

University at Albany  
State University of New York

University Council  
Draft Minutes May 9, 2014\*

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on May 9, 2014, in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana, Chair; Pierre Alric; Robert Balachandran (by phone); Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; John Fallon; James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; Joette Stefl-Mabry (Faculty Representative); Timothy Murphy (Alumni Representative); and Gary Roth (Graduate Student Representative). Also present were President Robert Jones; Provost Susan Phillips; Vice Presidents James Dias and Stephen Beditz; John Reilly, Counsel's Office; Leanne Wirkkula, Chief of Staff; Caitlin Janiszewski, Graduate Student Association; and Peter Wohl.

Mr. Beditz confirmed that the members present and participating by phone constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2014 meeting (Clancy/Jackson) which were unanimously approved. Chairman Castellana then gave the floor to President Jones.

President Jones began by commenting on areas of emphasis for academic development that will leverage existing strengths to help develop new degree programs, increase recruitment, launch research initiatives, and increase external funding opportunities. The proposed Computer Engineering program is now working its way through the approval processes. The first thirty transfer students will be admitted in the fall of 2015, and freshmen will be admitted in 2016. Second, Big Data Analytics is yet another area for academic development. We recently held a conference on big data which attracted standing room only attendance, with scholars from all over the country providing expert testimony on the topic. In addition, the New York State Tax Commissioner and other heavy data users gave input as well, indicating that they would like to partner with the University in this initiative. Finally we will grow our Health Sciences programs to support new majors in allied health services.

The President then gave an update on the CNSE/SUNYIT merger. SUNY has approved an agreement on the cost of services the University at Albany will provide the new CNSE/SUNYIT entity. These services will include general education, housing, food services, recreational facilities, healthcare, transportation and parking. The final verbal agreement with SUNY was achieved last week and a memorandum of understanding from SUNY will soon be forthcoming. As a next academic step, the Provost has begun the process of UAlbany's deactivation and discontinuance of affected programs so that CNSE/SUNYIT can in turn activate the programs under its aegis.

The President then provided a brief development update. Our total fundraising has increased 75% over last year, with \$7 million raised to date. This year we are on track to surpass \$10 million in total funds raised. Within that total, we have received a \$1.5 million pledge from the Standish family and a \$2 million pledge from the Fargo group. The 2014 Citizen Laureate awardees have been announced. The Academic Laureate is Father Kevin J. Mullen, President of Siena College. The Community Laureates are Daniel P. Nolan, CEO of Hugh Johnson Advisors, and Phoebe Bender, a leading community volunteer. The recipients will be recognized at the 35th anniversary Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner on November 6, 2014 at the SEFCU Arena.

The President moved on to executive leadership transitions. He noted that the Chief Financial Officer search has concluded and Mr. James Van Voorst will join the University on July 1 as Vice President for Finance and Administration. Offers have been made to an Associate Vice President and a Director of State and Federal Relations in the Office of Governmental Relations. We are finalizing the search committee membership for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position. Other searches that will soon be underway are Vice Provost for International Education and the Dean of the School of Criminal Justice.

At the conclusion of the President's remarks, Patricia Caldwell and Pierre Alric both noted that the Council would be pleased to participate in these searches, and the Council is always available to support the President should he call on it.

Moving on to other business, Faculty Representative Joette Stefl-Mabry noted that this will be her final Council meeting as she moves on to Chair the University Senate in the 2014-2015 academic year. The new Senate Vice Chair, Professor Cynthia Fox, will succeed her as the Faculty Representative to the Council next year. Professor Stefl-Mabry reported that the Senate has surveyed students, faculty and staff on shared governance and assessment. The Senate's intent is to take the pulse of those constituencies regarding their impression of the Senate and its activities, and hopefully encourage all constituencies to become more involved. Chairman Castellana noted that the Council looks forward to hearing more about the results of the survey at the appropriate time.

Graduate Student Representative Gary Roth provided an update (attached). The GSA has now adopted a new set of bylaws to govern its affairs. He reported that the recent presidential forum went well in the opinion of the Graduate Student Association. Finally Mr. Roth noted that he has reached his term limit as GSA representative to the Council and will be succeeded by Bryant Barksdale next year.

Moving on to other business, Alumni Representative Timothy Murphy presented copies of the annual report to the Council (attached) and noted the 2014 Alumni Association Excellence Awards recipients. He recapped several recent alumni events and noted that several deans and faculty attended, which is very helpful. He is pleased with

participation and noted that things are looking up from an Alumni Association perspective.

Moving on to new business, Chairman Castellana suggested the Council consider adopting a consent agenda meeting format. Under this model informational items, for example minutes of the prior meeting, are shared in advance for review. They are then packaged together as a single item on the agenda. Unless a member moves to take an item off the consent agenda, which any member can do, the items are acted upon with one motion with no further discussion. The intent of the consent agenda format, which has proven successful in many nonprofit boards and councils, is to move quickly through routine approvals and non-controversial information sharing items to allow greater time to discuss more substantive or controversial issues. He noted that following a consent agenda does, however, create a responsibility on the part of the members to read the reports in advance of the meeting in order that they be quickly acted upon. The Council agreed to move to the consent agenda format over the next two meetings and gauge how it works for this body.

Moving on to other business, Provost Phillips and Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management Robert Andrea gave an "Enrollment Management 101" presentation. Mr. Andrea provided extensive data on the fall 2013 undergraduate class profile and discussed the undergraduate enrollment process from recruitment, first contact, application to acceptance and the awarding of financial aid. At the conclusion of Mr. Andrea's presentation, it was agreed that a similar discussion regarding graduate enrollment will be deferred to the first meeting of the fall.

Moving on to other business, Chairman Castellana introduced resolutions to recognize the service of members going off the Council. He asked for a motion (Jackson/JeanPierre) to acknowledge Klara Botvinnik, the undergraduate student representative. It passed unanimously. He then asked for a motion (Caldwell/JeanPierre) to recognize Gary Roth's contributions. It passed unanimously. He then asked for a motion (Jackson/Caldwell) to acknowledge Joette Stefl-Mabry's contributions to the Council, which also passed unanimously.

Finally a unanimous motion was made to recognize outgoing Council member Michael Stein for his longstanding contributions to the Council and the University at Albany. A more formal resolution recognizing Mr. Stein will be adopted at the Council's first meeting in the fall.

Moving on to new business, Pierre Alric noted that legislation banning smoking on all SUNY campuses is still under discussion at the legislature. He also noted that the Association of Council Members and Trustees of the State University of New York encourages all Council members, and others involved with the work of the Council, to become actively involved in that organization.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded (Jackson/JeanPierre), the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Beditz  
University Liaison to the Council

\*Pending approval at the fall, 2014 meeting