

2012-2013 University Senate

**Monday, March 11, 2013
2:45 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall**

Andi Lyons, Chair

Minutes

Present: Aymen Assuwiyan, Pedro Caban, Leona Christie, Marc Cohen, Anthony DeBlasi, Thomas Devlin, Evgeny Dikarev, Keith Earle, Sue Faerman, Erzsebet Fazekas, Susanna Fessler, Edward Fitzgerald, Richard Fogarty, Cynthia Fox, Elizabeth Gaffney, Jennifer Goodall, Timothy Groves, Hal Gueutal, Yenisel Gulatee, Janell Hobson, Robert Jones, Jane Kadish, Ann Kearney, Daniel Keyser, Alice Krause, Igor Kuznetsov, Vincent LaBella, Kajal Lahiri, Andi Lyons, JoAnne Malatesta, Adrian Masters, John Monfasani, John Murphy, Susan Phillips, Loretta Pyles, Eliot Rich, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Pavel Terpelets, Sandra Vergari, Christine Wagner, Kevin Williams, Oscar Williams, Mark Wolfe, Alissa Worden, Edelgard Wulfert, Ellena Young

Guests: Kimberly Berg, Vincent Delio, Elana Gordis, Elizabeth Peterson, Erin Ring, Kathie Winchester

The meeting convened at 2:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 11 were approved as written by 94% of the voting senators present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—ROBERT JONES

President Jones delivered his first report to the Senate. He said it was an honor and a pleasure to be present and offered a few highlights of his first 69 days as president. President Jones thanked the members of the Transition Advisory Committee for their work in guiding him to meet with many internal and external constituencies. It's been a pleasure to meet with faculty, staff, students and people who are supporters of the University at Albany. The president added that each meeting has provided an opportunity for him to listen and learn where the university needs to be in the future as well as learning of the challenges that lay ahead. A tour of eight to nine counties in the capital region is being considered between now and June. President Jones said the importance of the tour is for UAlbany be viewed as a regional resource. He added that it would identify how UAlbany can seamlessly connect with surrounding communities.

President Jones discussed key budgetary issues. The president views the SUNY 2020 proposal as an exciting opportunity for advancing the university. With the proposal, UAlbany has the potential to increase its full-time faculty, grow its student enrollment and construct a research facility. President Jones referred to state budget negotiations which are in their final weeks. The state's commitment to SUNY is expected to be maintained which will provide the campus with more predictability concerning our future. The five-year capital plan is up for renewal. Chancellor Zimpher has requested funds for critical maintenance for all campuses including UAlbany which has over \$1.2 billion in deferred maintenance. President Jones appreciated the amount invested over the last capital plan process and would like to see the process continue. The resource allocation model being considered by Chancellor Zimpher has been put on hold. Campuses would have taken a significant reduction in funds including UAlbany. President Jones was uncertain if the plan will be revisited.

President Jones highlighted the following points of pride:

- President Obama presented the National Medal of Science to Sallie Chisholm. The medal is the nation's highest honor for scientists. President Jones said it was a great source of pride for UAlbany and Professor Chisholm who received her PhD from UAlbany in 1974.
- UAlbany has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the third year in a row. President Jones thanked all those who engaged in the deep level of work it takes to make this possible.
- Michael Castellana has been named the new chair of the University Council. The president said he looks forward to working with Mr. Castellana.
- President Jones offered congratulations to the women's and men's basketball teams for their victories this past weekend and throughout the season. He acknowledged their hard work both on the court and in their classes.

In closing, President Jones said it was an exciting time to be at UAlbany and he looks forward to working with everyone to advance the university.

CAA Chair Masters asked the president if he will be visiting individual departments. President Jones responded that he hoped to do so in the fall semester.

Chair Lyons thanked President Jones for his report. She added she looks forward to the Senate having a long and cooperative relationship with him.

PROVOST'S REPORT—SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips delivered her report from Academic Affairs. She announced that we were at the midpoint of the semester and next week is spring break. The provost said this year's academic calendar was a compromise in which all parties could not be accommodated. She added that calendars for future semesters will be on the UAlbany web site.

Interviews are going forward for Director of Undergraduate writing and hope that the process will be completed within the next couple of months.

Provost Phillips referred to the announcement that Sue Faerman will be stepping down from her position as Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education. The provost has consulted with the Governance Council to put forth names in the formation of an advisory committee that will assist her with the transition. There is no date for the transition.

Provost Phillips discussed the implications budget issues that could affect the campus. An increase in the minimum wage would impact work study hours. Since our money for work study not increase, it could mean there will be fewer work study hours. Determinations would have to be made about where hours will be removed. A total of 17% of work study hours could be affected. The sequestration could impact campus research as well as student support.

The provost thanked those who filled out the survey for online teaching and learning. Three forums have been scheduled to discuss OLTL on March 27 and two on April 4.

Provost Phillips is designing an undergraduate academic retreat to discuss programs for undergraduates in the future. The retreat will include study of who comes to the university and why, and who leaves and why. The retreat will be held after commencement.

Sue Faerman reminded everyone that classes will be held during the first night of Passover. She said faculty cannot penalize students who do not attend classes in observance of the holiday. Senator Lahiri asked if there was a way to improve the process of developing the calendar. Provost Phillips responded and said she believed that in the future SUNY will have an academic calendar that all campuses will have to comply with.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – ANDI LYONS, CHAIR

The Department of Women's Studies is requesting a change of name. As it has neither programmatic nor resource implications, the request was submitted directly to the Senate Chair. It was discussed in the SEC meeting on February 25, and the Executive Committee voted to send it to the full Senate for a vote at its next meeting.

The SEC also discussed the UFS Position Paper on Diversity and Cultural Competence, which was circulated to the SEC by a UFS Senator, at the request of the SUNY University Faculty Senate. The UFS made a recommendation that this position paper be widely circulated on campuses across the system. However, after a lengthy discussion during which it became clear that it was neither a carefully-conceived nor a well-researched document, the SEC voted unanimously to send it only to the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion for possible consideration. Subsequently, the Senate Chair was informed that our own Assistant Vice President and Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Tamra Minor, had been completely unaware of the existence of such a position paper. Both co-chairs of the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, Tamra Minor and Elga Wulfert, expressed concern that this document was not only poorly prepared, but that it might derail some of the excellent work that is currently happening on campus in this area. Therefore, this document, which has been evaluated at several levels and is believed to have no positive value for UAlbany at this time, will not be considered for campus-wide review, pending further work by the UFS.

President Jones is convening a campus-wide forum and special sessions on community engagement on April 2nd and 3rd to help advance UAlbany's progress as an engaged institution. Faculty, students, and staff will be invited. Besides the President's Office, co-hosts will include the Provost's Office, Campus Committee on University-Community Engagement, and the Senate Executive Committee. Additional co-hosts for the special sessions will come from appropriate Senate Councils. More information will be forthcoming.

Jim Collins, in his position as Acting President of the Albany Chapter of UUP, has informed the Senate Chair that he believes some part of our CPCA membership may be in conflict with the UUP contract. As soon as specific information is received from the UUP leadership, the topic will be placed on the SEC agenda to determine the appropriate next steps.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

At the winter plenary meeting the UFS Committee on Diversity and Cultural Competence submitted the first page (a teaser) of what is a multiple-page report that includes recommendations to make diversity a more meaningful element of our campus cultures.

The full report (attached) comes with a request that it be widely distributed across campuses and discussed, either by a governance group or by the Executive Committee of your governance groups. UFS needs to have UAlbany's comments returned to the committee chair (Phillip.Ortiz@esc.edu) by March 15. This will give the committee the time needed to examine our suggestions for a final revision of its report, which will be submitted to the UFS at the May plenary. The new Budget Allocation Model has been postponed for a year. The Graduate Research Symposium was held at the Legislative Office bldg. on Feb 26th with representation from 19 SUNY campuses and 11 of CUNY schools.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Thomas Devlin, GSO President

GSO President Devlin reported that GSO held its first meeting on March 1. The constitutional committee submitted their recommendations and did a good job. GSO is dealing with some security and legal problems. Trivia Night will be held on March 25 at WT's.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association, President's Designee

The Anti-Bullying Campaign will be going on throughout the month of April and will include a variety of events to raise awareness about the issue of bullying. We'd like student groups to take the pledge against bullying and host their own events discussing the dangers of what bullying does. The Making History Campaign will be a part of the anti-bullying initiative and money raised from the campaign will go to fund the Gender and Sexuality resource Center as well as the Multicultural Resource Center. In late April there will be a Second Chance Prom for students, faculty and staff to attend which will provide the opportunity for an enjoyable and affordable prom experience. Tickets will be \$10. We're looking for faculty and staff to support the campaign by taking the pledge against bullying and by spreading the message in classes.

Parkfest: April 11th, tickets will be \$15 for general admission and \$20 for VIP, featuring Travis Porter and 2 Chainz. This event is open to all SUNY students with a valid SUNY ID.

Guinness World Record: On April 21st UAlbany will try and break the world record for most party-poppers popped at one time. This will most likely happen on the Football field.

Cultural Carnival will also be on April 21st

Mr. Cohen reported that a suicide prevention walk will be held on May 5.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair

Nothing to report

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Leslie Saint-Vil, Chair

We will be meeting on March 4th at 2:45.

Senator Fessler reported that the council met last week. The committee reviewed its description in the Charter and discussed its changes since the committee was established under the previous Bylaws. The committee will approach the SEC to discuss potential dissolution of the committee in the future.

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

CERS is scheduling a meeting to discuss training strategies.

COR (Council on Research) – John Monfasani, Chair

Nothing to report.

Chair Monfasani reported that COR will meet on March 14.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next CPCA meeting is on Feb. 8th.

Chair Lyons reported in the Chair Putrevu's absence. She referred to a discussion at the last SEC meeting that pending cases should be moved forward quickly in order to be handled in a timely manner.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

The GAC has no business to bring before the Senate at this time.

Chair Groves reported that the council will meet on March 12 at 2:30 pm.

GOV (Governance Council) – Christine Wagner, Chair

GOV met on 2/4/13. Updates were provided by the subcommittee formed to address the status of Section XI: IRCUAP of the Senate Charter and by the Committee on Administrative Evaluations to create a Council on Assessment and Institutional Review (CAIR). The processes for nomination and election of Senators for the 2013-2014 academic year have begun. At the request of the provost, GOV provided recommendations for members of a Course Assessment Advisory Committee and for an advisory committee for the upcoming transition in undergraduate education and the process of selecting a new Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education. GOV is currently creating a slate of nominations for Senator-at-large positions and SUNY Senators for next year. GOV will meet again on 3/4/13.

Chair Wagner reported that GOV met on March 4. A slate of candidates for at-large positions was sent out recently.

Elections will be held from April 1-5.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair

LISC met on Monday March 4th. We heard reports from the Dean of the Libraries, and the CIO, and discussed agenda items for the rest of the year.

Our next meeting is on April 1st and we will be discussing the evolving relationship between Blackboard and ARES.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Richard Fogarty, Chair

UAC met on 20 and 27 February, discussing primarily the articulation of clearer guidelines about the procedures the council follows for reviewing and reporting curricular changes, as well as drafting bills on such matters for senate consideration. The council will complete its deliberations on these guidelines at its next meeting, and will communicate the results to the SEC.

Chair Fogarty reported that candidates for the Writing Director will be giving presentations today at 4:15. He encouraged people to attend to show that our community is serious about the program.

ULC (University Life Council) – Vincent LaBella, Chair

ULC has met several times this semester to discuss the Family Leave bill and to plan for the Spring forums on Diversity and inclusion.

Regarding the Family Leave bill: ULC has looked into Senate Resolution No. 0506-05 that was introduced into the University Senate back in 2006 and passed a vote but was never signed off by the president. ULC has determined that this bill is both out of date and covers

areas that fall under collective bargaining that is the domain of the UUP. ULC was also given a comprehensive overview of the current policies and benefits regarding family leave that are available to the University employees and found them quite substantial. In addition, during this process a new tentative agreement between UUP and the state has been reached on February 19. It is the recommendation of ULC that once the new agreement is in place that there be a family leave forum or information session. This forum can then be utilized to start a conversation around what changes if any people would like to see.

Also the Spring forums on Inclusive Excellence are being held Tuesday March 5th 1-4pm and Wednesday March 6th 9 to noon.

Chair LaBella reported on the forums that were held last week. Attendance was not as strong as it was in the fall with only about 30-35 attending. Information from the forum will be passed on to Dr. Minor and the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion. Chair LaBella he would like to see conversation continue.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Chair Fessler reported that council has not met since the last report was submitted. They are scheduled to meet after the break. One of the potential topics of discussion is cross registration with other institutions in the region such as the Sage Colleges, Siena and Union Colleges. UPPC would like to begin the conversation with the Registrar.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Changes to Council and Standing Committee Memberships

Chair Gulatee reported that Senator Timothy Hoff is no longer with the University and the School of Public Health is attempting to find a replacement. CNSE Senator Bakhru has accepted the at-large seat that was vacated by Meredith Weiss. There was no debate and no vote was required on the changes.

Names Change for Department of Women's Studies (CAS/Women's Studies)

Chair Lyons said the bill was forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee. The bill proposes changing the department name to Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. The bill was reviewed by UPPC and after concluding there were no financial or academic issues, they forwarded it to the SEC for advancing to the Senate. Senator Earle asked why the change is appropriate. Senator Hobson from Women's Studies responded that the new name would be more comprehensive and reflect what the department does and what it teaches. She said it was also part of a trend in keeping up with similar departments at other universities. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bill. The bill was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 36; Opposed: 3; Abstained: 1

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder