

University Senate Executive Committee

Monday, October 30, 2017
2:45 p.m.
UNH 306

Karin Reinhold, Senate Chair

Minutes

Present: Collins, James; Franchini, Billie; Hamilton, Diane; Jerison, Michael; Jewell, Carol; King, Ekow; Little, Walter; Mallia, Mary Ellen; McNutt, Louise-Anne; Mower, James; Rafferty, Sean; Reinhold, Karin; Rosenswig, Robert; Stellar, James; Wharram, Dawn

Absent: Fontaine, Jerlisa; Kecskes, Istvan; Poehlmann, Christian; Spencer, Latonia

Guests: Winchester, Kathie; Szelest, Bruce; Charles, Harvey; Richie, Anette; Wojenski, Carrie

The meeting convened at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 2, 2017 were approved, with one abstention.

PROVOST'S REPORT – James R. Stellar

Provost Stellar announced that perhaps the biggest activity of the moment was finishing the Strategic Plan. President Rodríguez, he reported, had asked the provost and Vice President for Student Affairs Mike Christakis to lead the expanded Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). Provost Stellar outlined the five areas of focus: student success, research excellence, diversity and inclusion, globalization, and public engagement and community outreach. He noted that a little under 100 people on different panels will be working on these five areas. There will be a planning event this coming Friday, he added, to review charges as determined by the SPC Co-Chairs and Chief of Staff Bruce Szelest. A report would be due from each group by December 15th, he explained, which the Co-Chairs would integrate into the Strategic Plan (SP) for the president by January. The president would then be sharing that draft for comment. The provost underlined that this process would build on prior efforts. He added that he very much appreciated all the work that went into the previous plan, and the resulting campus engagement and futuring papers. He pointed to the [SP webpage](#) where more details were available on the process.

The provost stated that the leading candidate for the SPH dean search was here. Once the accelerated search process was finalized, he added, an announcement would be made about the new dean who would begin in January. He reported that the SOB dean search was on schedule to conclude in the winter, with the new dean to begin in the fall.

Lastly, Provost Stellar shared that there had been a lot of questions about the Interfaith Center (IC), especially in lieu of a recent *Times Union* article. He stressed that plans were never to walk away from the IC operation, but to provide for more interaction with the student body by bringing it to the Campus Center. He explained that this was not our choice, but rather the decision of the consortium that ran that building. The provost, along with Chief of Staff Bruce Szelest, addressed several questions regarding the Center, stressing that the University will continue to support interfaith programs. Provost Stellar also responded to questions regarding The Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, assisted by CSDA member Robert Rosenswig.

SEC CHAIR'S REPORT – Karin Reinhold

I. Informational

On Oct 6th, Chair Reinhold attended the Campus Governance Leaders Leadership Institute at the Desmond in Albany. Chancellor Christina Johnson talked about her commitment for a more diversified faculty in all SUNY centers.

On Oct 10th, Chair Reinhold responded to the request for comments on Micro Credentials Task Force Report with the suggestions submitted by SEC members. There is strong support for this program and faculty are pleased to see that number one among the guiding principles for curriculum related micro credentials is to keep high standards of academic quality. While at the same time, concerns were raised regarding the potential assessment cost (increase workload for reviewing councils) and implementation cost associated with rolling out micro-credentials.

On Oct 10th, Chair Reinhold met with Alice Oldfather to plan for the upcoming Fall Faculty meeting. The date was set for Nov 1nd 1-3pm. The format will be a Town Hall meeting. Faculty, professionals, staff and students are invited to attend. There will be a period of questions so all are invited to bring questions for the president.

On Oct 18th Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Grace Wang extended the period for comments on micro credentials for an additional three weeks. Updated new due date for comments is Nov 8th.

On Oct 16th, Senate leadership, Chair Reinhold, Vice Chair Jim Mower and Past Chair Jim Collins, met with Provost Stellar about the move of the Informatics Science department to CEHS. Stellar expressed his commitment to maintaining accreditation for their programs and for nurturing and growth of their programs within the CEHS structure.

On Oct 18th, Chair Reinhold requested names of the GSA and SA student representation in the Assessment of Administrative Units Advisory Board.

During Oct 19-21, Chair Reinhold attended the SUNY Plenary meeting with Hamilton, Little, and Spencer, SUNY wide Senators representing UAlbany. There is a new communications committee to facilitate communicating SUNY's agendas within SUNY's campuses and with the communities of NY. UFS requested faculty for articles about higher education issues broadly, to be published in the UFS Bulletin. There were several resolutions including SUNY Board of Trustees allowing Charter Schools Certification of their own teachers and campuses recognizing 'Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. See the SUNY Senators' report for more details on resolutions and the message of the Chancellor.

The Conversation, theconversation.com, welcomes articles by faculty. Because of their high standards checking facts and high quality, in-depths articles, the Associate Press allows the conversation's articles to be published directly in their feed.

II. Actions taken

- MS & PhD in Electrical and Computer Science Engineering was sent to SEC for approval for the November 13th Senate meeting.
- Global Distinction proposal was also sent to SEC for approval for the November 13th Senate meeting.

III. Recommendations for actions

IV. Announcements

- SAVE THE DATE: Fall Faculty Meeting on November 1st, 1-2pm followed by a reception from 2-3pm.
- Submit additional comments on Micro Credentials Task Force Report to Chair Reinhold by Oct 30th.
- Vote for amendment to bylaws 1718BA01 & 1718BA02 planned for on Nov 6th.
- Vacancies in Councils and subcommittees:
 - UPPC has vacancies in
 - Resource Analysis and Planning Committee
 - University Facilities Committee
- The UFS requests articles about higher education issues broadly, to be published in the UFS Bulletin. "The Bulletin is likely to transform in the near future to an online format, with intentions to make it a more dynamic and versatile communication

portal.”

- Information about relief efforts for hurricanes Maria, Irma and Harvey and Mexico Earthquakes <http://www.albany.edu/relief/>
- [2017 SUNY Diversity Conference: Engaging Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity in the Classroom, Campus and Community](#), 29 Nov - 1 Dec.
- SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium 2018: Friday, April 20 at Oneonta, and Saturday, April 21 at Monroe County Community College.

Chair Reinhold noted that she had sent the SUNY-wide resolutions passed at the Plenary to relevant UAlbany Senate councils, including ULC and UPPC, for consideration.

Chair Reinhold stated that she had charged UAC to review [measures to allow charter schools to certify their own teachers](#), per the [Proposed Regulations of the SUNY Board of Trustees' Charter Schools Committee](#). The Senate chair asked UAC Co-chair Christy Smith, Assistant Dean for Academics and Assessment in the School of Education, to lead a discussion on the topic. Senator Smith reported that teacher prep organizations were coming together to fight the proposal. She noted that Regents and CUNY were in non-support, and that the Chancellor had recently been misquoted and was not in support of the proposal.

OTHER REPORTS

SUNY Senators' Report – Diane Hamilton, Walter Little, Latonia Spencer

- The SUNY University Faculty Senate Fall Plenary convened at SUNY Delhi from Oct. 19 to 21.

UFS President Report

On Friday, the UFS president Gwen Kay address the senators and campus governance leaders, speaking on the SUNY Board of Trustees' recent policy change where Charter Schools are now not following NY teaching certifications, so as to address teaching shortages in their school. Later in the plenary, UFS senators approved a “Resolution in Response to the Regulatory Action Taken by the Charter School Committee of the SUNY Board of Trustees”. In it, the BOT is condemned for it providing Charter Schools with a way avoid appropriate teacher training and certification. The BOT is being urged to “alter, amend, revise or repeal the provisions’ of actions of its Charter Schools Committee to repeal the new regulations at its November Board of Trustees meeting.”

President Kay, then, spoke about the General Education evaluation that was beginning. The first year a team, including SUNY faculty, will assess the SUNY general education requirements, paying attention to Middle States requirements and the contemporary needs of our students. The goal is to produce a White Paper. The second year of the process will involve deciding if there is a need to ultimately revision of SUNY General Education requirements, with that year and the subsequent being the implementation of those requirements across the SUNY system.

She reported that SUNY Provost search was well underway. Although it is in processes and recruiting candidates, we faculty can continue to recommend candidates (<http://www.suny.edu/provost-search/>) The hope is to make an appointment by spring 2018.

President Kay also spoke about the UFS ad hoc Communication committee, headed by Joe Marren, who later in the meeting reported, that the committee has developed protocols for SUNY UFS communiques, for use in social media platforms and press releases. A release on DACA was picked up by the media. Senator Phil Glick is moderating the Social Media, especially, Twitter. He encouraged faculty follow the SUNY UFS Twitter and, especially, to retweet it's posts. The print version of the bi-annual SUNY Bulletin, edited by Norm Goodman, goes all digital next issue. It will continue to publish articles of interest to SUNY faculty and accepts ideas and articles from the faculty.

Student Assembly President Report

The Student Assembly President, Marc Cohen, addressed the senate, reporting on the SA's latest endeavors. Students are advocating access and affordability. They want to ensure faculty grows alongside student population growth that is occurring, especially, with the newly implemented Excelsior Scholarship. At the same time, the SA opposes the tuition increases of \$200.

According to Cohen, the Student Life Committee expressed its concern to improve student food security (40% will need help), as well as providing more services for mental health treatment.

President Cohen spoke of the importance of shared governance and stressed that more collaboration with UFS and FCCC is needed. He encouraged students and faculty to make joint statements about our common needs and positions with respect to our campuses, SUNY, and state legislators. Overall, he contended that better advocacy with CUNY, CSU, and UC on political and social issues, such as DACA, is needed.

Students, he reported, are lobbying for Maintenance of Effort and want to work with UUP, CUNY, and various other entities to support this.

SUNY Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Johnson summarized her goals: building the administrative team, building relationships across SUNY and developing a robust budget. She plans to develop a shared vision for SUNY, that includes enhancing funding and developing resources to carry these goals. Her new cabinet composed of Vice Chancellors and 3 governance leaders (UFS, FCCC, SA). It is about 15 people, smaller than previous Chancellor.

The SUNY mission, in her opinion is to serve local communities while addressing global issues. She gave the example of the sustainable village in Haiti project that includes 11 SUNY campuses, one of which is University at Albany. She expressed the importance of helping Puerto Rico in the aftermath of the hurricanes and encouraged faculty to contribute ideas to help.

She also noted that our key values should be access, excellence, innovation, and outreach. She observed that arts and humanities are often overlooked and that we should strive to provide the tools for our citizens/graduates to have productive lives.

In comparison to other systems, Chancellor Johnson observed a number of important higher education benchmarks. SUNY research expenditures/PI are highest among our peers, but there is limited number of full-time faculty that, in turn, limits total external funding. SUNY has lowest percentage full-time faculty in most sectors than national averages. One approach could be bridging faculty: identifying top undergraduates, helping them achieve doctorates (whether at SUNY or elsewhere), bringing them back as SUNY faculty. May be particularly helping in recruiting faculty from underrepresented backgrounds.

Her goals include dynamic individual academic pathways growth in research and facilities; growth of endowments on campuses and for all of SUNY, including focus on alumni; sustainability (SUNY doing well reducing greenhouse emissions).

Other Reports

Eileen Mcloughlin provided the SUNY Budget Office Report, speaking on the impacts of the Excelsior Scholarship, which she characterized an evolving picture. She also spoke about the second round of PIF funding, explaining that proposals were clustering around High Impact Practices, Diversity & Inclusion, Tech & Infrastructure, and Critical Workforce Needs. There were 294 proposals from 51 campuses, 185 proposals advanced. Awards will be named first week of November.

Grace Wang, acting provost provided the SUNY Provost's Report. She spoke on enrollment and completion rates, noting that SUNY enrollment has been flat in comparison to other public institutions. She wants more resources to help drive enrollment up and to improve completion rates. SUNY is better than many public institutions with respect to completion, but fall behind the University of California and Penn State systems. Compared to other public systems, SUNY's is one of the most diverse. Graduate students, however, are a much less diverse population on our campuses.

Other aspects of SUNY Budget Office Report and the Provost's Report will be including in the official final UFS Delhi Plenary report.

Guest Speaker - Bruce G. Wilson Jr. - The Conversation Us

The Conversation (<https://theconversation.com/us>) was created in 2014 as a platform to merge academic publishing and journalism, providing articles based in research and scholarship written for the general public. The topics covered are broad in scope, including science, technology, religion, arts, etc. An average of 8 -10 new articles are published daily, and are picked up by a variety of popular outlets such as the AP, CNN, Washington Post, Huffington Post, Salon, Time, PBS, the Guardian, etc. Authors are provided with real-time collaborative editorial support in real time and statistics as to where the articles are republished and how frequently read. Institutional dashboards are available for universities that have multiple authors to track institutional metrics.

Resolutions Passed

The following resolutions were discussed and passed:

1. FROM: Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee; RE: To Recognize the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day
2. FROM: Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee, RE: To Provide Free Access to Menstrual Products at All SUNY Campuses in All Restrooms
3. FROM: Executive Committee; RE: Resolution in Response to the Regulatory Action Taken by the Charter School Committee of the SUNY Board of Trustees
4. FROM: Operations Committee, RE: Recommendation on Broad-Based Fees
5. FROM: Operations Committee, RE: Recommendations for Academic Advisers Related to Financial Aid
6. FROM: Student Life Committee, RE: Attendance Policy Accommodation for Military Drills and Training

Committee Reports

The following reports were filed by the Communications Committee (Joe Marren, chair); Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee (Tim Gerken, chair); Ethics Committee (Carlie Phipps, chair); Governance Committee (Kelley Donaghy, chair); Graduate & Research Committee (Scott Goodman, chair); Operations Committee (Heather Maldonado, chair); Programs & Awards Committee (Amitra Wall, chair); Student Life Committee (Jan Trybula, chair); and Undergraduate Committee (Ron Sarner, chair).

The complete resolutions that were passed will be made available on the SUNY UFS webpage, along with the official Delhi Fall 2017 Plenary and the SUNY UFS final

Senator Little underlined issues with faculty not being aware of the financial-related deadlines that affect students and not responding to requests from students and administrators related to those deadlines in a timely enough manner.

- Nothing reported

Senator Wharram reviewed an addition to her report, submitted as follows:

Dylan Card, GSA President, and Dawn Wharram, Lead Senator, attended the SUNY State Assembly Fall Conference as voting delegates. President Rodríguez and VP for Student Affairs Michael Christakis will attend the GSA Assembly Meeting on November 3 in the SEFCU Hall of Fame room.

SA (Student Association) –Jerlisa Fontaine, President

- Nothing to report

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Istvan Kecskes, Chair & Mary Ellen Mallia Co-Chair

- Nothing reported

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

- Nothing reported

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

- Nothing reported.

COR (Council on Research) – Robert Rosenswig, Chair

- COR has scheduled a meeting for October 23

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

- Nothing to report

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Sean Rafferty, Chair

- Nothing reported.

GOV (Governance Council) – James Mower, Chair

- GOV continues to study the use of ballotbin software to conduct its elections and will make a final evaluation after the Committee on Liaison and Elections delivers their report at our next GOV meeting on Wednesday October 25.

Chair Mower reviewed additions to his report, submitted as follows:

At the GOV meeting on 10/25/2017, the GOV committee on Liaison and Elections (CLE) delivered a report on the use of ballotbin, the freely-available voting website. CLE identified several areas of concern with ballotbin, notably, that there may be no built-in methods for vote auditing, that voting may not be restricted to those named on an original valid voter list, and that an administrator may initiate arbitrary interruptions of voting. CLE is currently asking the ballotbin staff to comment on these observations. Upon receiving their comments, GOV will decide whether to use ballotbin or MyUAlbany to conduct the upcoming Bylaws amendment vote.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Billie Franchini, Chair

- The Council on Libraries, Information Services, and Computing (LISC) meet on October 12. During the meeting, Council members toured the new Educational Technology Center in LC 27 and received the following updates from the Libraries and ITS.

I. Report/Updates from Libraries (Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of Libraries)

- A. New Hire: Allysa Panetta has been hired as a part time Web Developer/Designer; this is a six-month part time position while the Libraries conduct a search for the full time Web Developer/Designer.
- B. Library Services Platform: The Libraries' catalog (Minerva) will be replaced with a new platform in 2019. The Libraries will be working closely with the SUNY Office of Library and Information Services and other SUNY libraries over the next two years to migrate our data and processes to the new platform. UAlbany is participating in the migration planning and execution by having several representatives from our Libraries on various Working Groups.
- C. Ribbon Cutting Event for new Service Desk: This event took place on Friday, October 20 at 1:00 pm.
- D. Open Access Day: The Libraries will be hosting an event on October 26 to recognize Open Access Week. More information can be found [here](#).
- E. Cultural Heritage at Risk: in Defense of Civilization: The Libraries are co-sponsoring a conference on the preservation of cultural heritage materials and sites. The one-day conference is organized by Karen Kiorpes, Head, Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department; and in cooperation with the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) and the New York State Department of Education. This event will be held on October 27.

II. Report/Updates from ITS (Simeon Ananou, Vice President of Information Technology Services and CIO)

- A. Educational Technology Center: A Grand Opening for the new Educational Technology Center was held Monday, October 16.
- B. Announcement of Ransomware Attack: A hacker or hackers locked and encrypted 16 computers on campus during the weekend of October 7. Affected computers lost all information and further residual malware could potentially still be on the computers, which cannot be used until they have been reformatted. To avoid attacks of this kind, faculty and staff are directed to save critical information on network drives, not personal computers. Individuals should make sure computers are turned off in the evening and don't click on suspicious emails or pop-ups. It is critical not to ignore the updates that ITS issues. Systems patches are issued regularly and computers remain vulnerable if they are not updated. CIO Simeon Ananou plans to create a Task Force that would allow us to better understand the hierarchy the network a computer sits on, help to identify areas that we need to improve upon for IT computer security, and help find a balance between security and ease and convenience of user. Some members of LISC will be invited to serve on the Task Force.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes, Chair and Christy Smith, Co-Chair

- Nothing reported

ULC (University Life Council) – Ekow King, Chair

- Nothing reported

Chair King reviewed revisions that ULC had made to the draft Charter amendment based on recommendations from the last SEC meeting. A friendly amendment to the amendment was proposed and accepted. Specifically, the amendment would include the expectation that Ex-officio member reports be added to each agenda of the University Life Council.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept that the final version of the Charter amendment, pending the friendly amendment as discussed, was ready to go to the Senate floor for a vote.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – James Collins, Chair

- Information:

The Council met on October 18.

It heard a report from Provost James Stellar, in which the Provost responded to questions about the status of Information Science Department and its new location within the College of Emergency, Homeland, and Cyber Security, declining to specify remaining steps but affirming his view that this was a best outcome for the Department and the College and that his office would continue be involved in the transition process.

The Council heard a report from VP for Finance and Administration James Van Voorst about the capital and operations budget. In general, the 2017-2018 budget projections for income and expenses are likely to align. There is some uncertainty to the major staff and faculty unions (CSEA and UUP) either having settled their contracts (CSEA) or likely to in the academic year (UUP). In response to questions about whether the defense of health benefits achieved by CSEA and being worked for by UUP, that would result in more direct expenses for the campuses. VP Van Voorst said it should not directly affect the campus, but could, as part of 'indirect costs'. Increases in indirect costs in the future could be assigned to SUNY and the campuses by the NYS legislature. Chair Collins asked about the cost and schedule for the CETEC building. VP Van Voorst demurred on the question of final costs, saying that the building should be completed in a few years, and would bring the University Campus and the Harriman Campus together for the first time. A Council member asked about the current location of the CEHC and CEAS, and the Provost responded that both are 'in-progress'. CEHC is currently in Rockefeller College, but will move the CETEC building when it is done, and the University is still compiling renovation funds for the Schuyler Building, which will house CEAS.

Chair Collins reported that he had assembled procedures documents for eight of the Senates eleven Councils and Committees and sent them to Senate Chair Reinhold as well as staff support members from the President's and Provost's office. They will be placed in Council and Committee OneDrive folders for use and updating by subsequent Council and Committee Chairs. He also reported on the new 8/30/17 version of the Campus Impact Form, the need for new members on the Council and its Committees, and his work to update current Council email distribution lists.

Sridar Chittur, Chair of the Council's Facilities Committee, reported that the committee last met on September 26, in which the committee heard a report from John Giarrusso and asked questions about what organizational body coordinates construction plans with ongoing space allocations on campus. Discussion followed about the renovations of the Business Administration Building and Building 25, as well as the need for repair and renovation.

Joette Steff-Mabry, the Council's representative to the University's Assessment Advisory Committee, reported that the committee had met three times since mid-summer and was, in her view, doing very good work. Chair Collins asked whether his understanding was correct that there had been no reviews of University Dean's since 2014. The Provost affirmed this, attributing the lag in review of academic administrative units to the University leadership transitions of the past year. Chair Collins asked whether the results of the 2014 surveys had ever been reported, and when told there had not been, a discussion followed about the sensitivity of such reviews and of ways of putting the process back on a schedule.

The Council discussed new materials regarding the Center for International Education and Global Strategy proposal for a Global Distinction Milestone, in particular, a letter of support from the Dean of CAS.

The Council discussed Senate Bill 1718-01, Proposal to Establish M.S. and Ph.D. Programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and after debate decided by consensus not to review the bill but to refer it directly to SEC.

Actions:

1. The Council confirmed its support for the Center for International Education and Global Strategy proposal for a Global Distinction Milestone.
2. The Council declined to review Senate Bill 1718-01, **Proposal to Establish M.S. and Ph.D. Programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering**, and referred the proposal to the SEC.

Recommendations:

None at this time.

The Council next meets on November 15.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to consider new business before unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill 1718-01: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH M.S. AND Ph.D. PROGRAMS IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Chair Gary Saulnier provided background on and an overview of the above proposal, which had been circulated with the agenda on October 23, 2017. He addressed concerns regarding requirements, budget, future space and anticipated growth.

A motion was made in support of the above proposal, with the following voting results:
Approved 13, Opposed 0, Abstained 1

Senate Bill 1718-02: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE GLOBAL DISTINCTION TRANSCRIPT MILESTONE

Dean for International Education and Vice Provost for Global Strategy Harvey Charles, Director of Global Academic Programs Anette Richie, and Associate Vice Provost for Global Academic Programs Carrie Wojenski provided information and fielded questions regarding the proposal. It was noted that the Senate councils and chair had worked to ensure adequate consultation had taken place. UPPC Chair Collins explained that the council had inquired as to the impact on the College of Arts and Sciences and received a letter back from the CAS Dean in full support of the proposal. UAC Chair Smith indicated that the majority of that council had also voted in support of the proposal. Other concerns included clarification regarding what a milestone means, and the need for pre-approval and faculty oversight of credit-bearing programs abroad, mirroring what we do here.

A motion was made and unanimously approved in support of the above proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comments on Micro-credentialing Task Force Report

Chair Reinhold underlined that the deadline had been extended to November 8th. It was stressed that faculty oversight would be especially important within majors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder