

2010-2011 University Senate
Monday, April 11, 2011
3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

Eric Lifshin, Chair

Minutes

Present: Sandra Austin, Hassaram Bakhru, Brea Barthel, Scott Birge, Christine Bouchard, Bryant Barksdale, Brian Butcher, Lana Cable, JoAnne Carson, James Castracane, Vishnu Chaturvedi, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, James Fossett, Cynthia Fox, Elizabeth Gaffney, Timothy Groves, Michael Jaromin, Richard Johnson, Janine Jurkowski, Jane Kadish, Donald Keenan, Daniel Keyser, Ryan King, Laurence Kranich, Winifred Kutchukian, Vincent LaBella, Kajal Lahiri, William Lanford, Hamilton Lankford, Danielle Leonard, Andi Lyons, JoAnne Malatesta, Richard Matyi, Candace Merbler, Carla Meskill, John Monfasani, John Murphy, Nancy Newman, Heidi Nichols, Julie Novkov, Dana Peterson, George Philip, Susan Phillips, John Pipkin, Tremayne Price, Katie Reed, Donna Scanlon, John Schmidt, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Hany Shawky, Leonard Slade, Jr. Lorre Smith, Fotini Spero, Kabel Nathan Stanwicks, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Christine Wagner, Daniel White, Kevin Williams, Rongwei Yang

Guests: Jon Bartow, Tamra Minor, Wayne Locust, Bruce Szelest, Elga Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2011

The minutes were approved with recommended changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—GEORGE PHILIP

President Philip began his report by discussing the budget. The Governor's budget addresses a \$10 billion deficit for New York State with a 2.5% in state expenditures. This translates into a 10% reduction for SUNY of about \$131 million. UAlbany's portion of the cut is approximately \$10.5 million. The Governor's budget provides nothing in tuition relief but a proposal has been put for a rational tuition policy that would affect 28 campuses. The rational tuition policy is being promoted by SUNY as part of a five-year plan that would allow campuses to raise tuition without going back to the legislature. SUNY Buffalo is again introducing the UB2020 legislation this year with efforts to ensure that all four university centers are included. The President said it will be important that UAlbany be at the table to make sure we have the opportunity to obtain differential tuition and find some relief through tuition.

President Philip discussed the impact of the budget on the SUNY Hospitals which were zeroed out. A needed restoration of \$100 million would insure viability. There is a possibility of \$15 million being reallocated among the university centers.

President Philip said RFPs have been returned by consultants who are being considered to assist the administration in streamlining its functions and work towards greater efficiencies that will be cost effective. He hopes to have a contract my mid-May. Other efficiencies have been realized in the area of IT where consolidating e-mail has

generated about \$75,000 in saving. He said efficiencies are being sought everywhere in hopes of minimizing the budget impact on academics.

President Philip announced recent rankings from US News and World Report. Ten of UAlbany's programs are in the top 30 including Criminal Justice, Public Affairs and Policy, Public Health, Social Work, Sociology, and the University Libraries.

Enrollment Management:

Over 20,000 applications have been received and the University hopes to enroll 2,200 freshman students in the fall. In addition, 1,350 transfer students will be admitted. The University is working to increase the number of out of state students. President Philip reported that SUNY Binghamton generates \$10 million from out of state and international students. Increasing those numbers at UAlbany could generate a significant pool of additional revenue.

President Philip addressed the Kegs and Eggs incident and said we are looking at opportunities to improve our presence in the community. The Pine Hills Clean Up day was a beginning with about 100 students participating. There were no incidents resulting from the suspension of Fountain Day and he said students are being very mature. The campus is working very hard to create a new tradition in the future, one that perhaps is based on volunteerism, as well as other positive events. The President has met with Mayor Jennings and St. Rose President Mark Sullivan to address issues of the larger community.

President Philip announced successes in research at the University. Professor Gregory Lnenicka in Biological Sciences received a grant from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$379,000. Professor Robert Osuna, also in Biological Sciences received National Science Foundation grant in the amount of \$698,000.

The President said endowments have increased 19.2% and this is the best of the University centers.

Senator Merbler announced an additional bill in the state legislature that would provide supplemental funding for SUNY and asked the campus to send letters of support. President Philip said he fully supported the effort.

President Philip reminded everyone that Commencement will be held in five weeks.

PROVOST'S REPORT -- SUSAN PHILLIPS

- Provost Phillips announced successful accreditations in several of the schools. The School of Business maintained its dual accreditation in business administration and accounting. She applauded the School of Social Welfare and School of Education for their successful accreditations as well.
- Professor Siwei Lyu from CCI won the IEEE Signal Processing Best Paper Award for a paper he co-authored with Hany Farid.
- The School of Public Health will conclude a yearlong celebration of its 25th Anniversary with a gala on May 7.
- The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering has secured a \$57.5 million federal grant to form a new photovoltaic manufacturing consortium in solar cell research.
- Students from Rockefeller College will be participating in internships across the country this summer: Ryan Quinn will intern with the Office of National Drug Control Policy at the White House; Beth Carro will intern with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and Taryn Couture will intern with the IMAGE Program in South Africa, encouraging women with HIV/AIDS to start their own businesses.
- Students from the School of Business won a regional "green business/sustainability" business plan competition at Wharton.
- The Student Success Relay for Life raised \$85,000 for cancer research.

- The Student Association will host “Out of the Darkness Campus Walk” on May 1 in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
- English Student Kassondra Orcut placed third in Metroland’s Best Local Poet and Best Local Author polls.
- Music Student Ryan Sweet was the recipient of the Thienert Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is named for Army 1st Lt. Joe Thienert, a UAlbany graduate killed in Afghanistan in 2008.
- Students in the American Meteorological Society Club organized a contest to “Guess the Melting Date of Mt. Bosart”. The snow mountain is a pile of snow in the State Quad parking lot named after Professor Bosart. Funds from the contest will assist students attending the 36th Annual Northeaster Storm Conference later this spring.

Provost Phillips wished everyone well for the end of the semester.

SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT – ERIC LIFSHIN

Nothing to report.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATOR’S REPORT) –DANIEL D. WHITE, J. PHILIPPE ABRAHAM & SHADI SHAHEDIPOUR-SANDVIK, SUNY SENATORS

The SUNY Senators will be meeting on April 22-23, 2011 in Fredonia New York. One of the main agenda items for the Plenary session is the current budget and what that budget may bring in terms of curricular changes. We submit a letter from Ken O’Brien, President of the University Faculty Senate and a resolution passed by the UFS Executive Committee for your consideration. UAlbany may wish to make a similar resolution. The resolution will need a sponsor. We also submit a report by Dan Smith from the Undergraduate Programs Committee of the SUNY-wide Senate. Volunteers are still being accepted for the various SUNY-wide committees. We encourage you to go to the SUNY Senate website to obtain more information or speak to one of us if you are considering service.

<http://www.suny.edu/facultysenate/>

GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) – HEIDI NICHOLLS, GSO REPRESENTATIVE

The GSO is currently running their elections for next year and results will be announced April 29th at the end of the year President’s Gala. Unfortunately the GSO office had to temporarily shut down due to computer ports that were not university compliant, however ITS has issued a temporary solution as we work with a contractor to rectify the situation. There is a call for graduate students to work on the office as part of the office manager team. 3 of our 4 oms will be graduating in May. We are planning on offering extended office hours during finals and the executive board has volunteered to man these additional hours. The final meeting of the graduate student assembly is scheduled to meet May 6, 2011.

The SUNY-wide Assembly voted for UAlbany’s GSO as having the best website.

SA (STUDENT ASSOCIATION) – JUSTIN WAX JACOBS, PRESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Nothing to report.

SA Chair Tremayne Price delivered the following report. The Student Association just completed elections and elected Zafir Uddin as its next president. Chair Price will serve as the representative to the University Council next year. The State-wide Student Assembly recently elected new members to its Executive Board with four strong candidates who should serve students well next year. SA is working hard to enhance the Parkfest event later this month and a comedy show is scheduled to be held at the Palace Theater. Chair Price addressed the March 12 incident and said most students have proved they are not like the small group of people who engaged in the destructive activities during that event. There are many great students at UAlbany and they are trying to make it clear that they are here for an education and to be part of the community.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Richard Matyi, Chair

1) CAA assessments of the following program reviews are currently in progress:

- a) Education Psychology
- b) Education Counseling & Psychology

- c) Educational Theory and Practice
- d) Social Welfare (Ph.D.)

It has become clear that these reviews will not be completed before the end of Spring Semester, 2011; arrangements are being made to ensure that they are finished during the summer.

2) The CAA continues to participate in the UAC Gen Ed revision process.

CAFFECor (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) - Pradeep Haldar, Chair

Nothing to report.

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

CERS completed its revision of the CERS policy text and submitted it to the Senate on March 14, 2011. The Senate approved the revised text. It now sits on the desk of President George Philip awaiting his decision.

COR (Council on Research) - James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on March 16th and two items were of note.

A proposal was put forward to create an excellence award to recognize early career achievement by University faculty. This would parallel the current University-level and the Chancellor's-level Excellence in Research and Creative Activities awards which are targeted more on longer term career achievements. The Researcher's Liaison committee will be asked to formulate a plan and requirements for COR consideration.

Following the latest round of applications for Conference/Journal Support, the committee has changed the wording for the Journal Support Guidelines to include "*Award funds typically will be provided for journal start-up or for general editorial support when a UAlbany faculty member is serving in the capacity of Managing Editor, Editor-In-Chief or similar leadership role for the journal.*"... indicating a requirement that the applicant occupy a senior position with the journal. In addition, requests for funding cannot include travel to conferences and meetings for the purpose of conducting editorial activities.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) - Vincent LaBella, Chair

CPCA continues to review about 2 cases per week.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on March 28 and April 8. At the former, it approved the following proposals: (1) (School of Education) establish a Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching (COLT), (2) (School of Public Health) establish a fully online version of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program, (3) (School of Public Health) revise the elective offerings for the MPH degree program's Social Behavior and Community Health concentration, (4) (College of Arts and Sciences Biology Department) revise the elective requirements for the MS in Forensic Biology program, (5) amend the policy pertaining to Graduate Certificate programs, (6) amend the policies pertaining to the submittal of a Master's thesis, and (6) establish graduate level policy pertaining to grade changes. The Council also acted on a petition before its Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. At the April 8th meeting, the Council continued its consideration of CAA program reviews.

GOV (Governance Council) - Susanna Fessler, Chair

The Governance Council did not meet on March 31st as originally scheduled because of a lack of pressing agenda items. The Chair distributed a report to GOV members electronically instead. GOV has been largely occupied with spring elections, senator recruitment, and council composition. The final slate for the at-large elections was distributed on Monday, April 4th. Elections for at-large faculty will be held through MyUAlbany April 12th through April 15th. The next GOV meeting will be Thursday, April 14th. The Committee on Council Nominations met on Friday, April 8th, and subsequently forwarded a recommended slate of councils and SEC standing committees to the Senate, as required in the Charter, X.1.5.2.

Senator White said it was his understanding that at the meeting of the Committee on Council Nominations last Friday, the notion that a constellation is not the same as a unit was discussed among Committee members. He said this point requires clarification and could affect who can serve on certain councils. GOV Chair Fessler said it would be discussed under the agenda item for Council Formations.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) - Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Chair

During its March 14th meeting, the Dean of the libraries Mary Casserly reported on a survey that will be issued in late March to faculty and students regarding the quality of the Library. This survey is generated every 3-4 years and gives the Library the user's perceptive of its services. The results of prior year's survey are on the website. CIO Haile reported on a one-time fixed technology funding that was set aside for updating smaller classrooms with "technology light" support (includes projection, laptop and connections). More detailed

questions should be directed to Carole Sweeton or Kyle Pulliam in Client Support Services. The concept of “Cloud Computing” was also discussed. Cloud computing has made possible facilitation of larger computing capacity for research, and in most cases with lower cost. Regarding ITS’s migration to Live@edu, ITS is looking at either of two implementation phases, moving a subset of campus first or moving everyone on campus at the same time. It may be too disruptive to migrate everyone before June. Better to be cognizant and thorough.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) - JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

UAC has met weekly since the last Senate meeting with the exception of April 6th. At this point we have concluded a thorough review of the feedback supplied by all of the Schools and Colleges regarding the General Education Task Force recommendation. We are now working to incorporate that feedback while remaining mindful of the Task Force recommendations and the quickly approaching conclusion of the term. The General Education Committee reports that they anticipate final discussions will conclude within the next two weeks and a more concrete version of the proposal will be circulated to UPPC as well as the Schools and Colleges. Additionally, UAC has approved a proposal for changes to the SSW Field Experience Course and a proposal from PUB to cross-list their internship course with POS. Both are being presented to the Senate for review.

ULC (University Life Council) - Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

On Friday, March 25th 2011, ULC discussed President Philip’s decision to cancel Fountain Day due to the Kegs and Eggs incident. Ms. Christine Bouchard, president of Student Success, gave the council a summary of the entire situation. The topics discussed were the following: The history and logistics of Fountain Day, student, community and media reactions, as well as the implications of having Fountain Day.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) - Jim Fossett, Chair

UPPC members have been participating in the budget advisory process (BAG), and the chair of UPPC has been reporting to the Senate and the SEC on a regular basis after each BAG meeting. UPPC has also developed a report on the university budget situation which has been distributed and discussed with the SEC, and has been distributed to the university community as a whole. An agenda item deals with this report and our concern over the limited attention to BAG’s deliberations among the university community. UPPC has also dealt with two pieces of business by e-mail vote. A proposal from the School of Public Health to establish an on-line version of the MPH degree has been approved, as have a revised set of planning calendars for the university for Spring 2012 and academic year 2012-2013. The calendars have been revised to respond to a request from the President to schedule university holidays around St. Patrick’s Day to avoid a reprise of recent events.

Approval of ULC Chair/New Senators

Senate Secretary Leonard announced Jane Kadish would fill the at-Large Senate seat that was vacated when Ms. Leonard was elected Secretary. Senator Kadish will serve on COR for the remainder of the year. Secretary Leonard announced that Yenisel Gulatee had been elected to chair ULC, a position that also became vacant as a result of Secretary Leonard’s new position. Ms. Gulatee needs to be approved as ULC chair until the end of the year and as a new senator. Chair Lifshin asked for a motion to approve these changes. A motion was made and seconded. The resulting vote approved both changes.

Proposed Council & Standing Committee Memberships for 2011-2012

Senator White said he believed there was a misunderstanding about what defines an academic unit and further believes that GOV has a misunderstanding about who can be on a council. He cited CNSE as an example, and explained if there are two people from different constellations, they should be able to serve side by side on a council. He said other colleges and schools may be disenfranchised by this and hopes the Senate can make a decision since GOV has failed to do so. Senator White proposed that the discussion of the council memberships be deferred until the next meeting until a consensus could be reached on this topic. Chair Lifshin offered this as motion. A motion was made and seconded, and opened the floor for discussion.

GOV Chair Fessler said GOV had discussed this at a recent meeting but did not vote on it. The conclusion reached at that time identified CAS as having about 50% of the Senate membership and Rockefeller College being the next largest unit. In the past, individual departments in CAS have been considered units, but departments in other schools and colleges have not been recognized as separate academic units for the purposes of council formation. Chair Fessler suggested that GOV take up the matter next year but did not believe the Senate should delay approving the membership and having it done on time.

CERS Chair Monfasani said it appeared to be an issue that needed discussion over a period of time and agreed with Chair Fessler that the conversation should resume next year, but did not believe the vote should be held up. GAC Chair Kranich agreed and noted that one more meeting remained on the calendar. GOV Chair Fessler called on Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs William Hedberg to provide any knowledge he had about what identifies an academic unit. Vice President Hedberg said there was nothing in the Faculty Bylaws or the Senate Charter.

Chair Lifshin asked that Senator White's proposal be restated. Senator White said that since the issue is about what determines an academic unit, he asked that the vote on the roster of council memberships be postponed until the last meeting of the semester since the roster contained errors. Chair Lifshin asked for a vote on Senator White's proposal and the proposal was defeated in the resulting vote.

GOV Chair Fessler continued and explained the formation process of councils, providing the background in the Charter that the councils be formed by the penultimate meeting of the Senate. GOV had reviewed the 2010-11 council memberships at a recent meeting and realized that the composition of many of the councils violated the Charter. GOV concluded it was too late to correct the situation for this year but an effort would be made to maintain the rules of the Charter for 2011-12. Chair Fessler described the methodology, with many variables, that was employed in the process while attempting to accommodate everyone with the choices they had submitted. She said it was important to vote on the council memberships now so the councils could meet and elect their chairs. This would avoid the awkward situation in the fall when the Senate Executive Committee meets before the council memberships have been approved. She explained the membership rosters as presented to the Senate at this session are not carved in stone and there are missing pieces due to the elections of at large senators, and some schools have not held elections for their senators.

Senator Chaturvedi, who currently serves on COR, said he appreciated the work done by the CCN and agreed that the process needs to be done in a timely manner. He said he followed the recommendations that were outlined in the email for participation but his choices had been denied. He said the process needs to be more systematic and needs to be completed as far ahead as possible. Chair Fessler responded that she received his emails earlier in the day, but also reiterated that the roster is not final and that memberships will change as additional information cited earlier becomes available. She said the process was going ahead and in accordance with the Charter. If anyone has suggestions on how it might be better done, they need to relate those suggestions to GOV. Chair Fessler said that it is unlikely that the roster being voted on today will be in place in September as changes will continue to be made. She said that anyone who had individual issues should email the Senate Secretary and Staff Support and it will be discussed by GOV.

SUNY Senator White informed the Senate that he sits on GOV and found it problematic that council members have been reassigned before the end of their two year period on a council. He said having consistency on councils is important and believes that a precedent is being set. Chair Fessler informed him there were a small number of people who have been reassigned. Secretary Leonard assured him that the CCN was committed to working with GOV and making sure the process is done correctly. There was no further discussion and Chair Lifshin requested a motion to bring the matter to a vote. A motion was made and seconded, and the Senate approved the 2011-12 Council memberships. Chair Fessler said the next step will be to organize the councils so they can elect their chairs. The organizational meetings can take place two weeks after the at large elections have been completed.

Election of Senate Vice-Chair for 2011-2012

Chair Lifshin announced there was one candidate on the ballot, Professor Cynthia Fox, from Languages, Literatures and Culture. He asked if there were any further nominations. A nomination from the floor was made for Professor Andi Lyons from the Theatre Department. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak.

Cynthia Fox introduced herself. She is an Associate Professor in French Studies and has been on the faculty for 20 years. She said she accepted the nomination because she disagreed with the decision to cut programs and the

manner in which those decisions were made and implemented. She said that many faculty members in Languages, Literatures and Cultures feel under-appreciated, and that unless your department is part of those enjoying the limelight, opinions don't seem to have much meaning. She stated that the purpose of a university is not just to be a resource for employers or to draw funds from vested interests, but a foundation for the future which all areas of the human mind can encompass. Society as a whole is our customer and students are our resources. Professor Fox said the way forward is to engage in dialogue and build support to work together toward a common good. She said there were ways to maintain and strengthen the curriculum at UAlbany if we are imaginative enough to look for them.

Andi Lyons introduced herself as the Chair of the Theatre Department and has been at UAlbany for 29 years. She has served a number of years in governance roles and has a broad understanding of University wide issues. She highlighted her University service which includes serving on BAG 1, 3 and 4, three terms as Senate Secretary; she has served on the Governance Council, the Council on Promotion and Continuing Appointment and the Undergraduate Academic Council. Professor Lyons has served three terms on the CAS Faculty Council. She is a professor of lighting design and technology and recently served on the board of directors of the US Institute for Theatre Technology. Professor Lyons is the recipient of both the Chancellor's and President's Awards for Excellence. She said she was reluctant to run for the seat given the uncertain status of the Theatre Department but realized that the University is in crisis and decided she would like to help weather that storm together.

There were no additional nominations and the ballots were distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to Political Science/Public Administration & Policy Internship (UAC):

UAC Chair Malatesta introduced the bill and the Senate voted to approve it.

Revisions to Social Welfare Field Seminar (UAC):

UAC Chair Malatesta said the aim is to break apart the field seminar and the field practicum to be a concurrent two credit course with A-E grading. A motion to approve was made and seconded and the bill was approved by a vote.

Certificate of Graduate Studies Online Learning & Training—COLT (GAC)

GAC Chair Kranich introduced the proposal which comes from the School of Education. The 15 credit program would meet the needs of students pursuing degrees in education and related fields with plans to teach, and meets a strong demand for online access to serve the needs of educators. A motion to approve the bill was made and seconded, and the bill was approved by a vote.

Proposal to Amend Policies Pertaining to The Submittal of a Thesis Applicable to Master's Degree Program Requirements—Chair Kranich stated that the university policy for submitting a master's thesis electronically has carried a substantial fee. That fee has now been reduced. There was no further discussion and a motion was made and seconded to approve the bill. The bill was approved by a vote.

Results of Election for Vice-Chair:

Chair Lifshin announced the results of the election. Andi Lyons will be the Senate Vice-Chair for 2011-2012.

Report from UPPC on University Budget/Distribution of BAGIV Reports:

UPPC Chair Fossett referred to the report that was distributed to the campus community after the state budget was adopted. He had discussed the report with the SEC and it was agreed that it should be distributed. Chair Fossett said he wanted it to be on record the concerns about the state of the University finances. He also reported that BAG IV had finished their deliberations and were attempting to formulate a report. The sequence of events is to make a report to President Philip and he will decide how or if he wants to make it available to the University community. As chair of UPPC, he expects to make a report after the President has had a chance to respond.

Chair Fossett reported that traffic on the Senate web site to view the BAG reports has been limited which raises concerns that the message regarding the budget is not getting through to the faculty. He informed senators that they represent a constituency and are responsible for making them aware of the decisions that could affect them. He urged them to communicate with their constituents.

Chair Fossett responded to a previous statement made by Professor Bowles from LLC, in which he stated that the pie charts in the first BAG report do not adequately indicate how all revenue sources are used. Chair Fossett said some of the sources, such as student fees, are earmarked and have limitations on how they can be spent. All Funds is also earmarked and supports the University research infrastructure. He reassured Senators there is no pool of money available that will fix the University's financial problems.

Chair Lifshin thanked Chair Fossett for his report and the work UPPC has done.

UFS Statement and Resolution on Proposed NYS Executive Budget:

SUNY Senator White referred to the resolution mentioned in the SUNY Senator's report from UFS concerning tuition and a rational tuition policy. He said a resolution is open to anyone who may want to introduce a similar bill at the last meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder