

2008-2009 University Senate Executive Committee
April 20, 2009
John Delano, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Henryk Baran, Richard Collier, John Delano, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Reed Hoyt, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith

Guests: Vincent Delio, Susanna Fessler

The meeting convened at 3:33 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 23rd meeting were approved with minor changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by GEORGE PHILIP

President Philip began with a discussion of budget related items. A NYS congressional delegation has been asked to urge the governor to restore \$118 million to the SUNY budget from the \$1 billion stimulus fund. There are twenty-one NYS Congress members on board to send a letter to the governor. The letter extols the value of SUNY to the economy and the growth of the state.

The President provided information regarding an additional \$4 million that will come out of the 2009-10 budget. He warned everyone not to be lulled into a false sense of security about the budget situation and said the real pain has not yet been felt. The University does not have the resources to deal with permanent cuts. There will need to be conversations about right sizing the University.

The President indicated the UB 2020 legislation will be a post budget item. UAlbany supports the participation of all four university centers as part of the bill and the other three centers have expressed interest in participating. He indicated that portions of the legislation will not be well received by organized labor.

President Philip provided an agenda of upcoming events:

- The Spring Faculty address will be held this coming Thursday, April 23.
- Fountain Day is Sunday, April 26. He encouraged faculty participation.
- The John E. Burton Lecture and Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 28. [Dr. Meryl H. Tisch](#), Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Tisch has been outspoken concerning the relationship between the State Education Department and SUNY. Her efforts have reopened communications between the two.
- Commencement is the weekend of May 16-17. Linda Randolph will receive an honorary degree.

The President briefly discussed the recent Faculty Forum on freedom of expression and noted that it appears the University may be impeding that freedom through some statements in the *Community Rights and Responsibilities* publication. Typically, the University Council revisits that publication every two years but has

recently been remiss in its review. The President believes the topic of freedom of speech will be part of the agenda when the Council meets in May.

The President responded to further concerns that were expressed regarding the budget. He said that the University will pursue investing in its strengths. Other SUNYs are announcing elimination of programs and we could see more of it. He was asked about combining programs between the SUNY schools but said he had not heard about this. He believes distance learning will be significant in the future at UAlbany.

Henryk Baran inquired as to how realistic is to allocate funds to FYE during the budget crisis. Provost Phillips answered his question. She said that we cannot ignore that students need to be better prepared for the challenges they will face. We need to make funds available for the student experience and the educational offerings provided by the University.

PROVOST'S REPORT by SUSAN PHILLIPS

The Provost discussed four items related to the budget and how academics and programs will be affected.

1. The reductions that have occurred during the 2008-09 year amount to about \$12 million and that amount will be due on June 30. Much of that amount will come from vacant lines, as well as from OTPS. Since the \$12 million reduction will strain the university's instructional capacity, the University will enroll 100 fewer freshman students, 100 fewer transfer students, and also fewer graduate students. As a result, the University is expected to have about 400 fewer students next year. The budget models currently being considered take that into consideration. A model is also being considered that would include a possible mid-year reduction for 2009-10.
2. The Provost asked everyone to consider what the curriculum implications of the budget situation might be. She referred to the number of recommendations that were in the report from the Budget Advisory Group and provided a handout of the final report. She said governance needs to be involved in thinking this through and referred to the highlighted sections in the handout. She asked committee members to consider how to engage in a conversation about being more efficient and entrepreneurial. It was pointed out that the BAG report does not address sabbaticals, and the Provost was asked about the status of sabbaticals. She replied that they have been approved as far as she knew.
3. The next item discussed was graduate student support. This year, about \$1.5 million was removed from the \$14 million allocated for graduate student support. This reduction primarily affects new graduate students. This may become permanent by June or it's possible to find another area to obtain the \$1.5 million. In consideration of the budget models mentioned earlier, Provost Phillips asked committee members to consider whether this should remain a permanent reduction or if resources should be redistributed.

The Provost also discussed her recent request for input for a doctoral program review panel. This review process is intended to identify areas of strength and to provide a basis for considering how to best invest in doctoral programs. The process begins immediately, before the end of the semester. Work will continue over the summer and there will be a review period during the fall. The review has been targeted for completion by Thanksgiving. Institutional Research will be collecting data over the summer. Those data will be considered by the review panel in earnest during the first half of the Fall 2009 semester.

4. Lastly, Provost Phillips discussed her continuing meetings with academic leaders across campus to obtain views on how to design the "phoenix rising" notion of the budget process (i.e., strategic versus opportunistic approaches). This process will assess how programs will be affected as the University

emerges from the budget reductions. The discussion would include department chairs, but she will seek input from as many constituencies as possible across campus.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT by JOHN DELANO

1997-1998 Graduate Programs Review: Larry Kranich (Chair, GAC) and the Senate Chair were invited by Marjorie Pryse (Dean, Graduate Studies) to a 70-minute meeting on Tuesday, March 31, with 3 other individuals to discuss the processes associated with the 1997-1998 campus-wide review of graduate programs.

Conversation with Provost Phillips on budget: The Senate Chair was among 7 faculty members who were invited to meet with the Provost to discuss the current budget challenges. The 2-hour meeting occurred on Wednesday, April 8.

Request from Provost Phillips: The Senate Chair received an e-mail on Thursday morning, April 16, from Provost Phillips requesting Senate assistance in identifying nominees to serve on a Graduate Programs' Review Panel. All SEC members were notified by the Senate Chair of this request on the same day. Senate Officers agreed that this matter should be discussed at the SEC's April 20th meeting.

Faculty Forum: The Faculty Forum on Thursday evening, April 16, involved a discussion of the FIRE report (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education: <http://www.thefire.org>) that was sent to President Philip on December 17, 2008. The letter stated that UAlbany had received a 'red light' designation (i.e., one or more of UAlbany policies unconstitutionally restrict freedom of speech). Their material specifically on UA is at <http://www.thefire.org/index.php/codes/1120> where the excerpted UA policies of concern are noted. The SUNY policy is located at http://test.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=96.

The discussion at the Faculty Forum was led by Susanna Fessler, Malcolm Sherman, and Lawrence Snyder. The Senate Chair has requested the text of their prepared remarks be made available for distribution to all SEC members prior to Monday's SEC meeting. The remarks from Malcolm Sherman are attached to this message. When/if the remaining materials from Profs. Fessler and Snyder become available, they will be sent to SEC members by the Senate Chair. Prof. Fessler has also accepted an invitation by the Senate Chair to be present when this matter is discussed at the SEC meeting.

A matter of specific interest at the Faculty Forum was the concept of harassment needing to be defined more specifically as being a 'repeated, pervasive, or persistent act', which is not currently present in UAlbany's 'Community Rights and Responsibilities'. Should that be rectified? If so, it appears that the matter should be referred to the University Council.

SUNY SENATORS' REPORT by WILLIAM LANFORD; MICHAEL RANGE

Senator William Lanford said he was unable to attend the upcoming Spring meeting in Buffalo. He stressed the importance of having representation from UAlbany since this would present an opportunity to speak with the new Chancellor for the first time. Other agenda items for the meeting include the UB2020 legislation, and there will be a caucus concerning issues related to the University centers. Senator Range and Daniel Smith will consult their schedules for availability. If they are not available, Chair Delano said he would attend.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT (DAN TRUCHAN)

No report submitted.

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION (NICK FAHRENKOPF)

At its last Assembly Meeting the GSO passed a resolution recognizing Harvey Milk and urging the University to recognize outstanding alumni that have passed away (like Milk) through the "Reaching Higher, Achieving More" initiative. GSO elections will be held April 22nd until the 24th and will include a referendum item on the existence of the GSO. As the time comes closer please encourage graduate students you know to participate in this important election. The GSO is also starting a Volunteer Program and will be volunteering at Habitat for Humanity on Wednesday the 8th from 9am until 3pm.

The GSO has a handful of events coming up including "Marketing Yourself for Success during Tough Economic Times" presented by Career Services and co-sponsored with the Office of Graduate Studies. The AASS&F presents Music Movie Night – Triple Feature on 4/29 at 6PM in LC25 featuring: Sade "Lovers Live" in Southern California, Yanni "Tribute" at the Taj Mahal in India, and The Supremes "Reflections" the Motown Sound. The English Graduate Student Organization will hold its seventh annual conference, "Negotiating Land: New Readings" Friday and Saturday 4/17 and 4/18. This conference will interrogate how recent theory and scholarship has understood changing local and global geographies and the spaces--textual, pedagogical, political, etc.--in which we attempt to read terrestriality. Additional events and more information on the GSO can be found at <http://www.albany.edu/~gso> and through (gso@albany.edu).

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

CAA has nothing new to report. The Program Review Committee has met and done some work, but the results of that will be noted in the next regularly scheduled CAA meeting at the end of the month.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

CAFFECoR sponsored a forum on campus freedom of expression policies on Thursday evening, April 16 at 7PM in the Campus Center Assembly Hall.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

CERS has nearly completed the assessment of the proposed revisions to the misconduct policy, will be meeting with representatives from the administration and expects to bring a document to the Senate at the next meeting.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The Council on Research has not met since the last Senate meeting. It will meet again on April 22nd.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

CPCA continues to meet regularly and process tenure and promotion cases.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC has nothing to report. The Council will meet next on April 27.

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

GOV has not meet since the last Senate meeting on April 6, 2009. Please see GOV's summary report for that meeting for activities up to that date. GOV's next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

Nothing new to report. LISC meets again on May 8.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC passed a bill restricting entry into the minor in Educational Studies (attached).

UAC has almost completed a bill which will award students who have earned an International Baccalaureate Diploma 30 credits at UAlbany, provided that no individual course grade is below a 4, or credits on a course-by-course basis for students who participate in an IB program who do not earn the Diploma with at least 30 points. We expect to have the IB bill finished by next week (April 22).

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

ULC is delighted the revision to the Smoking Policy passed the Senate.

On Wednesday 3/15/09 ULC met with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics and Prof. Terri Harrison, faculty IAB representative and chair of IAB to review the progress of student-athletes at UAlbany. In what was a fairly simple, yet compelling presentation, statistics of student-athletes progress, summary grades, cum gpa's, majors selected, and graduation rates by team were presented. Finally, a NCAA index was explained as the index defines whether or not a team is meeting the NCAA standard—for the record all UA teams are above the standard...with new data available from the NCAA in a week or so. What was heartening about the report was that Student-athletes do as well if not better in the same majors as the rest of the UAlbany population, and there is no "sports major" which student-athletes drift toward as seen at other division I schools. The student-athletes follow the distribution among majors as the rest of the UA undergraduate population.

We also met with Wayne Locust who presented the summary draft of the FYE Taskforce. There were several questions about the proposals, and Council members will forward comments, concerns and questions to VP Locust.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

The UPPC met on 7 April and received a report from Vice President Lee McElroy and Professor Teresa Harrison on the state of the athletic program. Our student athletes are well above national norms in terms of classroom achievement. Pending business includes reactions to the FYE report and the approval of subsequent academic calendars.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestion for more effective distribution of Senate information (Dick, Gail):

The discussion was prompted by a conversation between Vice President for Research, Lynn Videka, and Gail Cameron in which VP Videka requested consideration of a different method for circulating Senate materials in order to eliminate congestion in e-mail boxes. Senate Secretary Richard Collier believes this can be solved by means of having materials posted on the web, possibly using a wiki. In addition to distributing the information

to a wider audience, it could also serve to engage the University community in a discussion of topics. Secretary Collier says the wiki can be regulated to provide confidentiality of those materials that are not meant to be public. E-mail would still need to go out to prompt senators to view updates. Committee members were in agreement of pursuing this to reduce paper and e-mail, and to increase participation. Secretary Collier will investigate options.

Restricting entry to School of Education Minor (UAC):

UAC has passed the bill and has informed the School of Education that, if approved by the Senate, it would become effective with the next entering class. The bill requires students to have a GPA of 3.0 or better and they must have sophomore status. Two issues were central to the discussion, one being how this will affect students who are enrolled in programs such as Middle Earth and those who are RAs. The rationale is unclear on this. The other issue concerns the increasing numbers of students enrolling in the Educational Studies minor and the dwindling resources available to support the increase. There was support among some SEC members that the restrictions were valid due to declining resources. It was also suggested that the bill be referred to UPPC for further review. The bill will be presented at the next Senate meeting on May 4th.

International Baccalaureate Diploma (UAC)

The bill would revise the University's policy for freshman admission of students with the International Baccalaureate Diploma by awarding them 30 credits if they had a cumulative score of at least 30 with no individual grade below 4. A motion was made to move this to the Senate meeting on May 4. The motion was seconded and passed.

Faculty Forum On Campus Freedom Of Expression Policies (CAFFECOR)

Chair Delano thanked CAFFECOR Chair Malcolm Sherman, and Professor Susanna Fessler for the presentation of April 16 on Freedom of Expression (FOE). Chair Sherman gave an overview of the event. He noted that the campus policies come from several levels of input, and statements on FOE are often contradictory. He also discussed the violations of our campus policies cited by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) concerning restriction of freedom of speech and harassment.

Professor Fessler reiterated many of the key issues discussed by Chair Sherman. She added that multiple offices on campus are writing the policies on FOE that often do not agree, and would like to see the Senate intervene in uniting key offices in an effort to more clearly identify what the policy is. One issue concerns the omission of important legal language from UAlbany's "Community Rights and Responsibilities" and its definition of harassment and sexual harassment. Professor Fessler discussed the importance of having communication between the responsible parties on these issues. GOV Chair Range indicated that, as the Senate Member of the University Council, he could bring this discussion to the next Council meeting on May 12.

Request for nominees to Graduate Programs' Review Panel (Provost)

Provost Phillips discussed the process for assembling the panel. There were four relevant Senate councils identified as being essential to the recommendation process: CAA, COR, GAC, and UPPC. It was later discussed that GOV should be involved with the process as well. The Provost also discussed criteria to consider when recommending panel nominees. Nominees should be distinguished and have extensive experience in doctoral programs. Faculty may need to be available during the summer for participation and will need to commit into the fall semester. The Provost requested a list of nominees by Friday, April 24th but agreed to wait until after GOV had met on Monday, April 27. The Provost will select approximately 15 names from the recommendations submitted. Concerns were raised by GOV Chair Range about decisions being made in a short time frame that could have long range implications. He said this could be one of the most critical review

panels the University has had in a long time. Provost Phillips said she realizes the timing is not friendly but will need to convene the panel by commencement so they can begin their work over the summer. By Thanksgiving, the review will be complete for the next level of review. It was agreed that all recommendation from SEC would be submitted to Chair Delano by noon on Thursday, April 23. Chair Range will meet with GOV Council on Monday, April 27. They will review all names and forward the recommendations to Provost Phillips and to SEC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.