

2008-2009 University Senate Executive Committee
March 23, 2009
John Delano, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Richard Collier, John Delano, Vince Delio, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Reed Hoyt, Laurence Kranich, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, George Philip, Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith

Guests: Diane Dewar, Vincent Idone, Wayne Locust, Benjamin Weaver

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of February 23, 2009 were approved with minor revisions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by GEORGE PHILIP

Interim President Philip reported that budget negotiations continued over the weekend with the Governor and State Assembly agreeing on issues related to SUNY. Some of the State representatives are holding out for the 50/50 split on the tuition increase. The University will have \$18 million less in funds next year, which the President noted, will be a significant loss of resources.

The President noted the following items and events:

- UB 20/20—The three other SUNY centers would like to have this amended to be included. If this cannot happen, then they may submit their own.
- A series of town hall meetings have been scheduled to discuss the budget. One has been scheduled with UPPC for Wednesday, March 25.
- Two candidates have withdrawn from the presidential search. The status of the third candidate is unknown at this time.
- The new SUNY Chancellor, Nancy Zimphor, is scheduled to visit the campus in July.
- Tech Valley High School will relocate to the East Campus beginning in the fall semester. The University is excited at the prospect of having highly motivated young people on campus.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – JOHN DELANO, CHAIR

March 20th meeting with Interim President and Provost: As agreed at the February 23rd meeting of the SEC, a group of SEC members met with Interim President Philip and Provost Phillips on Friday, March 20th, to discuss issues raised by GOV about an apparent pattern of conflict of interest by a member of the administration. The meeting lasted for ~75 minutes.

FYE Task Force: Several members (Diane Dewar, Wayne Locust, John Delano) of the Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Task Force met with the CAA, UAC, and UPPC to describe the basic components of the three FYE models that been developed by the Task Force. Those three models are resource-dependent (limited, intermediate, maximum), as requested by Provost Phillips during her charge to the Task Force. Important perspectives were provided members of those Councils that will be incorporated into the final FYE report, which will be widely distributed upon its completion.

March 13th meeting with Interim Provost Phillips and UUP representatives: On Friday, March 13th, a 2.5-hour meeting occurred to discuss the issue of TA support for graduate students that had been announced by Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse, at a GAC meeting on March 2nd. During the first hour, Provost Phillips provided the group with a ‘Tsunami 101’ report describing the financial challenges that the campus faces during the current and next fiscal years. The Provost’s report was illustrated with a 15-page handout of graphs and tables. Following thereafter, UUP representatives (UA Chapter President Candace Merbler and State UUP Vice President for Academics Frederick Floss) provided their views on faculty workload issues bearing on decreased support for graduate teaching assistants and enrollment thresholds in graduate courses. The subset of SEC members then decided to frame a document over the weekend that would be delivered to the Interim President and Provost providing its views on these issues. After many iterations conducted via e-mail over the weekend, that memo was completed and delivered by the Senate Chair to the offices of the President and Provost on Monday morning, March 16th.

UFS (UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATOR’S REPORT) – WILLIAM LANFORD, R. MICHAEL RANGE SUNY SENATORS

The Spring Plenary will be held the end of April.

GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) – NICHOLAS FAHRENKOP, LEAD SENATOR

Nothing to report. Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to gso@albany.edu. More information on GSO: <http://www.albany.edu/~gso>

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT--DAN TRUCHAN

No report.

MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to report.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

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

The Council met on March 11, 2009 and first reviewed and adopted the minutes from its February 25, 2009 meeting. It discussed and accepted the Program Review Committee’s report on the review of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies. This was followed by a presentation by Senate Chair John Delano and Vice Provost Wayne Locust of a draft report by the First-Year Experience Task Force: the document lays out different models of possible living-learning communities, and the presenters asked Council members for their views. There was considerable discussion of the alternatives, though CAA as a whole did not take a position on the proposals. Finally, there was a discussion, initiated by the CAA Chair, of the mandate of Council, with reference to both the Bylaws and other documents; Prof. Delano contributed his own perspective on these matters.

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

CAFFECOR will be sponsoring a forum on campus freedom of expression policies on **Thursday evening, April 16 at 7PM** in the Campus Center Assembly Hall. Format and panel members have yet to be finalized.

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

Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The Council on Research met on Wednesday, March 4th. Several guests were present including Kathryn Lowery, Vice President for Finance and Business who was invited to speak on the indirect cost return budget. VP Lowery presented detailed figures describing the use of indirect cost return funds for 2008-09 and discussed questions from the Council. VP Videka reported on several initiatives that are being considered; leadership change at the Center for Functional Genomics and the Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics; implementation of research activity for College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering; and notification of indirect cost return allocations to units (distribution will be according to the University’s policy this year).

The FRAP–A review committee reported that letters of award and refusal had been distributed to applicants along with comments on the proposals.

The subcommittee on centers and institutes will be meeting to consider two applications for new centers.

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

CPCA continues to dig into the backlog of tenure and promotion cases at a rate of about two per week.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC has nothing to report. We will meet next on March 30.

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

GOV met on March 16, 2009. The recently released BAG report was briefly discussed. The Council commends the Interim President, the Provost and the members of the BAG for their hard work under time pressure. The Council also advises the Interim President of the importance to continue to seek advice from various groups and constituencies on more specific actions in support of the general principles contained in the report. In response to questions raised at the 3/09/09 senate meeting, GOV reviewed two bullet items from the last summary report to the SEC (2/23/09) and the Senate (3/09/09). The second bullet in those reports contained incorrect information. The Council decided to replace that item with the following text.

- *A draft of the 2005 MSCHE Periodic Review Report was sent to the UAlbany Senate Executive Committee and to Faculty and Staff by Interim Provost Mumpower on May 05, 2005. As acknowledged in that message, the PRR was due on June 1, 2005. It is difficult to see how this very short time frame at the end of the semester would allow for the level of consultation called for by MSCHE guidelines. (“The preparation of a PRR, just like a self-study, should involve various campus constituencies including faculty, staff, administration, and the board of trustees. Prior to submitting the PRR to the Commission, representatives of these groups should have adequate opportunity to discuss and respond to the draft PRR.”) (<http://www.msche.org/publications/PRRhandbook08081114133252.pdf>)*

Furthermore, the Council agreed on the following revisions of the last bullet item in said reports.

- *The selection and appointment of the current chair of the MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee was done by the then Officer in Charge without any consultation with University at Albany elected governance bodies. The appointment was later confirmed by the Interim President. A co-chair was added after Senate Officers had raised the issue, referring to the MSCHE guidelines which include such co-chairs as an appropriate model, among others, for the Steering Committee.*

The Council finalized the proposed Charter Amendment concerning the creation of the **Initial Review Committee of Undergraduate Academic Proposals (IRCUP)**, which replaces a proposal first considered in Spring 2008. This amendment is on today’s agenda. The Council also reviewed its charge related to nominations and elections and will hold a special meeting on 3/23 to discuss relevant recommendations.

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

Nothing to report.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC met on March 10 and 17.

For information: UAC reviewed and approved all the curricular changes for the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and the related items in the Atmospheric Science major and minor. These changes will take effect in the fall of 2009. Students already in these majors may complete their existing programs. The council noted that the earlier curriculum included coursework in public policy and urged that students continue to be advised to study that field as well.

For information: UAC heard a preliminary report from representatives of the First Year Experience Task Force and made suggestions that will be considered by the full Task Force in the future.

Senate Vote needed: UAC received revised course proposals as necessary for the creation of an honors program in CRJ which had been approved subject to those changes, and will present that program as a bill at the next Senate meeting. UAC has been informed that all the course revisions have been made (600 classes made into 500 level for shared resources, etc.) and approved so everything is in place now other than the actual approval of the degree program.

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

ULC met on Wednesday, March 18. Result of a meeting was a vote by ULC members for a resolution, forwarded to the Executive Committee, recommending that the president assemble a taskforce to move UAlbany toward becoming a smoke-free campus by Fall 2011. ULC also discussed unfounded rumors of a pending closure of the swimming pool.

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

The UPPC met on Thursday, 19 March and approved the proposal to suspend admission to the MAPAP program. The proposal has already been approved by the GAC. The UPPC discussed the matter of graduate program adjustments

occasioned by the current budget crisis as outlined in the Special SEC Meeting of 13 March. Provost Phillips provided extensive material that repeated parts of her presentation to the 13 March SEC meeting but added a large amount of substantial information, which contextualized and expanded upon the data shared in the 13 March SEC meeting. Because of the urgency caused by various deadlines concerning budget allocations and projected expenditures the UPPC will revisit other items on its agenda at its next meeting.

Report on FYE Task Force:

FYE Co-Chairs Diane Dewar and Wayne Locust, and Benjamin Weaver provided an overview of the proposal completed by the task force. Diane Dewar explained that the task force was charged by Provost Phillips to develop three models that would improve the experience of freshman students. Ms. Dewar provided a brief description of each model which would expose students to different campus activities, get them involved, and assure a successful transition from high school to the University. The three models, Minimal, Intermediate and Maximum, are dependent on a given set of resources.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was some discussion and questions. GOV Chair Range requested termination of the discussion since SEC had not been briefed before the presentation and requested rescheduling of the discussion. Chair Delano said he would distribute the draft to SEC members. Ms. Dewar made a request for their feedback within a week.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to B.S. Environmental Science curriculum (UAC)

UAC Chair Joan Savitt informed SEC that this proposal would enhance the DEAS major and coincide with the new department name. UAC views these as changes to an existing major rather than a new major. Questions were posed as to whether or not Rockefeller College or the School of Public Health had any objections concerning removal of requirements. Associate Professor Vincent Idone, from the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, addressed the question. He explained that most of the courses were no longer offered but those departments had not been approached about the removal. He stated that he would follow up with the departments involved.

There was discussion as to whether SEC would move this to the Senate as a bill. It will be reported but not presented as a bill pending confirmation from the School of Public Health that they approve removal of courses.

IRCUAP Charter Amendment (GOV):

GOV Chair Michael Range discussed the amendment as a new version of IRCAP. The basis is to provide a reviewing mechanism for undergraduate courses that do not go through a school or college. Courses would be reviewed by IRCUAP before going to UAC. One of the main differences between this amendment and the IRCAP amendment is the elimination of graduate courses due to the recent passage of the amendment concerning graduate courses.

One of the concerns addressed on the Senate floor last year concerning IRCAP, was that it should not be a body of the Senate. The question now raised is where to place it appropriately for oversight. GOV proposes putting it in the Senate Charter, indentifying it as Section XI, and assigning responsibility to the Provost's Office. The Office of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education should also have awareness of proposals coming from IRCUAP.

The amendment includes an appeals process (Section XI.5) for proposals that have been denied by IRCUAP. The Committee on Mediation will review those appeals. GOV has also provided additional language to the Charter under UAC with a corresponding section to reference IRCUAP and the responsibilities charged to the Council once proposals have been approved by IRCUAP. SEC will decide if approval for this addition needs to be obtained from the full Senate. Once the IRCUAP amendment is approved by SEC, members were in agreement that it should then be forwarded to Sue Faerman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

In a discussion regarding the rationale, it was suggested that reference be made to Senate Bill 0708-25 for purposes of providing history on IRCAP. In Section XI.6, a friendly amendment was made to include language indicating that proposals for new programs will always go to the full Senate.

Smoking Resolution (ULC):

ULC Chair Dan Smith discussed the resolution which would make the campus smoke free beginning with the Fall 2011 term. UAlbany's current policy is outdated on many levels. ULC has engaged Human Resources, Facilities Management and union representatives in the discussion. ULC believes it will take some time to pull together but it is worth pursuing. A friendly amendment was made to have this submitted in the form of a bill which would require the president's signature. This would allow the creation of a task force and provide the momentum to achieve ULC's goal. This will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

Honors program in Criminal Justice program (UAC):

At the February SEC meeting, concerns were raised relating to juniors taking 600 level courses which would require permission of department chairs. UAC Chair Savitt informed SEC that this has been addressed and courses have been created and renumbered as shared resources. It now has all the approvals and courses. A motion was made, seconded and approved to move the bill forward to the full Senate.

Senate Elections:

Senate Secretary Richard Collier discussed attempts to have electronic voting made available for spring elections. He described different programs that have been discussed which may or may not be appropriate, and their readiness cannot be assured in time for the elections. GOV is aware that students are conducting elections electronically using MyUAlbany. This was discussed and it was decided that Chair Delano would explore this possibility by contacting the President's and IT offices to see if the Senate's request could be expedited.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder