

2016-2017 University Senate

Monday, December 5, 2016

2:45 pm, Assembly Hall

James Collins, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Alaei, Kamiar; Almahamid, Ilham; Card, Dylan; Chan, Keith; Chen, Mei-Hwa; Collins, James; Craig, Allison; Earle, Keith; Fabris, Daniele; Fox, Cynthia; Galusha, Jaime; Hamilton, Diane; Holdridge, Brandon; Jerison, Michael; Kecskes, Istvan; Keenan, Donald; King, Ekow; Kiorpes, Karen; Kressner, Ilka; Lawrence, Zina; Little, Walter; Lizotte, Alan; Mamorella, David; Manjak, Martin; McKenna, Holly; McNutt, Louise- Anne; Mower, James; Ng, Vivien; Ostro, Austin; Pastore, Christopher; Petry, Greta; Poehlmann, Christian; Prelow, Hazel; Pyles, Loretta; Reinhold, Karin; Roberts, Nancy; Rosenswig, Robert; Shi, Hua; Smith, Christy; Tchernev, Alexandre; Wharram, Dawn; Wheeler, Darrell; Williams, Kevin;

Guests: Vero, Ron; Stewart, Caro-Beth; Winchester, Kathie; LaValley, Celine; Carroll, Llana; Skebe, Alifair; Jewell, Carol; Murray, Ann Marie; Bartow, Jon; Wulfert, Edelgard

The meeting convened at approximately 2:47 p.m.

Chair Collins asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the approval of council memberships under New Business. A motion was made and approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of November 21, 2016 was tabled until February since quorum had not been met.

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT – DARRELL WHEELER

Interim Provost Wheeler once again reminded that the important strategic planning “Concert of Ideas” event would take place on December 9th and 10th and thanked those who would be attending. He added that a student-driven Diversity and Inclusion dialogue on efforts to increase faculty diversity would take place that evening in the Ballroom at 5:00 p.m. The Interim Provost clarified that the Compact Planning process would not be suspended, but rather the University would be stepping back from allocations for the current year in order to provide the opportunity to evaluate and line up allocations with the Strategic Plan. He spoke to a Times Union article about our university post-election, and reported that he had fielded calls from concerned parents. He thanked the Deans and administrators who had assisted in identifying 4 to 6 classes that had been cancelled or had postponed exams for circumstances that could have been construed as related to the election results. He reinforced that the University at Albany respects inclusivity and diverse opinions and will not tolerate hateful or dangerous speech. He stressed, however, that we will not uphold as a University the dismissal of classes as the result of an election. Interim Provost Wheeler pointed out that [Interim President Stellar had e-mailed a response to the Sanctuary petition](#) presented at the last meeting. He also announced that the administration was working with the Deans on some minor restructuring of the June 19-21, 2017 Commencement ceremonies. In closing, he thanked the Senate and added that in his 80+ days as Interim Provost he had tried to work with Senate leaders and deans to better understand issues. He underscored that transparency was an essential element and said that he would be researching and sharing data in the coming months to inform the decisions being made.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT – James Collins, Chair

I. Informational

1. On November 8, Chair Collins sent Chief of Staff Szelest information about the numerous offices which must register changes to academic names or programs
2. On November 9, Fall Faculty Meeting was held. Participants were pleased with an interactive format allowing time for questions after the President’s Report.
3. On November 11, Chair Collins met with Vice Chair Reinhold and Immediate Past Chair Fox to discuss diverse issues, including follow up on Senate resolutions and an agenda for Senate leadership meetings with the Provost and Chief of Staff.
4. On November 21, 2016 a constituent asked Chair Collins to inquire into University responses to recent racist or potentially racist incidents on campus. Collins raised the issue with Provost Wheeler during the 11/21 Senate Meeting and he responded.
5. On November 22, 2016, Senate leaders (Collins and Fox), met with Provost Wheeler and Chief of Staff Szelest. Among items discussed was Senate representation on administrative review processes, including review of deans and non-academic administrative units. Senate leaders next meet with the Provost and Chief of Staff on December 2.
6. On November 22, Chair Collins and Immediate Past Chair Fox met to plan revisions to the Senate Handbook clarifying Council procedures and routing practices.
7. On November 25, Chair Collins received a draft statement on safety and freedom of expression from the Executive Committee of the SUNY Faculty Senate in the face of hate speech and threats of violence.
8. The Senate Executive Committee will meet On November 30.

II. Actions taken

None

III. Recommendations for actions

None

Chair Collins noted that the first meeting of the Presidential Search Committee would take place on December 7th. He assured that Senate representatives would report back regarding the search progress, within confidentiality constraints. The 2016 reports on the Survey of Governance, he added, were available on the Senate website under GOV, and the resulting recommendations for councils were introduced to the SEC at its meeting on November 30th. Chair Collins again solicited participation in the "Concert of Ideas", as well as continued feedback on the strategic plan and implementation efforts. The Chair reported that he and Immediate Past Chair Fox had attended a regular monthly meeting with the Provost and Chief of Staff on November 28th when they continued discussion of the role of governance in academic and non-academic administrative review. Chair Collins had e-mailed Sorrell Chesin, the Director of the Emeritus Center, to inquire if a representative to the Senate had been selected. He added that he had also referred the Resolution on Student Representation in Governance 1617-03R to the Provost and to the Deans of Graduate and Undergraduate Education. Chair Collins provided an update on a petition, which was an informational item at the last Senate meeting, to President Stellar to make the University at Albany a sanctuary campus and reviewed President Stellar's response. The Chair shared that he had brought a resolution in support of the petition to the SEC, which members had voted to approve with the following mixed results: 6 approved, 0 opposed, 7 abstained. The resolution and the petition would be brought forward to the Senate at the next meeting on February 13th. Chair Collins agreed, in response to a request, to make available to members the petition and a SUNY Faculty Senate statement on diversity and tolerance.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senate) – Diane Hamilton, Walter Little & Latonia Spencer, SUNY Senators

1. Nothing new to report.

Senator Little stated that the UFS would develop a resolution in support of the recent SUNY statement on diversity and tolerance. He added that the next plenary agenda for January 19th through the 21st was being made, following upcoming meetings including a Senate Executive and Union Executive Committee meeting that Thursday. Senator little welcomed input on those items.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Dylan Carr GSA President

1. Nothing reported.

President Carr reported that on Friday the GSA assembly had met and passed a resolution in favor of the sanctuary petition, which would be forwarded to the President, Chancellor, and SUNY BOT.

SA (Student Association) – Felix Abreu, Student Association President

1. Nothing reported.

An SA designee apologized for the past lack of SA representation at Senate meetings and assured there would be representation going forward. He reported that SA had voted to raise the student activity fee from \$100 to \$110 in order to continue to meet the obligations relevant to that fee. He added that, per the SUNY BOT policy, there would be a vote in March on whether that fee would remain mandatory. He stressed that SA asks for support to keep the fee mandatory.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair

1. Nothing new to report

Chair Mower added that CAA had met on Friday and approved 2 reviews, one for International Education and one for the Department of Literacy, Teaching and Learning. He reminded that, as he would be on sabbatical, CAA had voted that Alifair Skebe would be Chair next semester.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

1. Informational
 - a. A few CAFFECOR members met on Friday, November 18, 2016, at which time Malcolm Sherman volunteered to serve on the new subcommittee which GOV will form, to create procedural language for the undergraduate bulletin, as was previously announced. We also began to talk about the policy for faculty fliers.
2. Reports of Actions
 - a. N/A
3. Recommendations for Actions
 - a. N/A

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

1. Nothing reported.

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

1. Nothing reported.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Louise-Anne McNutt, Chair

1. Nothing reported.

Chair McNutt stated that CPCA had met and voted on three cases and would meet the next week to vote on four to five more.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – James Fossett, Chair

1. Nothing reported.

GOV (Governance Council) – Karin Reinhold, Chair

1. We will be meeting Dec 7. The Council is looking into the representation of contingent faculty in the Senate.

Chair Reinhold added that GOV was working on an amendment to the resolution for the sanctuary petition and welcomed input.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

- **Overview of Blackboard Organizations** This presentation described using Blackboard beyond just using it for courses. This concept of using communities/organizations has been gaining traction; and anyone with a Net ID can build one.
- **Brief Overview of the new Lecture Capture Room in SB-31**
Dave showed slides of the new LC Room in SB-31 which was recently renovated to capture lectures. It is new to the faculty, but if anyone is interested in learning how it is done, contact the Classroom Technology staff in ITS.
- **Overview/Brief Demo of VoiceThread**
Dave presented an overview of VoiceThread, which is an interactive collaboration and sharing tool that enables users to add images, documents, videos, and to which other users can add voice, text, audio file, or video comments. This tool can be incorporated into Blackboard. It does require a webcam for the video component. If anyone is interested, contact the Faculty Technology Resources team in ITS. There is a workshop on VoiceThread scheduled for February 14th, 2017 in ITLAL.

Report/Updates from Rebecca Mugridge (Dean of University Libraries):

- **Faculty searches.**
 - o Director of Technical Services and Library Systems. The request to fill the position will go out to Budget/HR/ODI this week.
 - o Outreach and Marketing Librarian. An internal search for this position has begun and hope to be finished by mid-December.
- **Student Advisory Board.** The first meeting of the Board took place on October 25, and the second meeting is coming up on November 16. Due to the amount of student interest, the SAB was split into fall and spring. A little over 30 students attended the first meeting. This meeting raised a number of issues, including their concerns with printing costs.

- **Library Hours Task Force.** At the request of the Libraries' Student Advisory Board, Rebecca has appointed a Task Force to make recommendations regarding the hours of operation for all three university libraries. The Task Force conducted a survey of students in October and is now conducting a survey of faculty and staff. The results of these surveys will be used to inform our decisions about hours in the next semester and going forward.
- **Digital Scholarship Center Task Force.** The Libraries have formed a task force to explore how we might expand the services offered by our Interactive Media Center to include things like data visualization software and GIS. To inform their work they've invited Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, to speak to the Libraries and other interested folks about digital scholarship support services. This will take place on November 15, 10:30-12:00 in the Cobb Room, and LISC members are welcome to attend.
- **Other Items**
Rebecca will have a representative speak to the Committee on the reconfiguration of the Library's service desks and how it's going to change the look of the Library.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

UAC met on October 18 and again on November 10. In its September meeting, UAC reviewed a proposal from the School of Social Welfare to revise their policies on termination from their major. In response to questions at that meeting, the School clarified the language of the policy and the circumstances under which a student would not receive a passing grade in Field Placements. The proposal was approved unanimously on October 18.

On October 18 UAC reviewed two revised General Education plans, one from Political Science and the other from Social Welfare. The former was approved. UAC has asked Social Welfare for a point of clarification regarding the Dewey Library role in the Plan.

Four new General Education Competency Plans were submitted. After the October meeting, Chair Kiorpes divided UAC voting members into subcommittees to review three of the new Competency Plans. Kiorpes assigned plans to subcommittees based on representation of a UAC faculty member in a discipline relevant to the department submitting the plan. The subcommittees reported on the plans at the UAC meeting on November 10.

- Computer Science: UAC will work with the department on required revisions before it can be approved.
- CNSE: Approved pending minor changes.
- Urban Studies and Planning: Approved pending minor changes.

The Human Development competency plan will be reviewed in time for discussion at the December 6 UAC meeting.

The Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing will be submitting a proposal for a statute of limitations for late withdrawal requests. Additionally, a proposal regarding readmission petitions may be forthcoming.

Two student cases are under review by Interdisciplinary Studies, including one internship.

On October 27, Kiorpes and Kathie Winchester met with Cynthia Fox and Jim Collins to discuss their request to SEC to create documentation of procedures to follow when a department or college proposes certain organizational changes. Recent proposed changes in the School of Business and in the College of Computer Engineering and Applied Sciences have brought such issues to the forefront, and there has been clarification regarding the role the SEC and UPPC should play in such proposals. Kiorpes and Winchester want to capture the jurisdiction for approvals, the steps needed, and the order of those steps, based on the types of administrative changes being proposed. They provided Fox and Collins a draft of a list of possible types of changes and a list of the groups that may be involved in approval and implementation.

ULC (University Life Council) – Ekow King, Chair

1. Informational - The University Life Council's next meeting is on November 28th.
 - a. A report will be given at the December 5th meeting
2. Reports of Actions
3. Recommendations for Actions

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

1. Informational
 - a. At the meeting of 11/16, Vice President for Finance and Administration James Van Vorst announced that an outside consultant would be on campus December 6-9 to gather information about the functioning of division of Finance and Administration and requested that UPPC recommend two individuals to meet with him during this visit.
 - b. Brian Polanco has been appointed UPPC's undergraduate student representative.
 - c. UPPC's last meeting for the semester is scheduled for December.
2. Actions Taken
 - a. As follow up to UPPC's 11/16 discussion of Senate policy and procedures re: departmental name changes and reorganizations, Senate Chair /UPPC member Jim Collins agreed to create a first draft of a document that would eventually serve as permanent record/ guide for more consistent Senate decision making in the future.
 - b. In response to VP Van Voorst's request at our 11/16 meeting, Chairs Chittur and Leventhal have been asked to have their respective committees (Facilities and Resources) each elect a member to represent UPPC/the Senate at the meeting with the consultant.
3. Recommendations.
 - a. None at this time

Chair Fox added that UPPC would be reviewing proposals on the restoration of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis and on an Undergraduate BA in Sociology. She noted that Vice President Jim Van Voorst had been asked to the next UPPC meeting to discuss the Compact Plan.

Senate Chair Collins commented that Senate leadership would be working hard with VP Van Voorst and the Provost regarding more active and earlier input in compact planning.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder