

**Senate Secretary Christian Poehlmann  
Reports Submitted for February 13, 2017 Senate meeting:**

**CHAIR'S REPORT - James Collins**

**I. Informational**

1. On December 9 Chair Collins met with an outside consultant preparing an administrative report on the Office of Management and Budget. This was requested by VP James Van Voorst.
2. On December 9 and 10, Chair Collins, along with other Senate leaders, chairs and members took part in the Strategic Planning "Concert of Ideas" events. Except for senate members, UUP members, and Department Chairs, faculty attendance was sparse. On December 20, The Office of the Provost sent out a summary of the event, and an overview of steps in the planning process, for those wishing to provide timely corrective feedback as the plan develops.
3. On December 13, 2016, Senate leaders (Collins, Reinhold and Fox), met with Provost Wheeler and Chief of Staff Szelest. Among items discussed were Status of CNSE vis a vis UA, proposed changes within CEAS, implementation of Panel Recommendations on Contingent Concerns and Graduate Student Concerns, Critical Conversation on Humanities and Arts, Interim Director of ITLAL, and support for the Senate.
4. On December 14, Senate leaders (Collins, Fox and Reinhold) met with Paul Stasi, Academic Vice President for Academics of the Albany Chapter of UUP, to discuss common Senate and Union concerns. Primary among those were (a) loss of faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences 2007-2014, and (b) support for Contingent Faculty.
5. On December 16, Senate leaders confirmed a schedule of Campus Governance Leaders' meetings for spring 2017 with the Office of the Provost.
6. On January 4, Chair Collins was invited to attend a PIP (Performance Improvement Planning) pre-meeting on January 18, 2017 with University administrators, prior to their attending a SUNY meeting with Provost Cartwright, also on January 18, to discuss the UA plan for the same. Chair Collins was unable attend, but Immediate Past Chair Cynthia Fox and Vice Chair Karin Reinhold attended in his place.
7. On January 24, Senate leaders (Collins, Reinhold and Fox), met with Provost Wheeler and Chief of Staff Szelest. Among items discussed with were implementation plans for Contingent Concerns, a Senate/UUP/Administration Forum on Contingent Concerns for March 21, 2017, the Critical Conversation on the Humanities and Arts on

February 27, updates on planning for assessment of Academic and Administrative units in 2017, oversight and advisory committee plans for EOP, and the Governor's Excelsior proposal for free tuition at SUNY.

8. On February 1, Chair Collins accepted an invitations to attend a University Executive Committee meeting on February 6, to hear SUNY Provost Cartwright report on the outcome Performance Improvement Planning meeting with UA and SUNY administrators on the January 18.
9. On February 3, 2017, Chair Collins tallied the vote from SEC endorsing a Resolution affirming the University's commitment to a safe, diverse, and inclusive campus.

## **II. Actions taken**

1. On December 14, Chair Collins invited a 02/13/17 Senate presentation from Dean Ouellette of the Albany Law School, on the Albany Law/UAlbany affiliation.
2. On December 28, Chair Collins sent a planning memo to members of the Governance Council, responsible for revising the Senate Handbook, and member of the UPPC working group, responsible for procedures on administrative changes, informing representatives from both Councils of the need to coordinate their work, updating the Senate Handbook and providing a statement of process for Senate consideration of administrative changes.

## **III. Recommendations for actions**

Senate leaders should continue working with administrative leaders to develop an appropriate role for Senate members in the routine evaluation of administrative units. This is currently being developed through the following:

- A Senate representative has been appointed to the Decanal Review Committee, which will begin its work in 2017;
- Several faculty and professional staff members from UPPC were recruited to meet with a consultant reviewing the operation of the Office of Finance and Management this December; and,
- Current Senate leaders are discussing with the Provost and President's Chief of Staff a role for faculty and professional Senators in the evaluation of non-academic administrative units.

These are all signs of a maturing 'shared governance' at the University.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

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

From January 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, the SUNY University Faculty Senate met at SUNY Old Westbury for its annual Winter Plenary meeting. At the plenary, several important resolutions were passed, as well as some significant statements were endorsed by the senators.

The resolutions include:

- Resolution on "Petition to Make All SUNY Locations Sanctuary Campuses" - [175-01-1](#)
- Resolution to Create Transgender Health Care Education at SUNY Campuses - [175-02-1](#)
- Resolution on Contact Hours ([Memorandum to Presidents-Credit/Contact Hour Relationship](#)) - [175-03-1](#)
- Resolution on Assessment Practices - [175-04-1](#)

The endorsed statements include:

- [Statement on Tolerance](#)
- [Joint Statement on Civil Discourse and Campus Climate](#)
- [Statement in Support of DACA and the Pomona Statement](#)

Additionally, several presentations were given at the plenary that will be of interest to the University at Albany community. These include:

- [SUNY Research and Economic Development](#) by Grace Wang
- [Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs](#) by Ricardo Azziz
- [Chief Financial Officer Report](#) by Eileen McLoughlin
- [Provost Office Report Winter 2017](#) by Alex Cartwright
- [SUNY Faculty Senate Social Media](#) by Philip Glick

The final agenda of the plenary can be found at this link: [Old Westbury Final Agenda](#) and the various committee reports can be found by following this link: [Winter 2017 Committee Reports](#).

To access all plenary documents, including previous years, please use the USF website: <http://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/>.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) - Saben Durio, GSA President**

- Nothing to report

**SA (Student Association) - Felix Abreu, Student Association President**

- Nothing reported

**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:**

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Alifair Skebe, Chair**

- Nothing reported

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

I. Informational

- CAFFECOR will have its first meeting of the spring 2017 semester sometime in February.

II. Reports of Actions

- N/A

III. Recommendations for Actions

- N/A

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

- Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) - Daniele Fabris, Chair**

- Nothing reported

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

- Nothing to report

## **GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - James Fossett, Chair**

- Nothing reported

## **GOV (Governance Council) - Karin Reinhold, Chair**

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>: Governance started evaluating the representation of contingent faculty in the Senate. Holly McKenna & Annette Richie gave a presentation on the issue.

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> UAlbany Council meeting: preliminary evaluation of search firms for Presidential Search.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> UAlbany Council meeting: Sandra Starke, who has served as Binghamton University's enrollment management leader for the last 15 years has joined us. Her office conducted a survey of admitted top students that did not come to UAlbany, an exercise that will shape UAlbany strategy going forward to better attract the group 1 students.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> UAlbany Council meeting extended session: Interviews and selection of firm that will conduct the Presidential Search.

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Fox and Karin Reinhold joined the UAlbany leadership team that met with SUNY Provost Alex Cartwright for UAlbany's Performance Improvement Plan. UAlbany is showing improvements in enrolment and retention and is addressing the challenges regarding graduate enrolments. Cartwright was very welcoming of faculty concerns, was supportive of humanities and social sciences programs and aware of their current challenges. He was aware of the challenges UAlbany faces with expansions into new colleges and programs and the situation of contingent faculty. UAlbany is invited to apply for funding to support ideas that would move the university forward.

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> Leadership meeting: a report is soon to come about the implementation of Contingent Concerns. The Critical Conversations forum on the role of humanities and social sciences will be held Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. The assessment of deans and administrative units is moving along. A draft was presented to the Council of Deans for feedback. The plan is to evaluate 2-3 deans per year. Results will be presented to the President and Provost for professional review. A committee was formed to evaluate written documents describing EOP program practices. The strategic planning process is moving along. We had the "divergence" exercise in the Fall to create a pool of ideas to move forward. Now we'll move into the "convergence" phase on Fri Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to write the strategic plan by the end of the semester for implementation in the Fall 2017.

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> Governance Council meeting: Vice President for Finance and Administration Jim VanVoorst gave a presentation on the budget of UAlbany.

The Governance Council will be working on the update of the Senate Handbook this semester and probably during next year. It is currently working on best practices for student representation and on guidelines for representation of contingent faculty.

Forums update: Forum on Shared Governance has a preliminary date of Feb/21, Contingent Concerns Mar 21 and UAlbany Identity in April.

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

Nothing to report. LISC will meet on Feb. 6.

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

- **UAC met December 6.**

Robert Andrea from Office of the Provost made a presentation on considering the implications to federal and state financial aid (TAP in particular) when reviewing and approving new programs proposals or changes to existing programs. The university is responsible for oversight of financial aid programs and for determining undergraduate students' eligibility to receive financial aid. Aid can only be awarded for coursework that counts towards a degree for the major, general education requirements, and electives. Minors are excluded as are prerequisites that are not part of the major. It is important that the Undergraduate Bulletin and the degree audits accurately reflect programs that are registered with State Education.

UAC unanimously approved a Sociology BA Program Revision Proposal to increase the number of required upper division credits (300-level or above) from 12 to 18. This change aligns with State Education requirements. The proposal also adds an option of a Criminology concentration and a Families and Communities concentration to the major. Because of the nature of these changes, the proposal must be approved by SUNY and State Education.

- **UAC also met December 20.**

The *Committee on Academic Standing (CAS)* has been meeting weekly up to this point reviewing various undergraduate exception forms and petitions. The committee will meet twice over the winter break to review Fall 2016 academic dismissal appeals.

*Interdisciplinary Studies Committee* — A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to review nine UUNI290 and UUNI390 University Internship applications.

*Curriculum and Honors* reported that a change to the English major and the English Honors major had been approved, reducing the required course courses from four to three courses, and increasing the number of upper level elective by one course.

The General Education Competencies Plans for Public Health were finalized. The Competencies Plans for Human Development were reviewed. UAC requested additional information on syllabi prior to voting on the Plans.

- **The first meeting of the UAC for the Spring semester was held on February 2, 2017.**

Debra Gelinas, Assistant Vice Provost for Applied Learning introduced and explained proposals for two new Applied Learning Internship courses. UAC will revisit these proposals during upcoming spring semester meetings.

*Human Development* — The School of Education submitted a proposal to modify the Human Development major, adding additional choices for an upper level elective in three categories, thus expanding course options for students. UAC approved the revision.

*Art History* — Art History submitted a proposal to change required core course requirements from 9 credits to 12 credits, selected from a larger list of choices, and lower division electives from 9 credits to 6 credits. UAC approved the revision.

*Urban Studies & Planning* submitted a proposal to revise the major as part of the implementation of the General Education Competencies Plans. Changes were made to major electives and core requirements. The requirements for the major were streamlined. UAC approved the changes to the major. The Competencies Plans are still pending.

## **ULC (University Life Council) - Ekow King, Chair**

- Nothing reported

## **UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) - Cynthia Fox, Chair**

### I. Informational

- a. The Council met on December 7. In addition to the actions taken listed below, we heard a report from Associate Vice President for Financial Management and Budget Kim Bessette who answered questions about the recent announcement concerning the suspension of the next round of Compact Planning.
- b. Chair Fox accepted an invitation from Director of Sustainability Mary Ellen Mallia to meet on December 13 to discuss how her office should be interacting with the University Senate (i.e. in what capacity, what committees, etc).
- c. On January 18, Chair Fox and Senate Vice Chair Reinhold represented the Senate at a meeting called by SUNY Provost Andrew Cartwright to discuss campus strategic enrollment and educational effectiveness with UA's senior leadership. The Provost was looking for UA's 1) progress with respect to our Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) goals; 2) our goals beyond the PIP—i.e. assuming no constraints, what could be possible? 3) how our campus might or is already effectively working within our region--including as it relates to strategic enrollment--as well as related challenges; and 4) how System Administration can best support us. We also discussed reestablishing the enrollment/resource connection, our ideas about PIP proposals; internal enrollment competition; and mission differentiation.
- d. UPPC has been asked to consider a proposal from CEAS to rename the Department of Computer Engineering the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

### II. Actions Taken

- a. The Council approved both a proposal from the Psychology Department to restore the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis (Psychology Department) and a proposal to revise the undergraduate B.A. in Sociology, including the addition of two concentrations.



- b. Director of Sustainability Mary Ellen Mallia has been invited to attend our next meeting (February 8).
- c. Sandra Starke, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; -Kevin Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education, and Harvey Charles, Dean and Vice Provost for International Education, have been invited to attend our February 8 meeting to discuss enrollment issues.

### III. Recommendations.

- a. None at this time