

SEC Chair's Report for SEC meeting of February 23, 2022
Timothy D. Sergay, Chair

Highlights of Provost Carol Kim's report were

- (1) the **search for a dean of College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS)**, for which UAlbany has engaged [WittKieffer](#), a national search firm. The SEC itself is a designated stakeholder party to this search, and will confer with WittKieffer representatives to provide them feedback on desirable qualities in the candidates and the institutional context of the search (on Wednesday, March 2).
- (2) progress on the **Strategic Plan refresh effort**. A [feedback forum schedule](#) is in place (via MyUAlbany/Strategic Plan tab) and will include the very next meeting of the Senate, March 9, in the form of a joint presentation by Provost Kim and Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Christakis
- (3) announcement of the **reorganization of the Office of Undergraduate Education**, the realignment of units into an Office of Academic Innovation and Student Success
- (4) review of **inclement weather protocol**, emphasizing what "remote instruction" means and doesn't mean (it doesn't mean *only* synchronous instruction over Zoom).

In my chair's report I focused briefly on our looming **deadline to publish a slate of at large candidates for the spring election**. This includes:

- University Faculty Senate
- Open at Large
- Professional at Large
- Part-Time Faculty at Large
- UAS (if they have open seats)

Thereafter I thanked Senate volunteers who will represent the Senate formally in working subgroups in the Strategic Plan refresh effort, thus addressing a deficiency noted by Bret Benjamin of English that the refresh effort lacked formal Senate representation. We have five Senate volunteers for evidently five workgroups.

Billie Franchini: Student Success Workgroup;

Jen Goodall: Research Excellence

Sean Rafferty: Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup;

Timothy Sergay: Internationalization;

George Berg: Engagement and Service Workgroup;

I mentioned that the Senate is also now represented in a steering committee for an effort to apply for a **Howard Hughes Medical Institute "Driving Change" grant on diversity**, focused on student success in STEM disciplines— at least through my membership on the steering committee.

Under New Business, the SEC voted in favor of putting a **new bill from Governance Council on electronic meeting rules on the agenda for the March 9 meeting of the Senate**. The SEC heard reports from George Berg of GAC and Jen Goodall of UAC on the successful standing up of ad hoc committees on shared-resource courses and combined program policies, including a proposal to increase the limit on credits that can be applied from graduate to undergraduate programs. Deans Malatesta and Williams must weigh in; there are accreditation implications as well.

ULC chair Deborah LaFond introduced an item of new business from the floor, which was approved by a two-thirds vote. She moved to **invite Dolores Cimini, director of the Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research, to report to the Senate on March 9 on campus wellness climate concerns**, including both data and institutional responses. Motion carried.

Reports from council and committee chairs: Sydney Faught (GOV) pointed out that we're falling off in the timely filing of written reports to Teams folders. Deborah LaFond (ULC) spoke of continuing Excelsior concerns, overburdened students struggling to pass courses, and of continuing work on indigenous community interactions: an RPI-Skidmore-UAlbany consortium is now in play for the organizing of future indigenous-outreach events.