

University at Albany  
State University of New York

University Council  
Minutes  
September 26, 2014

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on September 26, 2014 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Mohawk Tower, Indian Quad. Members present were: Michael Castellana, Chair; Robert Balachandran; James Clancy; John Fallon; Abner JeanPierre; James Jackson; Mark Eagan; Nancy Burton; Nick Butler; Cynthia Fox [Faculty Representative]; Timothy Murphy [Alumni Representative]; and Bryant Barksdale [Graduate Student Representative]. Also present were President Robert Jones; Vice Presidents James Van Voorst, Susan Phillips and Fardin Sanai; John Reilly and Janet Thayer, Counsel's Office; Leanne Wirkkula, Chief of Staff; Sheila Seery, President's Office; and Cynthia Riggi and Carol Stenger, Student Success.

Mr. Beditz confirmed that the members present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. He asked for a motion to modify the agenda (Jackson/Balachandran) to move a resolution approving the Council's determination to conduct meetings utilizing a Consent Agenda to the first order of business, and to add a verbal report from the Alumni Representative. The motion passed unanimously. The Council then went around the table introducing them themselves for the benefit of new members Eagan, Burton, Butler, Fox and Barksdale.

Following the introductions, the Chair asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda meeting format resolution (Jackson/JeanPierre) which passed unanimously. He then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda report items (Balachandran/Eagan) which also passed unanimously. Chairman Castellana then gave the floor to Alumni Representative Murphy who made brief remarks regarding Alumni Association activities scheduled to take place on Homecoming Weekend, October 10-12. Upon the conclusion of those remarks the Chairman gave the floor to President Jones.

President Jones began by welcoming the new members of the Council. He underscored the very important role the Council plays and thanked all the members for their willingness to serve in this important capacity. President Jones then briefed the Council on several Executive Committee changes that occurred since the Council's last meeting. Dr. Timothy Mulcahy has joined the University as Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. He noted that Susan Phillips now serves as Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and extended his gratitude to Susan for her service as Provost during very difficult budgetary times for the University. In her new role she is serving as a key driver in our discussions of affiliation agreements with Albany Law School and the Downstate Medical Center School of Medicine. In addition she is concurrently serving as Interim Provost at Downstate Medical Center. We also have a new Athletic Director, Mark Benson, who recently joined the University. President Jones also introduced Sheila Seery, who has joined the University as Associate Vice President for Government Relations.

The President also commented on the status of several administrative searches. The search for

a permanent Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost is well underway, as is the search for a Vice Provost for International Education. Searches for Deans in the School of Criminal Justice and the School of Social Welfare should conclude early next semester and we are searching for a Chair of our new Computer Engineering program. As well, a search is underway for a Title IX Coordinator. Upcoming searches include a Vice President of Communication and Marketing, an Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and a Vice Provost for Community Engagement.

President Jones then described the recently concluded 2014-15 Campus budget process and distributed a pie chart depicting the distribution of resources across the University. He noted that \$21.2 million has been allocated to the academic enterprise in the 2014-15 budget. Incremental investments in undergraduate and graduate student support, critical to our competitive standing, were made as well. Additional investments have been made in support staff. The President noted that our physical plant is experiencing a \$1.2 billion deferred maintenance challenge; nevertheless "place" matters, and we are making investments in additional maintenance and grounds personnel in order to maintain our competitive edge and recent investments in buildings and grounds.

President Jones concluded his remarks by noting that the Citizen Laureate Dinner will be held on November 6 at 5:30 PM in the SEFCU Arena. This year's academic awardee is Father Kevin Mullen; Dan Nolan and Phoebe Bender will be recognized as Community Laureates.

Moving on to new business, the Council was briefed on the University's activities in compliance with Title IX as it pertains to sexual assault. Janet Thayer of Counsel's Office began by noting that the University at Albany is doing an excellent job both with legal compliance as well as educational efforts to address sexual violence on campus. She noted that UAlbany recently underwent a full federal audit on our Title IX compliance efforts, and while there were findings, they were relatively minor and easily corrected. In fact we fared far better than other campuses that experienced similar audits. She went on to describe the Campus' sexual assault reporting processes as well as our extensive training and information sharing efforts. Finally, she noted that expected Federal legislation in this area is not likely to have much impact on this campus as our program is advanced and in fact is used as a model program across SUNY.

Cynthia Riggi from the Office of the Vice President for Student Success noted that, even while excelling in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, we have not lost sight of the importance of victim support. In fact the Campus has made a significant investment to create an Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence, and she introduced Carol Stenger, who directs that office.

Ms. Stenger then described the work of the Center. Rather than providing clinical support (which is done by the Student Health Center) the Advocacy Center provides all manner of non-clinical support to assist students who have been the victim of sexual assault (in all its definitions) in getting their lives back.

She then mentioned the SUNY Board of Trustees rules pertaining to child sexual abuse. These rules create a strict obligation to report observed instances of child sexual abuse that apply to everyone on Campus, including faculty, staff and students. For these purposes, a child is defined as anyone seventeen years of age and under. The Council (Fallon, Castellana,

Balachandran, Burton) expressed concern that a legal obligation has been created that students are likely unaware of. It was agreed that Counsel's office will closely examine the matter to clarify whether the duty to report is a legal obligation, mandated by statute, or one created through a policy of the SUNY Board of Trustees. As appropriate, the Council will take a position and make recommendations in the matter. Chairman Castellana also requested, on behalf of the Council, that it get periodic reports on activity in this area.

Moving on to the next item of new business, Nick Butler spoke in support of a resolution to amend the Council Bylaws to call for the election of new officers at the first meeting of the academic year, rather than the last. Upon motion (JeanPierre/Clancy) the resolution carried unanimously.

Moving on, the Chair invited Pierre Alric, a Council member whose term had recently expired, to the table. He expressed his gratitude for Mr. Alric's years of service to the University, both on and off the Council, and moved to approve a resolution recognizing his service. The motion was unanimously seconded and unanimously approved, with many individual expressions of thanks and well wishes. Mr. Alric then expressed his gratitude for the recognition as well as the honor of being able to serve his alma mater. He went on to note that the SUNY Association of Council Members and Trustees (ACT) needs representation from this Council as it conducts its important work. Mr. Alric recently finished a term as President of ACT, and he urged Council members to follow his example.

The Chair then moved to adopt a resolution to recognize the service of Michael Stein, a Council member whose term expired in May 2014. He received a unanimous second, and the resolution was also unanimously approved.

Moving on to new business, Vice President Sanai noted a \$2.2 million bequest from Alice Hastings Murphy, class of 1940. He asked for the Council's approval to name the Preservation Department of the Science Library in her name in recognition of that gift, which comports with all SUNY guidelines that pertain. A motion to adopt a resolution approving same was made (Balachandran/Eagan) and was unanimously approved. Hereinafter, the Preservation Department of the Science Library will be known as the Alice Hastings Murphy Preservation Department.

Mr. Sanai then asked for the Council's approval to establish donation criteria for naming rights of various components of the new Athletics Academic Support Center. After the proposed resolution was amended to note that the values established in the resolution merely reflect the minimum donation that would be required to consider naming a location, a motion was made (JeanPierre/Clancy) and unanimously approved.

Moving on to new business, President Jones noted that in seeking to expand the academic mission of the University, the Campus has had preliminary conversations with Albany Law School to explore a formal organizational affiliation. Doing so appears to present a value proposition for both institutions and provides opportunities for exciting academic synergies. He noted the Albany Law School Board of Trustees recently gave its Dean authorization to move forward with such a discussion and sought the Council's endorsement to move forward with those discussions as well. A working group will be established to do a deep analysis of academic issues, program possibilities, governance, financial implications, and such other

matters as might be relevant. A motion to endorse the discussion (Fallon/Balachandran) was made and seconded, and passed unanimously.

Finally, it was agreed that the election of new officers would be deferred until the next meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Beditz  
University Liaison to the Council