

# **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES (draft)**

Meeting of the University Senate Executive Council, January 31st, 2011

As submitted to Tom Bessette, Secretary, University Senate

## **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Eric Lifshin, Chair**

N/A

## **UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators**

N/A

## **GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative**

Over the break the GSO added an additional computer, updated the programming systems and revamped the overall space for ease of use and to encourage both a study and community environment. A persistent problem is the carrying capacity of our printer since our volume has increased 150% since last year. We have already held two kick off events, one a meditation and art of living seminar and the other a dinner in the Patroon Room. We have also had to say goodbye to one of our Senators, Paulina Barrios, as she moves onto new exciting endeavors. We hope to fill her position as senator and seat on CPCA by the end of next week. Our first Assembly Meeting of the semester will be held on February 4 where we will be voting on the amendments proposed by the Executive Board regarding date and wording concerns in our Constitution and By-Laws. As for the rest of the semester there are exciting events such as Family Fun Day at Six Flags, GSO Mixer downtown, 2nd Kickball Tournament, a Graduate Student Forum, Salsa Lessons, and the continuance of the Graduate Student Brown Bag Series.

## **SA (Student Association) – Justin Wax Jacobs, President Student Association**

N/A

## **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Richard Matyi, Chair**

1. The CAA Academic Program Review Committee has completed its draft report on the 2010 self study and external review for the Africana Studies Department's undergraduate and graduate degree programs. A final version of the report is in preparation.

2. The CAA PRC has received the response from the Music Department regarding its external review of its self-study. Final review of Music by the PRC is in progress.

3. The CAA participated in the review of the Gen Ed Task Force held by the UAC Gen Ed Committee.

4. The CAA is currently working with Joel Bloom of IRPE on the distribution of the new Math Gen Ed form being distributed to the Math Department.

## **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**

After CERS met with University Counsel John Reilly in December and CERS Chair Monfasani met with Counsel Reilly in January, CERS was able to draft a final text that answered its concerns and those of the the University administration. CERS approved this text on January 18th and the explanation of the bill on January 21st.

**COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair**

Our January meeting of COR was canceled due to the snowstorm. We will meet again in Feb.

The only thing that can be mentioned is that the FRAP A subcommittee met and reviewed/ranked the submitted proposals. A final email vote will happen early next week and recommendations to the VPR will be made.

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

Several members have left CPCA due to retirements, sabbaticals, or for other reasons. This includes David Wills, Branca Arsic, Gary Yukl, and graduate student Paulina Berrios. We have added two new members including Glyne Griffith and Lee Bickmore. In addition Sandra Vergari comes back to the council this spring after being on sabbatical this past fall. We are in the process of evaluating the council membership and deciding if more members need to be added. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Feb 10th.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair**

GAC met on January 24 to continue its consideration of CAA program assessments. In addition, the Council was informed by the Dean of Graduate Studies that the graduate student support allocations for 2011-12 have been made. All programs have been adversely affected. The average budget cut across departments was 15%. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for February 11 at which time it will consider a proposal from the School of Education for a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Online Learning and Teaching.

**GOV (Governance Council) – Susanna Fessler, Chair**

GOV: Gov met for the first time this semester on January 27th. Our main order of business was reviewing the President's proposed slate of members of Budget Advisory Group 4. GOV approved 34 out of 43 members, and made suggestions for those member positions which it did not approve.

GOV also continues its work to follow up on Senate Resolution 0910-02. We are currently seeking one unit on campus which is willing to be a "pilot" group for the assessment process.

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

LISC met on Monday Dec. 13th. Amongst topics discussed were the new wiki space for "ITS campus community access" which includes matters of general interest along with strategic plan, resources in IT planning, teaching with technology and related external resources/articles. Blackboard survey data is available on the extent of use and the result of student attitudes and features they value the most. This survey will be posted on the wiki. It is also noteworthy that UAlbany's student newspaper, the ASP, is featured in the December 10, 2010 issue of the Scout Report

<http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/studentnewspapers.htm>

The next meeting of LISC is scheduled for Feb. 14th. One of the topics to be discussed is "cloud computing".

### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnn Malatesta, Chair**

UAC will convene on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over the break, UAC voted to approve a bill regarding changes to the Journalism major which has been forwarded to UPPC. The General Education Committee has met and is beginning to evaluate the General Education Task Force recommendation. While we are working to convert the recommendation into proposed legislation, we are awaiting additional feedback from the Senate, Schools, and Colleges. Two new members have joined UAC – Lana Cable and Ineke Murakami. They will be replacing Steve North and Laura Wilder respectively.

### **ULC (University Life Council) – Danielle Leonard, Chair**

ULC is now organizing its Spring 2011 schedule. Our first meeting will be the week of 2/7.

### **UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Jim Fossett, Chair**

Attention to two non-routine items

1. Budget consultation process—Conferring with GOV over membership of new BAG; BAG charter from President and nature of consultation process. UPPC membership will be included more or less in entirety on BAG; unclear at this point what precise request from President will look like and how entire process will work. Earlier BAGs have offered macro advice centering around need to avoid further across the board cuts and focus on strategic cuts which protect strong departments. BAG III didn't address department finances or how to define strong departments or identify those which are mission critical. Unclear how much more detail will be requested from BAG IV—criteria for further retrenchments in more detail or actually identifying departments which should be at risk or how far process will extend—offering advice to President on how should do it and/or reacting to Presidential decisions when those are actually made.

There is also some concern about how to lay out parameters of 11-12 budget choices for Senate and larger university community. There is a lot of misinformation and confusion about such issues as the status of CNSE, the fungibility of non-state funds in the university's all-funds budget; potential savings from athletics, and a variety of other issues, and someone needs to take responsibility for providing accurate information about how much free money there really is. The question is whether that someone is us or the administration.

2. Facilities management plan—An upcoming issue along these same lines is the university's facilities management plan, which goes into public comment phase on February 9. There doesn't seem to be any clear precedent for governance to weigh-in on this sort of process, which happened last in 1997. There is also the potential for complaints from the faculty and the media that the university can't be very poor if they can contemplate spending lots of money on capital while laying off faculty members. We have asked for an informational briefing from John DiRusso, who's the UAlbany point on this process, on the entire process and particularly the financing of new/renovated buildings. My understanding is that most of the capital financing comes from the SUNY system, and we save no money by not doing it, although we do assume financial responsibility for maintenance and the like once the buildings are in place.