

**UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL
2010-11 CHAIR: R. MICHAEL RANGE**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2010
MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: R. Bangert-Drowns, T. Bessette, S. Birge, E. Eisenbraun, P. Ferlo, J. Fossett, K. Lahiri, R.M. Range, B. Shaw, D. Wagner, G. Williams

GUESTS: Sanjay Goel, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management
Ray Bromley, Vice Provost for International Education

MINUTES: Minutes of May 7, 2010 approved as written

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

No report was given

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given

Chair Range called the meeting into session at 3:04pm with introductions and a review of UPPC's charge. Dr. Range had invited President Philip and Provost Phillips to provide a budget status report; as they are both unavailable today, we will schedule them for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Initial discussions center on a review of the SPH Undergraduate Program change proposal that was accepted at the May 7th meeting. Although UPPC forwarded the proposal to eliminate the undergrad minor in Public Health, the Senate members took a different position, namely that a unit cannot just decide to eliminate a minor because they want to focus on the major because this affects other programs. Also, the minor was fairly new (3-4 years). Dr. Shaw referenced a precedent for this type of program elimination. Dean Bangert-Drowns clarified that a SOE department had required a GPA criteria rather than closing the minor. Dr. Fossett indicated his disappointment with the Senate's decision – we are likely to see more departments downsizing, and it is not the job of governance to micromanage departmental activity. Dr. Range asserted that it is the delegated responsibility of UPPC to govern the creation and termination of academic programs. We are one University, and if departments or schools decide to limit enrollments because of financial restrictions, those students will have to be accommodated elsewhere. Dr. Fossett noted that we have to respect integrity of BAG; if we are going to be downsizing, then we have to do it in a strategic fashion that preserves our assets. His argument is that we are overseers, not managers – we shouldn't act like we are.

Dr. Wagner commented that if we have to make cuts that will affect students' opportunities, then we will have to accept the judgment of departments as to which programs are mission critical. Dr. Shaw paused to reflect on how this passed through GAC and UPPC fairly smoothly and then got hung up in larger Senate, as this doesn't happen very often. Dr. Eisenbraun queried the relevance of the discussion in context of UPPC. Dr. Range clarified that he brought up the matter to inform the council of the status of a proposal that the UPPC had approved. No action would be taken. Dr. Wagner saw the discussion as informational to decisions we may be asked to make in the future. Dean Bangert-Drowns added that decisions about intellectual aspects of programs need to be made at the local level. Mr. Bessette raised the specter of weighing

finances verses quality; the Senate rejection was not a quality issue; it was a resource implication. The Senators were concerned that SPH was going off by itself and getting rid of a program before larger discussions took place.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Information Security

Dr. Sanjay Goel, Associate Professor of Information Technology Management and Associate Provost for International Education Ray Bromley attended to answer questions regarding the proposal that was circulated to UPPC for their review.

The proposal is also going to GAC; UPPC is to review resource implications, general policy & planning. Dr. Eisenbraun raised a question as to format – there is a requirement to file a letter of intent and an abbreviated proposal. There is a standard form that has to go to SUNY system. Dr. Goel has been working with Jon Bartow regarding submission requirements. Dr. Goel will take care of the required paperwork. Dr. Fossett moved to continue discussion while the official paperwork is filed, which was unanimously approved by the council

Dr. Goel explained the rationale behind the program; it is a five course intensive program that is, in particular, of interest to government agencies. The impetus for pushing forward is related to international colleagues who are interested in imbedding the certificate into degree programs at their own institutions, and have their students take the courses here. The program startup costs are more than covered by a \$389k grant with international partners. SOB is working to develop with additional overseas institutions. Dr. Fossett asked if the program is funded with soft money, whether that stream is stable and whether any additional faculty was involved. Dr. Goel replied that the program courses already exist as applied courses intended for training and development; all are electives that can be part of a degree program. Dr. Bromley added that in order to deliver the certificate in a short period of time, we have to use an external funding mechanism, e.g. offer the program during summer session with instructors funded from the program's tuition revenue. Dean Bangert-Drowns noted that we could pass a certificate program that could continue indefinitely, but a speedy start would be assured by the external funding. Dr. Wagner asked about the time requirements for the personnel. Dr. Goel responded that many of SOB's instructors are adjunct and work in industry, and that instruction in this program would not require regular faculty buyout. Dr. Lahiri noted that he would like to see what kind of students have been previously enrolled in these courses. How credible are these contacts – do we have a history with these institutions/organizations? He further requested documentation of these relationships and the grant. Dr. Bromley said each of the students has to be admitted to UAlbany, which includes verification of TOEFL scores. The students may be self funded or supported by their home institutions. The institution cannot guarantee a certain number of program enrollees.

Mr. Williams asked if the program mainly focused on overseas students. Dr. Goel replied that is currently the focus, but the program could certainly accommodate NYS employees seeking this type of training. Dr. Fossett asked if they have had any contact with ROC homeland security folks. Dr. Goel responded that they had not, but agreed that there is a strong affinity with their programs, and a potential marketing boon – UAlbany is where you go for security studies. Dr. Fossett recommended that SOB have a conversation with Rick Matthews about this potential. Dr. Bromley agreed that there may well be a market once the certificate exists. Dr. Goel then stated that the initial focus is external in order to fund the program startup, and there is certainly room to diversify once it is established. He expressed a reasonable level of confidence in

longevity of the program. Dr. Williams agreed that there are natural tie-ins with SCJ, CCI, etc., and was struck by the geographic attractiveness as the program. NYS employees might be attracted to this certificate being offered over time as opposed to a compressed summer offering. Dr. Range would like to see letter of support from the SOB Graduate Affairs Committee as well as letter of support from Dean Siegel. Dr. Wagner asked procedural question as to whether UPPC can say that we need to table the proposal for more information, or can we forward the proposal contingent upon the receipt of appropriate documents. If this has been run through Jon Bartow or 'Bartowed' then we can assume that the procedural requirements have been satisfied. Dr. Eisenbraun thought it safer to table the proposal and then move forward quickly when materials are received.

Dr. Range thanked Drs. Bromley and Goel and continued discussion once they had left the meeting. The target population for this certificate is of concern to the council, as is the long term sustainability of the program after the initial grant funding period. Dr. Fossett asserted that we should break the mold and be nimble, as this is substantively a good idea. Mr. Birge thought that the council should look when these courses have been offered in the past – frequency, etc. Dr. Eisenbraun declared that it is SOB's responsibility to identify sustainability of funding sources, and UPPC needs to look at this. Dr. Wagner asked how we vet an idea now if we are approving something that may have resource implications down the road. Dean Bangert-Drowns echoed concerns of long term program sustainability. Dr. Fossett said that the council could ask for marginal cost of this program going forward, and look at what it takes to finance the enterprise. Dr. Eisenbraun noted that the letter of intent requires a 5 year plan, so we should hold them to it. Dr. Lahiri wants our faculty to spend time on our enrolled students instead of the target certificate population. Mr. Bessette commented that this is the kind of thing that could turn into a very important curriculum with degree possibilities, so we need to consider this as an opportunity to brand ourselves with an up and coming specialty. Mr. Ferlo queried that if this program were packaged differently, without the fast tracking funding, would we look at this differently? Dr. Wagner brought up the domain of responsibility for this type of decision. GAC is most responsible for vetting program quality.

Dr. Range closed discussion with a call for a decision on proposal response. Dr. Eisenbraun moved to table the proposal, which was seconded by Bessette. The proposal will be brought to the council again pending requested data from Dr. Goel etc. and evidence that the proper paperwork had been filed with SUNY; all members voted in favor. Dr. Range will invite Jon Bartow to attend UPPC when the proposal comes back to Council. Ms. Stern will send CVs of the program faculty to UPPC members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Stern