

2014-2015 University Senate

**Monday, September 29, 2014
2:45 pm, Assembly Hall**

Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ROBERT J. JONES

President Jones thanked and greeted everyone. His remarks focused on the current status of the Albany Law affiliation plans. The objective is to investigate opportunities for closer affiliation from a financial, governance, academic, and operational perspective. President Jones noted that both the Board of Trustees of Albany Law School and UAlbany's University Council have signaled their agreement to go forward with discussions. The ongoing conversations are designed to develop a proposal for a plan to achieve a deep affiliation.

President Jones noted that these discussions are part of the 'game changing' efforts in which the university is currently involved which also include the development of other new academic offerings such as a Computer Engineering program. Altogether, these objectives will set the university on a path more aligned with our core mission and our structure as a research institution.

In the question and answer period, the President responded that the administration plans to be very transparent and encourages an engaged dialogue regarding this opportunity. He highlighted that Michigan State Law School serves as a successful model of a state institution affiliating with a private law school. President Jones explained that Sue Phillips, in her role as Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, would be working to identify academic areas to help achieve this synergy and make the process more seamless with Albany Law and with Downstate Medical, another institution with which UAlbany is pursuing a similar deep affiliation.