

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate Meeting, April 12th, 2010

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. Michael Range, Chair

Spring Faculty Meeting. The meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 3pm, with refreshments and informal conversations beginning at 2:30pm. The main agenda item is President Philip's report to the faculty.

Meeting with President Philip. GOV Chair Lifshin and Chair Range met with President Philip on March 8, 2010 to discuss the following items.

a) Revisions of Misconduct Policy. CERS has completed its review of revisions proposed by the CERS-GOV working group. Much of the current draft has been reviewed by the university counsel, but some items are still pending. The President agreed to urge counsel to complete his review in a timely manner. At its 3/22 meeting, the SEC approved to introduce the revisions to the senate at the 4/12 meeting, for discussion only. A vote will be scheduled for the May meeting.

b) Charter Amendments. The discussion confirmed differences in perspectives regarding the graduate course and IRCUAP amendments. President Philip is not willing to approve them, but he is aware of governance's reading of BOT Policies that stipulations in the bylaws or charter that do NOT involve consultation with the President do not require the President's approval. He has no objections that the relevant amendments approved by the senate be included in the charter, as long as it is understood that the President did NOT approve them. A resolution of the different interpretations of BOT policies will be deferred until the issue comes to the forefront with a specific proposal requiring application of either one of the amendments.

c) Review and Evaluation of Administrators. The rationale and merits for such an evaluation process were discussed with President Philip. The President summarized his concerns at the Senate meeting later that afternoon.

Resolution on Evaluation of Administrative Services and Functions. Discussion of the original version of this resolution was terminated at the last Senate meeting for lack of a quorum. The SEC revised the resolution in light of that discussion. (Revised version attached) Further Senate discussion, including a vote, is on the agenda of the 4/12 meeting.

Gen Ed Task Force. The Gen Ed Task Force submitted its INTERIM recommendations to the UAC and the SEC (included in the agenda packet). The Task Force recommends that NO changes be implemented for 2010-11. The TF continues its work regarding possible long term revisions to UA's Gen Ed requirements, and will report on its progress to the Senate at the May 10 meeting. On behalf of the Senate, the Chair thanks Distinguished Teaching Professor Steve North, Chair of the TF, and all members of the Task Force for completion of the first charge to the TF in a very short time frame.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford & Daniel D. White, SUNY Senators

The SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) has been considering the "Empowerment Act" which has now taken the acronym PHEEIA (Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act). In mid-March, UFS President Ken O'Brien circulated a grid containing bullet points on the following elements of PHEEIA: Tuition Policy and Financing, Land Use, Public-Private Partnerships, Operating Efficiencies, Hospital Reforms, Procurement Efficiencies. The grid included information from SUNY Administration, UUP, and a general summary by the UFS leadership. This document is available on demand from Senator White.

On March 16, 2010, UFS President O'Brien held a conference call with approximately 30 UFS Senators and Campus Governance Leaders. Chair Range participated. Two resolutions from the Chancellor were circulated before the meeting (RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE TUITION POLICY FOR THE 64 CAMPUS SUNY SYSTEM and RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY). These resolutions and PHEEIA were discussed in detail. The meeting resulted in a letter from the UFS President O'Brien to Chancellor Zimpher and Senior Vice Chancellor Rimai on behalf of the UFS.

In brief, the letter expressed support for SUNY controlling the General Tuition Rate and a strong desire for the State of New York to commit to supporting SUNY financially. The letter also expressed concern for the Special Tuition Rate proposal and the lack of a substantive role for faculty governance in both resolutions. These resolutions were circulated by Chair Range to the UAlbany SEC and the letter from Ken O'Brien to the Chancellor is available on demand from Senator White.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkopf, GSO Representative

Nothing to report.

SA (Student Association) – Dustin Lanterman, Academic Affairs Director, SA

The spring 2010 edition of the *World Within Reach Speaker Series* featured Howard Dean and Karl Rove, discussing the important issues of today's world, Thursday, April 8th, 2010 in the SEFCU Arena.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

The Middle States Commission Visiting Team met with the Steering Committee and other University officials on Sunday, 15 March. Due to my teaching schedule I was unable to meet with the Steering Committee and the Team on Monday 16 March. The final session with the team took place on Wednesday, 17 March as a wrap-up open to Senior Staff, Deans, University Council, Senate Executive Committee, some Alumni Association representatives, key Student Leaders, and all the people who participated in the preparation of the self-study.

On Sunday the MSCHE Team was introduced, though some of them were unavailable due to travel problems caused by the storm on the East Coast. Dr. Langenberg and others appraised the Self-Study as comprehensive and honest in its assessments of the campus.

The team consisted of the following:

Donald N. Langenberg	(Chair) Chancellor Emeritus and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park
John E. Benhart	Professor and Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Planning Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Harding Faulk, Jr.	Director, Institutional Research, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Charles J. Fey	Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Akron
Nina D. Jemmott	Associate Vice President & Dean, Graduate Studies, William Paterson University of New Jersey
Henry A. Mauermeyer	Senior Vice President for Administration and Treasurer, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Stella Porto	Program Director/Collegiate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park
Linda B. Salamon	Professor of English and Human Sciences, George Washington University
Working with them:	
Elizabeth Bringsjord	Associate Provost, Academic Programs, Planning, and Assessment, SUNY

On Wednesday the summary statements by Dr. Langenberg and others from the team echoed those assessments and added the following, in no particular order:

- Despite the turnover in administration the campus is doing well.
- Faculty Development is an issue that needs further attention.
- UAlbany is further along than many in its view that students are central to its mission. The Student Success program was favorably regarded.
- The notion of assessment needs further refinement. Are we teaching students what they should learn and how well they are learning it? Offices and services also need to be assessed and some appear not to have been. “Closing the loop” on feedback was stressed so the community can appreciate that assessment efforts are having a positive effect.
- The faculty needs to be aware of technological changes, the most radical since the invention of the printed book. In general the faculty needs to be adaptable, both in terms of utilizing technology (e.g. distance learning) and in the way they think about their disciplines. A question regarding humanities prompted a comment that certain areas should think about forming new groups that would cut across traditional disciplines.
- Research on the campus is strong, as exemplified by the increase in external funding, while acknowledging that some areas will not draw in large amounts of funding. CNSE has progressed far above comparable units in other institutions. A relatively new area of research worth exploring is pedagogy within the discipline.
- Fundraising—everyone needs to be involved in fundraising, including individual faculty in some instances.
- More contact and involvement with alumni should be fostered.
- The role of governance here is quite typical.
- Facilities are actually better here than is the case in many places. (He was not more specific than that.)
- The strategic plan is well underway and is on the right track. The MSCHE report should help in the formulation of the strategic plan. Although the process of identifying aspirational peers is useful and necessary, the university should try to understand better what its identity should be.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on March 10 and 25, 2010. We discussed the GAC’s plans to review the CAA assessment reports, Dr. Hedberg’s response to our request for the addition of assessment-related language to the “Administrative Procedures for the Preparation of Recommendations for Promotions and Continuing Appointment” document, and the streamlining assessment proposal passed by the Board of Trustees on March 23. We revised and approved a memo to the Provost about the Graduate Student Support review in which we commented positively on the rigor of the methods used and made suggestions for improvements to future reviews, including the possibility of reducing redundancy with existing program review processes. We revised a draft job description for department assessment coordinators. We began a review of a list of CAA recommendations made since 2007 in order to determine which recommendations require follow up. The Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee reported on a productive meeting with faculty and staff from University in the High School. We reviewed the Judaic Studies and Informatics report presented by the Program Review Committee. Both were approved by consensus. .

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

CAFFECoR has submitted the following bill to today's Senate meeting recommending:

DELETION OF “PRINCIPLES FOR A JUST COMMUNITY” FROM UNIVERSITY DOCUMENTS

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

The “Principles for a Just Community” statement be removed from the *Community Rights and Responsibilities*

That the Bill be forwarded to the President for approval and implementation.

BACKGROUND:

The “Principles of a Just Community” statement was first approved by the Senate in 89-90. A revision was last made in 00-01. The initial rationale for the 89-90 bill was not explicitly included therein, but seems to have been an administrative response to off-campus incidents in the New York City area. The revisions in 00-01 were sponsored by ULC; the background section of that bill stated that “There have been requests for minor revisions to this document. In response to those requests, the University Life Council reviewed it and approved the proposed revisions.”

The 89-90 bill proposed that the “Principles for a Just Community” be endorsed by the University Senate, and that these principles be included in all appropriate publications and otherwise disseminated throughout the University Community.” Consequently, the PJC currently appears, among other places, at the front of the “Community Rights and Responsibilities” and the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

In a recent review of the “Principles of a Just Community” as a part of a comprehensive review of the “Community Rights and Responsibilities,” CAFFECoR discovered a number of passages in the former which conflicted with the text in the latter. For example, the “Principles of a Just Community” states, “the University must allow the free expression of ideas, no matter how outrageous” whereas the CRR states, “The University at Albany strives to protect all members of the University at Albany community by prosecuting bias or hate crimes that occur within the campus jurisdiction” where “bias or hate crimes” are defined as “Engaging in behaviors or using language that demonstrate hatred or bias against other persons because of national origin, ethnicity, race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, color, creed, or marital status.”

Moreover, CAFFECoR found that on occasion the PJC seemed to contradict itself. For example, one passage states “...this academic community...must...be just. There is no definitive theory of justice.”

In sum, CAFFECoR was concerned that these passages would cause confusion among students and other members of the university community. After careful consideration, CAFFECoR decided that any attempted revisions of the “Principles of a Just Community” would only further complicate the document. And, because freedom of speech is already addressed elsewhere in the CRR, the best solution was to delete PJC from CRR.

The members of CAFFECoR would like to stress that this action is not tantamount to eliminating the concept of justice, or the importance of justice, on this campus. Rather, this action is an attempt to clarify campus policy for the entire community. The PJC will remain on other university documents, unless another Senate Council or Committee proposes otherwise.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair

The following documents have been sent to Senators for consideration: (1) the bill itself; (2) the proposed new CERS policy text, with numbered lines; the present CERS policy text with numbered lines; and (4) a comparison of the two texts.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on April 7th and discussed multiple topics including:

- The Subcommittee on Excellence in Research Review reported the results of their work. This subcommittee selected four candidates to recommend for this year's awards. These recommendations will be forwarded for consideration.
- Two proposed institutes were presented to COR by the Chair of the Subcommittee on Centers, Institutes and Spec Labs: the Institute for RNA Science and Technology and the Institute for Financial Market regulation. The Directors of both proposed institutes were in attendance to answer questions and clarify their plans. Recommendations on both institutes were made by COR and will be communicated to the Directors.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

CPCA has nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on April 7, 2010. To facilitate the Council's consideration of CAA assessment reports, Kris Bendikas from Institutional Research presented an overview of the assessment process. Next, the Council voted to approve a proposal by the School of Business to reactivate the Organizational Studies Doctoral Program. This decision was based on academic content only, with the understanding that the full resource impact of the proposal will be considered by UPPC.

The Chair briefed the Council on efforts to obtain data on the allocation of graduate assistantships from 2004-present. Since then, the Council has received such information from the College of Arts and Sciences. Also, on behalf of the Council the Chair informed the

Provost and the Senate President that GAC will not comment on the GSS Review Final Report until it has received the individual program assessments.

Finally, subsequent to the meeting, the Council was asked to comment on the Graduate Education section of the draft Strategic Plan.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

A call letter was sent to all Voting Faculty asking for nominations for the positions of Senate Vice-Chair and Senate Secretary. GOV members agreed on initial slates of nominees for two seats for SUNY Senator, two seats for Teaching Faculty Senator-at-Large, two seats for Professional Faculty Senator-at-Large, and two seats on the UAS Board of Directors. The slates were sent to all Voting Faculty inviting petitions to add nominees to the slates. A link to the “Senate Participation e-form” was posted on the Senate’s web page and a call letter went to all Voting Faculty encouraging them to volunteer for membership on Senate councils. The council was asked to review suggested membership on the BAG 3 group; no member of GOV objected to the names included on that list.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

The University images database was demonstrated using Luna software. Images, audio and video are being entered into this institutional repository, with over 5000 images provided by the Art Department, Art Museum, and Writers Institute have been digitized so far. Mark Wolfe of Libraries Special Collection is developing the database. The dataset can be viewed at <http://Lexington.univ.albany.edu/luna> .

The Libraries now have an EBSCO discovery tool (beta version) available online as well as the American History and Video Collection that has videos, newsreels, documentaries and other material in a searchable database.

ITS is beginning an evaluation of email and calendaring services on campus. Meetings with stakeholders are being held now; evaluation of products will take place over the summer with results and reports in the fall.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

In addition to preparing its bill related to a new option for completing a UA degree which will be presented April 12 (see bill and supporting materials) to be voted on in May, UAC approved revised standards for retention in the Honors College as requested by the Senate (see bill); approved changes in coursework in Philosophy to allow for an additional course to be counted in one area; approved suspension of admission to the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences BA program; learned that University Counsel advises against further wording changes to the Undergraduate Bulletin or further legislation at the Senate Level regarding the SUNY BOT’s new regulations regarding General Education, and therefore submits no bill related to this topic; approved revised wording for student-elected S/U grading to clarify the original intention of that policy (see bill); reaffirmed approval of modifications to the Honors B.S. Program in Chemistry. UAC anticipates taking action on additional curricular items in Public Health, Globalization, History, Math, Music, Judaic Studies, Chemistry, and CNSE.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC met to consider a request to review parking appeals policy based on a complaint filed with the senate chair over ticketing post-February 24th snow storm. ULC also heard a report on an upcoming NYS Audit of Cleary Act compliance for the UAlbany campus; the audit is part of the Comptroller’s audit of campuses state-wide.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair

The UPPC has met three times since the previous Senate meeting on March 8.

I. March 12 meeting: (a) The proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences to suspend admission to the Russian M.A. and Certificate programs was discussed with Dean Elga Wulfert. The proposal was approved unanimously by the UPPC. (b) Associate Vice President, Kim Bessette, from the Office of Finance and Business provided budgetary information bearing on questions previously submitted by the UPPC. Representatives from CNSE attended this meeting in response to a previous request from Senate Chair Range for information about annual NYS funding to CNSE. CNSE representatives stated that the 2004 MOU between CNSE and UAlbany explicitly stated that such information was not subject to review by the University Senate. (c) Chief of Staff, Vincent Delio, presented an overview of the Governor’s proposed Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA).

II. March 26 meeting: (a) Registrar Robert Gibson discussed the proposed academic calendar for the 2011-2012 academic year. (b) The Chair of the General Education Task Force, Steve North, presented its recommendation that the University should keep the current General Education program for the 2010-2011 academic year, while the Task Force considers any future revisions in response to the changes approved in January 2010 by the SUNY Board of Trustees. (c) Provost Susan Phillips provided reports on the strategic planning activities occurring at UAlbany and those by SUNY Chancellor Zimpher. Strategic plans for both the University at Albany and SUNY are expected to be completed by mid-May 2010. In addition, Provost Phillips provided the UPPC with her views on NYS cuts to UAlbany in the coming fiscal year. (d) A Motion was approved (by secret ballot; 9-6) requesting that President Philip task a member of his administration to provide budget information for annual NYS funding to UAlbany for 2001-02 through 2009-10.

III. April 9 meeting: (a) Discussion was held bearing on the proposal from the School of Business for the reactivation of its Ph.D. program in Organizational Studies. The Dean of the School of Business, Donald Siegel, who could not attend the April 9 meeting, will be present at the April 23 UPPC meeting to participate in further discussion of this proposal. (b) The Governor’s PHEEIA proposal was discussed, in response to a request from SUNY-wide Senate President, Ken O’Brien, that campus governance bodies express their perspectives on this topic. In preparation for this matter being discussed at the next SEC meeting, the UPPC held a sense-of-the-UPPC vote to express its view on the PHEEIA proposal. The vote was unanimously in support of the position expressed in the March 31 Resolution from the SUNY-wide Senate Executive Committee. (c) Ken O’Brien also requested perspectives from SUNY campus governance leaders on the effects of impending budget cuts. Following discussion with Provost Phillips, the UPPC concluded that it would not be prudent at this time for governance leaders to issue such statements.