

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, October 20, 2014
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

Nothing to report

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

We are looking forward to the Fall Plenary Session of the UFS at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse on October 23-25th, and will have more to report about the issues to be considered later.

We are also pleased to announce that the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the University Faculty Senate will be hosting a conference entitled "Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access and Impact" on November 12-13, 2014 at the Albany Marriott Hotel, located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. This conference will leverage SUNY investments in student success and diversity while exploring best practices in recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff within the domain of higher education.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Kerry Ann Rockquomore, President and CEO of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, and Dr. Daryl G. Smith, Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emerita of Education and Psychology at the Claremont Graduate University, join us as our two keynote speakers at this conference. For more information on this event and to register to attend, please visit our website at www.suny.edu/makingdiversitycount.

We hope you will be able to join us for this seminal conference as we collaborate and share best practices that will continue to help SUNY grow in this critical dimension.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President

The GSA is transitioning from a period of structural reform and overhaul into a process of cultural transformation. After a long process of re-writing our constitution, bylaws, and standard operating procedures, we now face the even more daunting challenge of adjusting to the vision that has been laid out and contending with challenges. At the core of this cultural transformation is the empowerment of our GSA Assembly. The only way that our vision will become a reality is if we inspire a culture of active participation in both our legislative and judicial branches, not just our executive branch.

We continue to work towards the goals set out in our strategic plan including the immensely important reform of our Multicultural and Affirmative Action Committee which over the last few years has been an unsupported position. We have completely transformed the position to give this person access and influence in all corners of the GSA to ensure that we as an organization are taking a proactive and progressive role in promoting diversity and inclusion in our

community. We are already seeing great success in the reform of this position/committee because of the active participation we are receiving from Assembly members serving on this committee. This again speaks to the importance of this challenging cultural reform we are pursuing.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

- Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns Deidre Dumpson and her team are looking forward to the Unity Festival taking place on October 19th at 2pm on Colonial quad.
- Director of Multicultural Affairs Chrisel Martinez and her staff are working with Ekow King on a series of NCBI safe space trainings to be offered over the next month.
- Derek Ellis and his Academic Affairs Department had an excellent appreciation event for members of the Albany Police Department at the recent football game against JMU. SA sponsored a pre-reception for officers and their families to which students and administrators were invited to speak with officers, get to know one another and ask questions.

Over the next few weeks students will be taking "selfies" with the UAlbany UShould Know poster and posting them to social media.

- The Legislative Affairs Department under the direction of Jamie Zieno held an incredibly successful voter registration drive for which we registered over 300 students. Mayor Sheehan, President Jones and Vice President Bouchard as well as Director Jaromin and several other administrators came out in support of the event.
- The Community Engagement and Outreach Department directed by Donovan Swanson is gearing up for a number of events :

October 12: Pine Hills Cleanup. 12-3pm. RIDgefield Park Lot. Rain or Shine event. Free food, Dippikill weekend Raffle.

October 19: Breast Cancer Rally. Breakfast for students on Campus before the walk. 50 tshirts to the first people that sign up. Bus Transportation to Washington Square Park. Banner to decorate before the walk and to be held through the walk. 10am Registration, 12pm walk starts.

October 21: YMCA Greek Panel Event. 5:30-7:30pm University Hall

October 11th: Volunteer for Northeastern Regional Food Bank. 1:00pm - 3:00pm at 965 Albany Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110. Help check, label, move, and package food items for Food Banks within the Capital District.

- The Communications Department is directed by Lee Stanton and has been working diligently to spread the word about the phenomenal work being done by SA Departments and student groups by way of news releases and social media.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernard, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on September 30 and elected committee chairs. Council members chose the committee on which they will serve this year. The Council also looked at their charter and found that current practice does not reflect the charge. The Council suggested some changes to the language in the charter which have been sent to the Governance Council for review.

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

Having had several email discussions with Joette, Susanna, and Cynthia, I now have a clearer understanding of the role and responsibility of CAFFECOR. CAFFECOR will have its October meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at which it is my intention that we will begin discussing the issues of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and the use(s) of social media.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

Nothing to report

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next CPCA meeting is on Oct. 15.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

Our first full GAC meeting is on the 21st and I won't have anything to report until after the meeting.

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

GOV has provided the names of six recommended teaching faculty to fill three openings on the President's Advisory Council on Campus Safety.

Our next scheduled meeting is October 13. A large portion of our time will be devoted to the Report on the 2014 UA Faculty Senate Survey on Governance and Consultation. Senate Chair Joette Stefl-Mabry (last year's Chair of GOV) will be joining us to present the report, answer questions, and provide guidance about the next steps.

We will also be formally constituting our two major sub-Committees, (i.e. the Committee on Assessment of Governance & Consultation and the Committee on Liaison & Elections) and have been asked to consider several items of new business, including the formal mechanism for replacing the Chair of UPPC if that person steps down, and the language of the Charter relative to the composition and charge of the CAA.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair

LISC council has populated the two standing committees, the Library Committee and the Information Technology Usage Policy Committee. The next council meeting is on October 27. At that meeting, we will review the charge of the council according to several suggestions made by the members. The council has been invited by the Dean and Director of Libraries, Mary Casserly, to participate in two campus events: the University Libraries' Preservation Department Naming Ceremony & Reception held on October 10 and the Libraries' celebration of Open Access Week, which will take place on Tuesday, October 21.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on October 9th. At that meeting, in response to the Senate Chair's request to review its charge, the UAC members discussed at length the responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Senate charter and by-laws as well as the procedures by which UAC fulfills those responsibilities. Two general areas of concern emerged during this discussion: (1) the appropriateness of the UAC's charge and the nature of its authority to fulfill its responsibilities, and (2) the substantial workload of the UAC. Regarding the first of these concerns, Council members acknowledged an inherent tension between the need for shared governance of the undergraduate general education curriculum and the tradition of assigning authority for majors to individual departments. Given that more than half of the credits earned by students in any given major are either electives or general education credits, the undergraduate curriculum requires shared governance, and in that regard, many of UAC's responsibilities (such as reviewing course proposals and program changes) are sensible. At the same time, some members noted that the current review of the new general education competencies seems to signal a fundamental change in UAC's role of oversight of the undergraduate curriculum,

seeming to assign the Council greater authority over the curricula for individual majors. Not all members of the Council see this development as a positive one, and questions were raised about the extent to which UAC is required to enforce the new General Education curriculum. Indeed, this discussion led to broader philosophical questions about governance, including who should have authority for these components of the curriculum and how compliance ought to be achieved. Members acknowledged that these are longstanding, complex questions that are likely to continue to face the senate.

Regarding the second issue—UAC’s workload—it was noted that UAC has significantly more work than some other councils and that Senate work is not distributed equally across the councils. Members are in agreement that this disparity is a serious problem, but how to address it is a complicated matter. Although members acknowledged that most of UAC’s assigned responsibilities seem appropriate, there was also agreement that some of those responsibilities seem misplaced. For example, the UAC Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing includes the Appellate Subcommittee on Academic Standing, a large body that reviews student appeals of various kinds and has a significant workload. UAC members agreed that while it is appropriate for the larger committee to set policy regarding admissions and academic standing, the work of the appellate subcommittee should be located elsewhere—possibly in the Office of Undergraduate Education. Such reorganization might help make UAC’s workload more manageable and more equitable in comparison with other councils.

UAC thus recommends that the Senate should consider whether restructuring of this kind might be pursued as a way to clarify and streamline the work of the councils and distribute it more equitably.

The UAC also continued its review of the General Education Competencies Plans submitted during the past year as part of the University’s new General Education program. As noted in the previous UAC report, under the new General Education curriculum, all programs were to submit by the end of fall semester, 2013 plans for meeting the four general education competencies (advanced writing, critical inquiry, oral discourse, and information literacy). Seventeen such plans were reviewed and approved by UAC before the end of the 2013-2014 academic year; twenty-two plans were reviewed and returned to the appropriate departments for revision and remain to be approved. Two other plans were submitted but remain to be reviewed. On October 9th, UAC approved the competencies plans for the Bachelor of Arts majors in Anthropology and Studio Art.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

We meet on the 14th and this what I sent to them:

In preparation for our first ULC meeting next week I have attached our Senate Charter as well as the references to two of the three standing committees included in the ULC (Committee on Athletics, Committee on Residential Life and Committee on Health, Safety & Well-Being).

We will review our charter and provide feedback on its purpose and recommendations for its usefulness.

In addition, I have invited Deborah Nazon to speak to us about the partnership our council has formed over the past two years with the UACCESS (UAlbany Collaboratively Creating Excellence, Scholarship and Success) project and what our goals for this year will be as well.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Christine Wagner, Chair

UPPC met on 10/9/14. An initial proposal for a concentration in Data Analytics in the Computer and Applied Mathematics major was reviewed and approved. UPPC will meet again on 11/20/14.