

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Senate Executive Committee, April 25, 2008

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -- William Lanford, Chair

Discussion continues regarding how to assess university wide academic programs, e.g. Project Renaissance. The Chair and Vice President of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness have met to work out details of the process in anticipation of future assessments of these programs.

Program Review Committee has completed its review of six programs: Communication, Physics, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and submitted its reports to the CAA (April 24). In its final meeting, the review process will be discussed in general as will the review of Project Renaissance.

General Education Committee has completed its review of the 2006-2007 assessment of General Education on campus and has completed its assessment of the UHS Latin courses. In its final two meetings, the review process in general will be discussed as will the review of Project Renaissance.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

Nothing to report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

The GAC met on Thursday, April 17, 2008 and accepted and approved two reports, one by the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing concerning two petitions for reinstatement in Ph.D. programs, and the other by the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction which considered (i) minimum grade requirements in core Ph.D. courses in the School of Education, Division of Counseling Psychology, and (ii) an internal certificate program by ITLAL on Preparing Future Faculty. In addition, the Council unanimously approved the establishment of two joint degree programs: B.A. in Economics/M.A. in Public Affairs & Policy and B.S. in Economics/ M.A. in Public Affairs & Policy. The Council forwarded the proposals to UAC.

Finally, the Council briefly considered two course proposals for the Preparing Future Faculty Program but tabled discussion due to lack of time and pending clarification of relevant statutes.

GOV (Governance Council) – John Delano, Chair

The Governance Council has met three times (April 4, 11, 18). There have been two agenda items: (a) revisions of the proposed IRCAP amendment, which is being reported to the Senate Executive Committee on April 25; and (b) discussions on the composition of the proposed First Year Experience Task Force, which the Interim Provost mentioned in her report at the March 31 meeting of the Senate Executive Committee. Governance Council perspectives have been discussed with Interim Provost Phillips.

Three options were developed for discussion with Interim Provost Phillips. Those options for UFSP 101 in Fall 2008 were the following. These three options were regarded by the Governance Council to be the most collegial and constructive ones that could be reasonably considered.

(i) UFSP 101 would be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008 only, if the FYE Task Force was concluded to be a credible body that was likely to return important recommendations to the Interim Provost on the University's FYE program. All students must be told that the course is not required

(ii) UFSP 101 would not be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008. The FYE courses would consist of Project Renaissance, UFSP 100, UUNI 100, and ECPY 120. Members of the full-time teaching faculty would be recruited to teach UFSP 100.

(iii) UFSP 101 would be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008 only, and only under the conditions that S/U grading is the sole grading system and all students are told that the course is not required.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

Nothing to report.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair

Two weeks ago UAC approved the creation of **UUNI 399 University Peer Educators course**. This course expands the academic options for students to serve as peer mentors/educators. Some departments, Women Studies (WSS 101Z) and Educational and Counseling Psychology (E CPY 301/302/303) offer similar courses within the context of their discipline. UUNI 399 gives the opportunity to students in other departments for similar academic and mentoring experiences. Under this course, students meet regularly with a full time faculty instructor and prepare written reports on their experiences.

UAC also unanimously approved at that meeting the **deactivation of the Asian Studies Major**. For the past three years there have been no majors in this area.

(UAC continued)

UAC had a very productive meeting on April 24. We approved:

Deactivation of Asian Studies Minor

Change in Admission requirements to School of Business: The School of Business proposes to modify the change in admissions standards approved last year. The proposed changes for University at Albany students are an increase from 3.10 to 3.25 in the overall GPA and an increase from 2.85 to 3.0 in the GPA in designated admission core courses required for admission. Similar changes are proposed for transfer students.

Revision of Anthropology Minor Requirements: Currently the Minor in Anthropology requires ANT 100, however this course is taught sporadically. The revision makes this course optional. The proposed new Anthropology minor requirements are: two courses among: AANT 100, AANT 110, AANT 104, AANT 108 or AANT 220.

Combined Programs: BA Economics -MA Public Administration and BS Economics -MA Public Administration. This proposal takes advantage of natural overlap and common interests between Economics and Public Policy, and the likelihood that students will find the combined degree program advantageous for the educational goals. The combined degree programs enhance the attractiveness and benefits of our undergraduate programs by providing students with well-defined career opportunities.

UAC continues discussing the University Writing proposal. The CNSE proposal is still under review by the General Education Committee and the Curriculum and Honors Committee.

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

No report.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Diane Dewar, Chair

Robert Gibson, University Registrar, presented proposed academic calendars for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters, which were unanimously approved. Mr. Gibson also proposed an amendment to the Fall 2008 calendar to suspend classes prior to sundown at 4:15pm on October 8th to accommodate students wishing to travel for Yom Kippur. This motion was also approved.

Dr. Dewar invited Dr. Reinhold-Larsson to present a bill to deactivate the Asian Studies Major. After discussion, it was agreed upon to amend the proposal to include deactivating the Asian Studies Minor, which was approved.

Dr. Dewar invited Dr. Robert Geer, Dr. Hassaram Bakhru and Dr. Daniel Smith to summarize the CNSE proposal for undergraduate academic programs leading to a B.S. in Nanoscale Science and B.S. in Nanoscale Engineering that was distributed to the members of UPC for their review. Dr. Geer described the programs, noting that the subcommittee of the curriculum committee had passed the majors in March. The programs contain the necessary components of the University's first undergraduate engineering program; the courses offered parallel existing graduate degrees. The program is at the middle to low end of peer engineering requirements (132 credits) and represents a strong coherence with the University's mission – this is an excellent opportunity to attract engineering students, a population of high quality students that the University has not been able to attract. The new building on the CNSE campus will add six classrooms to the existing three. The College has ample instructional resources, with four established constellations (Nanoscience, Nanoengineering, Nanoeconomics and Nanobioscience). Review of the program is ongoing with the UAC Curriculum and Honors Committee. The proposal was put to a vote and approved by the council.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Sanjay Goel, Chair

CAFFECoR is continuing the process of investigating the impact of academic performance-enhancing drugs on academic freedom and community responsibility. At the last meeting on April 18, 2008, John McGuire, one of the two members of the K-9 Unit in UPD gave an informative presentation on "Narcotics and Law Enforcement", which was tailored based on the presentation he normally gives to Residential Life to focus on stimulants (which most academic performance-enhancing drugs are). He covered how drugs are obtained around campus, what drugs are being used, and how student users are discovered and dealt with. In addition, he discussed the different drug schedules (classifications) based on addictive level, and the effects of illegal stimulants including amphetamines and methamphetamines compared to more legal stimulants, e.g. coffee. The committee meeting attendees proposed to begin write-up of a report calling for individual responsibility and providing access to what the associated risks are with use of these drugs as well as discussing recommendations based on academic research.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Zai Liang, Chair

CERS has formed an Ad hoc Misconduct Policy Amendment Committee (see roster below). The Committee had its first meeting on April 22. We finalized the committee charge proposed earlier. We discussed experiences related to Misconduct Policy during the past few years. Finally, in light of a meeting with Mr. Chris Pascal (director of Office of Research Integrity) on April 24, the Committee brainstormed ideas/questions that we need to consult with Mr. Pascal. The Committee plans to meet again in the week of April 28.