

**University at Albany, State University of New York
University Senate**

October 22, 2007

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Sandra Austin, Kristina Bendikas, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Irina Birman, Ray Bromley, Fan Pen Chen, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, John Delano, Bill Ding, Phil Erner, Sue Faerman, Sally Friedman, Robert Gibson, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Donald Keenan, Sung Bok Kim, Laurence Kranich, Kevin Lahey, William Lanford, Zai Liang, Eric Lifshin, Jean McLaughlin, Paul Miesing, David Miller, Greg Pogarsky, Marjorie Pryse, Sanjay Putrevu, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Neal Robbins, Junru Ruan, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Malcolm Sherman, Scott South, Tim Stephen, Marcia Sutherland, Brian Tregerman, ManKit Tse, Lynn Videka, Victoria von Arx, Edward Waltz, Rose-Marie Weber, Wendy West, Robert Yagelski, Kehe Zhu, Adam Zonder

Guests: Jonathan Bartow, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan, Bill Roberson, Melinda Spencer. Students: John Dias, Lily Garcia, Julie Gonder, Reuben Ingber, Nikki Kotary, Anna Politano, Daniel Truchan III

Minutes: The Minutes of September 24, 2007 were approved.

Officer in Charge Report: George Philip introduced himself to the group and said he is grateful to be here, at his almatmater, and able to help out by serving as the Officer in Charge. He will officially take over the responsibility on November 7th. At this time, he continues to work on the Presidential Search Committee. He reported that the Committee has reduced the list of qualified individuals to a short list for interviews. There will be an open interview process; and he will keep faculty informed as things progress.

Mr. Philip noted that he is not an academician, and will not assume the role of Provost and Chief Academic Officer for the Campus. There will be an interim person appointed to that position; that search will be a priority.

Questions from the floor:

- SPH Senator Birman asked about recycling on the main campus, as she does not see recycle bins. Vice President Lowery indicated that the main campus does have recycle bins. Senator Cupoli noted that UPC has a resolution on today's agenda regarding environmental sustainability. Senator Jacklet then introduced the UPC resolution.
- Senator Schell asked if the transition to a new Interim Provost would affect the CAS Dean search. OIC Philip reported that a new Interim Provost would most likely approve the recommendations of the Search Committee. Vice President Videka reported that she is chairing that Search, and the search is going well.
- Question about the Chancellor Search: it was noted that SUNY is meeting today to ratify some of the names the Governor has passed down. There will be a search committee appointed soon.

Chair Report:

- Farewell Reception for Susan Herbst: Friday at 2:30 pm, at the UNH Atrium
- The Branding Initiative is continuing.
- New Entryway Project: On schedule, to be completed by Thanksgiving.
- President Hall Memorial: A plaque was placed and a tree was planted in honor of President Kermit Hall by the Social Sciences building.
- Senate Bill 0708-01: Public Health Bill was approved by OIC Herbst. He reminded Senators that they should notify Deans and Chairs of this approval.
- Senate Bill 0607-04: Signed by OIC Herbst in December 2006, called for an Undergraduate Ombuds office to be established.
- Curricular Proposal Timelines: There was discussion at the last Senate Executive Committee meeting about curricular proposals being submitted to the Senate in a timely manner, in order to ensure passage by the next semester. It was decided that notice of those dates will be sent Deans, Directors and Chairs, from Senate. Actually, the proposals should be submitted to UAC, GAC, or UPC as appropriate, by the end of this semester in order to present them to the Senate Executive Committee. The last Senate Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2008.
- New Senator Elections: The deadline for electing new Senators for next year is April 9, 2008.

SUNY-Wide Senate Report: There is no report; a Plenary meeting is scheduled for this week. A report will follow.

Council and Committee Chair Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment), William Lanford, Chair. CAA adopted a council operating procedure that attempts to avoid inappropriate disclosure of assessment documents and conflicts of interest involving CAA members. CAA elected Peter Duchessi Chair of the Program Review Committee, and Seth Chaiken Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee. After polling CAA members, the Chair of CAA working with the Chairs of the subcommittees will propose committee membership. At the request of its Dean, the assessment of the College of Computing Information has been postponed from 2007/8 to 2008/9. The first program assessments expected to be reviewed are in Accounting and Communication.

COR (Council on Research), Lawrence Schell, Chair. At the October 17th meeting of COR, the VP-R presented her report and emphasized developments in technology transfer, and tracking federal funding to our campus. The value and rationale for tech transfer and commercialization activities were discussed by council members. The COR also heard an update on Coeus and wishes to encourage all faculty and other appropriate staff to get training as soon as possible. Also, COR committee reports were heard.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments), Eric Lifshin, Chair. CPCA met twice since the last Senate meeting and has completed the evaluation of two outstanding cases. It will meet again on October 30 to consider an additional case.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council), Sally Friedman, Chair. GAC will inform the Senate of two actions GAC took at the end of last semester, one is to require (with a couple of exceptions) a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (written exam or equivalent) for all international student applications and a program name change from “Master of Arts, Latin American and Caribbean Studies” to “Master of Arts, Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies”. GAC met on 10/18 and approved the suspension of admissions to masters and doctoral programs in geology previously approved by UPC. GAC also approved a proposed Ph.D. program in the Department of Communications. In addition, in order to provide it an institutional home, the Council approved a resolution placing the office of the Ombuds administratively under the Office of the Graduate Dean. Finally, following up on old business from last year, a bill has gone forward for Senate Executive Committee consideration involving amending the MS General Education Studies program to include a variety of new certificate programs.

GOV (Governance Council) John Delano, Chair. The Governance Council approved a proposal to revise procedures for the nomination of faculty to the rank of Distinguish Service Professor and Distinguished Teaching Professor. Because of its lengthy agenda, the Council members have agreed to expand the time of the biweekly meetings and are searching for a time block when the Council might meet on “off” weeks.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing), Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair. LISC held its first meeting on 9/28. The Council received reports from CIO Christine Haile and Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia. The Council is in the process of forming the Council's two standing committees: The Library Committee and the Information Technology Usage Committee. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 26.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council), Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair. The UAC met September 20th. A minor in Informatics was proposed by faculty from Computer Science, Informatics, Information Studies, and Information Technology Management, and approved in Spring 2006. The original proposal was for a general option – four core courses and two upper-division courses – that would be available to students in any major outside the College of Computing and Information. The new proposal expands the minor with 3 new cognate areas where the students will apply informatics in the discipline of their major: Criminal Justice, Geography and Communications. The proposal consists of four core courses in informatics and two upper-division courses in the corresponding concentration option of their major. UAC approved these new cognate options of the Minor in Informatics with the recommendation that the bulletin description be changed from “variations” to “concentrations”.

ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC met with Estela Rivera to learn about the services provided by her office. ULC also discussed some concerns raised by graduate students, several of which will be directed to other councils.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council), Diane Dewar, Chair. The UPC met on Friday, Oct 5th, to discuss the suspension of the graduate geology program in the DEAS. It has invited Dean Peter Bloniarz to present some of the new planning and curricular developments of the CCI so that UPC will have a better understanding of new developments that may need to be vetted through this Council. Other business included a discussion of the resolution to start a dialogue between the task force on environmental sustainability and other planning entities on campus so that both sets of goals can be worked out in a mutually beneficial way. The next meeting is on November 14th.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility), Sanjay Goel, Chair. The committee had an organizational meeting to plan the agenda for 2007-2008 activities. The committee reviewed the outstanding issues from the previous year that needed to be completed. Specifically the committee was interested in reviewing the Diversity Committee Report and the Honor Code being created at UAlbany and the “Freedom in the Classroom Report” issued by AAUP in 2007. There was also some sentiment that the issue of performance enhancing drugs in academics needs to be examined by the committee since misuse of drugs like Ritalin, Adderall, and Dexedrine was becoming rampant. There are both medical and ethical issues associated with the misuse of these drugs.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship), Zai Liang, Chair. CERS met on September 25. The Committee went over main responsibilities of CERS. The Committee discussed suggestions for possible changes in CERS policy and agenda for the new academic year.

General Discussion:

There was a question asked about the status of the position of the Director of Intramurals. Senator Savitt explained that there is an ongoing search for a candidate for that position. Someone was originally hired, but has left the position already. Student Senator Truchan noted that there was an issue with the duties of that position and a conflict with the Athletics department.

A question was asked if the “Purple Path” development went through the appropriate Senate Council. Mr. Bartow explained the history of the proposal and spoke about the University Facilities Council approval for that project.

New Business:

- **Senate Resolution 0708-01: (UPC) Environmental Sustainability Planning:** The Resolution was discussed, and passed unanimously with an amendment.
- **Senate Resolution 0708-02: (SEC) Support of Officer in Charge Susan Herbst:** The Resolution was discussed, and passed unanimously.
- **Senate Resolution 0708-03: (SEC) Support for the RPI Faculty Senate:** The Resolution was discussed, and passed with 14 abstentions.
- **Senate Bill 0708-03: (GOV) Process for Election of Senate Officers:** The bill was introduced for notice, since it requires a Charter amendment, it requires three weeks notice. No action was taken. It will be voted on at the next Senate meeting.
- **Senate Bill 0708-04: (GOV) ITLAL Charter Amendment:** Introduced by GOV Chair Delano. It was pulled off today’s Agenda, pending consultation with ITLAL Director Roberson.
- **Senate Bill 0708-05: (GOV) Proposed Guidelines for the UAlbany Selection Committee for Distinguished Teaching Professors and Distinguished Service Professors:** The bill was introduced by GOV Chair Delano. A friendly amendment was

made by Senator Range regarding the committee membership numbers. There was discussion and the bill passed unanimously with the amendment.

Addition to the Agenda:

(UAC) Expansion of the Minor in Informatics: Chair of UAC, Karin Reinhold-Larsson introduced the proposal. There was a call for a vote on whether or not the Senate members would accept this addition to the Agenda. The vote passed with two opposing.

There was discussion on the topic, and a motion to postpone further discussion and decision on the matter was unanimously approved. It will come forward at the next Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder