office regarding Excellence Awards.

Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing (LISC): Daniel White, Chair. The Council will be revisiting the issue of email as official means of communication and the impact of the current budget situation on scholarly journal subscriptions and other library resources. CIO Christine Haile gave a report to the Council, on email as a means of communication. The Dean of Libraries reported about reduction of periodicals, and noted that the Elsevier dilemma will not be affected by reductions

Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC): John Monfasani, Chair. The UAC has met twice, held discussions on several issues, but not taken any actions.

University Life Council (ULC): Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC met on September 18th and began discussing the following issues: mandatory health insurance, a carry-over issue from 2005-06; textbook prices; ways to improve faculty/student relationships; and housing issues for international students and visiting scholars. ULC eagerly await the appointment of undergraduate student representatives to the Council, which meets on Mondays at 3 p.m.

University Planning and Policy Council (UPC): Steven Messner, Chair. UPC met on September 21st. Marjorie Pryse, Dean of Graduate Studies, briefed the council on Guidelines for the Allocation and Award of Graduate Student Support Funding, 2007-08. Council members raised some concerns and offered suggestions. Dean Pryse encouraged council members to communicate additional concerns directly to her. The Council also considered recommendations from the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Student Satisfaction. The Council voted to endorse the recommendation of creating an Ombuds Office for undergraduate students and conveying this endorsement to UAC in hopes of introducing a joint resolution to the Senate. The Council has begun discussing other recommendations of the committee.

Student Association Senate Presentation by Nick Chiuchiolo, SA President:

SA President Chiuchiolo presented on the “24/7” role of the SA in helping to improve retention, and also gave a full description on what the Student Association offers.

Council Memberships: After some discussion on the composition of councils and committees, not being very diverse, it was moved to vote on the *tentative* approval of the 2006/07 roster while work is done to try to get compliance with the Senate Charter. Chair Dewar noted that it is very difficult to be in compliance with the Charter, as there are not people willing to serve/volunteer for councils and committees. A motion was made and unanimously approved to tentatively approve the current membership lists.

Other Business: A motion was made to donate money to the scholarship fund in honor of President Hall again this year. All approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder