

2011-2012 University Senate

**Monday, May 14, 2012  
2:45 pm, Alumni House**

Susanna Fessler, Chair

### **Minutes**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, Hassaram Bakhru, Robert Bangert-Drowns, Bryant Barksdale, Steve Beditz, Lee Bickmore, Pedro Cabán, James Castracane, Bruce Dieffenbach, Peter Duchessi, Diana Dumesnil, Sue Faerman, Susanna Fessler, Cynthia Fox, Jennifer Greiman, Timothy Groves, Yenisel Gulatee, Jean Guyon, Janell Hobson, Michael Jaromin, Richard Johnson, Jane Kadish, Donald Keenan, Daniel Keyser, Alice Krause, William Lanford, Danielle Leonard, David Lewis, Eric Lifshin, Andi Lyons, JoAnne Malatesta, Adrian Masters, Candace Merbler, Carla Meskill, Robert Miller, John Murphy, Toni Naccarato, Nancy Newman, Heidi Nicholls, Gregory Nowell, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Lawrence Raffalovich, John Schmidt, Charles Scholes, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Benjamin Shaw, Leonard Slade, Jr., Lorre Smith, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Tim Stephen, Christine Wagner, Daniel White, Kevin Williams, David Wills

**Guests:** Jon Bartow, Sami Boukai, Ray Bromley, Angelica Clarke, José Cruz, Virginia Eubanks, Sue Freed, Elana Gordis, Carolyn MacDonald, Tamra Minor, Aran Mull, Michael Range, Catherine Rojas, Joan Savitt, Caro Beth Stewart, Sandra Vergari, Kathie Winchester, Mark Wolfe

The meeting convened at 2:47 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of April 30 were approved with the following voting results: Approved: 35; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 4.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT—GEORGE PHILIP**

President Philip thanked Chair Fessler for the terrific job she has done as chair of the Senate. He said she was a staunch supporter and advocate of the Senate. Chair Fessler received a round of applause from her Senate colleagues.

President Philip delivered the following report:

- President Obama visited the Nanoscale College last week. It was a great opportunity for the University to showcase its achievements. President Obama referred to UAlbany as a model for the rest of the country. The event was covered by 1,000 media outlets.
- The University hosted a symposium with Craig Hatkoff, co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival. The event launched Upstate NY Screens, an initiative to spur economic development in the area.
- Vice President for Research James Dias hosted the twelfth annual research colloquium. Presenters included Professor Sanjay Goel, School of Business; Professor Marina Petrukhina, Department of Chemistry;

Professor Richard Perez and Assistant Professor Paul Roundy, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.

- The Center for Women in Government has partnered with the State Department to advocate for retention of Ugandan women in public service. The initiative has received support from Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.
- The Center for Technology in Government is partnering with the NYS Office of Cyber Security to support efforts to ensure broadband capability. Information will be gathered from anchor institutions such as libraries and hospitals. The effort is funded by the Recovery Act of 2009.
- Two UAlbany students were selected for the University of California Berkeley's prestigious 2012 Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute Fellowship. The students, both juniors, are Kalima Johnson and Amaury Muñoz.
- President Philip extended congratulations to Hassaram Bakhru and Dolores Cimini. Professor Bakhru was named a Distinguished Service Professor by Chancellor Zimpher and the SUNY Board of Trustees. Dr. Cimini was recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change for her efforts in promoting access to STEM for students with disabilities.
- The President also congratulated the Women's Lacrosse team who made it to the first round of the NCAA tournament. The team finished 12-6 for the season. He congratulated the men's and women's track teams for their successful season as well.
- The 168<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremonies will be held May 19 and 20. Thomas Constantine and Judge Judith Sheindlin will be the guest speakers at the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies respectively.

#### **SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – SUSANNA FESSLER**

- May 14<sup>th</sup> marks the final regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the 2011-12 academic year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Senate—Senators, council members, committee members, and support staff. Governance works best when we come together and work as a team toward the betterment of the institution. I feel we have accomplished this goal, and I am grateful for all the help that you have provided along the way.
- The Senate year officially ends on August 31. Although it is unlikely, it is possible that some Senate business will come up over the summer. Therefore, I do ask that you read through Senate e-mails on the off chance that your input is requested or required.
- Updates on the Presidential Search will continue to be posted throughout the summer at <http://www.albany.edu/presidentialsearch/>

*Chair Fessler thanked everyone for their Senate service during the year and appreciation for the time devoted to Senate activities. The Senate year ends on August 31 and she urged Senate members to check their email over the summer for updates on continuing Senate activities. Chair Fessler welcomed new senators who were able to attend today. Chair Fessler referred to the presidential search and said updates are being posted regularly to the website.*

#### **OTHER REPORTS**

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

The SUNY Senators attended the SUNY Spring Plenary at SUNY Geneseo on April 19, 20, and 21st 2012. There was one resolution considered and passed at the plenary to direct the Programs and Awards Committee of the Senate to develop guidelines and criteria for a Chancellor's Award in Shared Governance. The resolution is entitled "Resolution for a new Chancellor's Award in Shared Governance". This follows the remarks made by the Chancellor to the UFS Plenary meeting in April 2011, expressing her support for shared Governance in the University and subsequently asking UFS and Awards Committee to work on a plan to enhance shared governance.

As part of UFS President report, Ken O'Brian updated the Senate on budget and that work is underway to produce a clearer, simpler distribution formula for state support. The final elements of a new plan have NOT yet been set but it is expected that recommendations will be ready for campus vetting later this spring or early summer, and then to the Chancellor's Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. However, there will not be any changes in the campus distribution for based state support for 2012-2013 cycle. Updates on Student Mobility was given, indicating progress is being made but we are a long way from approving a blanket transfer of "all SUNY AA/AS degrees". On General Education, a Provost Advisory Committee on Student Mobility has been formed with well representation

from UFS and FCCC (Community Colleges) to support the Provost's office collection and evaluation of information needed to better understand the current state of SUNY GER across the systems and its impact on student mobility.

A full report will be submitted to UAlbany Senate upon availability of the related documents.

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

*Ms. Nicholls reported that her presidency would end in two weeks at which time Thomas Devlin will assume responsibilities. Students are showing interest in becoming senators. A transition meeting was held this week and students are being referred to Mr. Devlin. At the last assembly meeting, the constitutional committee decided to table changes until next year.*

**SA (Student Association) – Bryant Barksdale, Student Association President Designee**

Nothing to report.

**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

At its last meeting the CAA approved the GEAC's report on the reviews of the Gen Ed disciplinary areas of Global, Regions beyond Europe and Europe.

We also approved the attached proposal to proposal to support the idea of making Student Learning Objectives available on department web sites.

At our meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May the CAA approved a report of the PRC on the program review of the Economics Department.

**CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Aran Mull, Chair**

Nothing to report.

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

CERS is still hoping to bring policy bill to the Senate.

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

The Council on Research met for its final session on April 26<sup>th</sup> and discussed several topics.

VPR Dias gave an update on the Research activity of the University.

The Benevolent Award sub-Committee offered modifications to the eligibility criteria.

The Conference/Journal Report sub-Committee recommended two submissions for award and also, discussed a change in the wording of the registration fee requirements.

The Researcher's Liaison Committee presented the text for the Early Career Achievement Award and is finalizing the document for submission to the VPR.

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair**

CPCA has now completed the review of 26 cases this year. Three additional cases will be reviewed at the next meeting on April 27, 2012. *Chair Wagner reported the Council's last meeting will be held on July 25.*

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair**

The GAC met on Friday, May 4. The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction reported that it had approved two proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences. They are (1) Revision of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, and separately, (2) Changes to the requirements for the Ph.D. program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. The full GAC voted to approve both proposals. Separately, the GAC voted to approve a review of the most recent self-study, external review, and assessment of the School of Criminal Justice. *Chair Groves added that approval of the revisions of the MA in Liberal Studies is final by terms of the Senate Charter.*

**GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair**

The Governance Council last met on May 7. A Doodle Poll was sent out to the members of the committee charged with addressing Resolution 1112-05R, Resolution to Determine Offerings in European Languages & Classical Studies in Accordance with UAlbany's

Mission and Strategic Plan. The initial meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 11. The rest of the GOV meeting was devoted to discussion of the final report addressing Resolution 1112-03R, Resolution to Investigate Violations of Governance Procedures in the Matter of the 2010 Program Deactivations. GOV is working toward submission of the final report to the Senate by Friday, May 11. *Chair Lyons said consensus on the report for Resolution 1112-03R was not reached by the May 11 deadline and the report was sent today.*

### **LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair**

LISC's April 30 meeting focused on revisions "Responsible Use of IT" Policy, which is nearly ready to be brought before the Senate. Concerns were raised regarding University Counsel's emendations to sections on privacy and authority, and it was agreed that a discussion with Counsel John Reilly is needed. The IT Committee attempted to meet quickly, but Counsel's schedule did not permit a meeting before the SEC deadline for new bills. Finalizing the Policy remains high on LISC's agenda. The Library Committee reported that the University Library is about to undertake a review of departmental allocations. Mary Van Ullen, Associate Director for Collections, asked that LISC advise on this process.

*Chair Newman reported the council is scheduled to meet with University Counsel, John Reilly on May 15.*

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

UAC approved the following proposals and is forwarding them on to the SEC for review and Senate for final action:

- Proposed creation of a Urban Studies and Planning Major
- Proposed changes to the Women's Studies Major
- Proposed creation of a Globalization Studies minor
- Proposed creation of a BioCHM Honors Track
- Proposed creation of a Journalism cognate in the INF minor.

Additionally, UAC has reviewed and approved the following changes and shares the summary of approved changes below:

- The Chemistry/Bio combined major/minor proposes to add a laboratory class to the curriculum requirements which will bring the total to 71 credits for the program. The extra credits are necessary for accreditation. UAC approved addition of the course and credits.
- Proposed changes to the FMR program. In the major and minor, the proposal adds ICSI 105 as an alternative for ICSI 201. The director has provided thoughtful rationale why CSI 105 will better serve the students. UAC approved the additional option.
- Proposed changes to the Atmospheric Science BS including, moving the requirements for completion to of ATM410 and 411 to junior year to better prepare students for advanced elective courses in the senior year. Additionally, they are proposing to revise ATM315 to an Environmental Statistics course. Finally, it is proposed that ATM 350 become a two-credit co-taught course. A second period devoted to lab time to work on assigned coursework under the guidance of the instructors will be introduced. In addition, a final presentation using the tools learned in the course will be required. This will add one credit to the Atmospheric Science B.S., bringing it to 66 total credits. UAC approved these changes.
- Environmental Science BS requests the following changes to the major degree requirements. First, as above, that ATM315 (Environmental Statistics) replace ENV105 in the core curriculum to increase the level of rigor in the program and provide additional statistical training to ENV students. The second proposed change is to include ATM301 as a required course within the Climate Concentration of the major to replace GOG304. The third change proposed is to replace ABIO 230 (People and Resources in Ecological Perspective), with ABIO 212Y (Genetics). ABIO 212Y is a prerequisite for almost all upper level BIO courses and students therefore need to take this course to enroll in upper level requirements. Not listing this course as required was an oversight by the department. In addition they propose to include ABIO 320 (Ecology) as a required course but relax the requirements for the electives, by allowing students to fulfill the remaining 9 elective credits from any BIO course that is equal to BIO 218 or higher. UAC approved these changes.

*Chair Malatesta referred to the five proposals to be presented for discussion today. She also referred to three other proposals that have been included in her report instead of being brought to the Senate for a full vote. Chair Malatesta said she hoped to have a formalized process in place for next year that would allow bills with minor revisions to be reported out to the Senate. Those with substantial changes would be presented to the Senate through the established process. She hopes this will streamline the entire process for both the Senate and UAC. Senator Lanford asked that a discussion take place if there were objections to a proposal in the UAC Chair's report since final authority resides with the Senate. Chair Malatesta said that bills would be circulated in their entirety as well as being reported to make all information available. If the Senate feels a discussion is warranted the reported bill would be moved to an action item. Chair Fessler said the SEC has been discussing this throughout the year and hopes to have an articulated threshold as a measurement for the upcoming year.*

### **ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair**

ULC met on April 26<sup>th</sup>. We discussed and worked on populating the Campus Smoking Policy Task Force. Also, ULC received a memo from President Philip acknowledging the importance of Resolution #0506-05 (Resolution to Create a University at Albany Family Leave Policy) and encouraging further discussion on the implementation of such policy.

*Chair Gulatee reported that the council will finalize the smoking task force by email.*

### **UPPC –Eric Lifshin, Chair**

*Chair Lifshin reported that the council met on May 11 and discussed the academic calendar for the coming year. A number of guests were present for the discussion including the University Registrar. No conclusions were reached but the current Senate chair will address the issue next year as there are a number of concerns related to holidays. No vote was taken due to a loss of quorum.*

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Senate Bill 1112-22 Policy & Procedures on Misconduct in Research & Scholarship**

CERS Chair MacDonald began by discussing changes to the policy developed by CERS in 2006. The document was almost finalized last spring but the administration requested some changes. President Philip has agreed to sign the policy being presented today. It has been suggested that the new language be rejected but the existing policy has flaws. Attempts have been made to correct those flaws but with federal policies changing periodically, UAlbany needs to be in compliance with them.

One of the issues defined in the existing policy is that the complainant would be bound to confidentiality long after the process has been completed even if conclusion found no evidence of misconduct. While the complainant has a right to access their testimony, the administration felt that the authority to distribute those documents should reside with the president.

The controversial point in the new policy has been about the ability of the CERS chair to initiate an inquiry as was the case in previous versions of the policy. The administration felt the decision should come from a university officer since an inquiry could lead to a potential lawsuit and could have consequences of a financial nature. Chair MacDonald felt this change accomplished a sense of openness as well as allowing the process to go forward. She said the SEC has given its endorsement of the policy. There were comments on the bill and it was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 43; Opposed: 3; Abstained: 6

Chair Fessler thanked Chair MacDonald for dedication to seeing the policy revision through to its final approval.

### **Amendment to Senate Bill 1112-15 (Senator Greiman)**

Senator Greiman introduced the amendment and read the following statement:

This may seem like very old business, but to explain: the motion that is carried over from the April 30<sup>th</sup> agenda was one which I had originally intended to introduce to amend Senate Bill 1112-15 during our debate at the March meeting. (I did not have a chance to speak at that meeting and the last meeting ran over...) Still, the general education revisions are by no means “old” business; they are still very much a present concern on this campus, as the report from the SA at the last meeting suggested. My motion is to amend the previously adopted bill to restore the requirement in U.S. Diversity and Pluralism, as it is currently written, as a general education requirement at UAlbany. As I understand this, a motion to amend something previously adopted can apply to any bill or resolution which has continuing force.

Briefly, I’ll give my reasons. First off, I appreciate the amount of time, labor, and attention that the UAC and the general education subcommittee have put into responding to the SUNY Board of Trustees January 2010 memorandum. And, in the weeks since the proposed changes came before the senate, I have listened very carefully to the rationale that the committee members have articulated for the changes. I want to be

clear that I understand the argument that removing US Diversity and Pluralism as a requirement does not necessarily equate to the removal of courses in diversity and pluralism from the curriculum, nor does it mean that courses that have met the old requirement will no longer receive gen ed credit. All of which is to say that I understand that the short-term consequences of these changes to the teaching of diversity at UAlbany may well be difficult to discern. My concern is for the long-term consequences — specifically that the changes remove longstanding and vital structural support for the teaching of diversity and pluralism, and that the loss of that support will negatively impact both the curriculum as whole and the ways in which individual courses addressing diversity are taught.

First, on the curricular consequences: General education requirements shape curricula. If we find ourselves in the fortunate position right now where U.S. Diversity and Pluralism courses are being taught across so many different disciplines, that is largely due to the fact that that University has long defined diversity and pluralism as one of the “knowledge areas, perspectives, and competencies considered ... central to the intellectual development of every undergraduate.” To change Diversity and Pluralism from a “knowledge area” to one example among many possible approaches to the study of “Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> C” (even if it is considered the first example among many) is to reduce its curricular importance. The effects of this change may indeed be minimal at first, but 5 or 10 years from now – when faculty and courses change, when entirely different people are staffing the gen ed committee – the curricular effects could be profound.

Second, on the effects to courses: Changing diversity and pluralism from a discrete knowledge area to an example of one area of “challenge” reduces the rigor with which US diversity and pluralism courses have long been defined, and it risks reducing the rigor with which they will be taught. The learning objectives for the current US Diversity and Pluralism requirement are quite thorough, providing clear definitions of both diversity and pluralism, and offering specific goals for courses and students to achieve. Specifically, diversity and pluralism are themselves given definition and content in the current requirement: they are understood to include “race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as class, sexual orientation, and/or religion.” Beyond that, the current learning objectives provide explicit guidelines for how to approach the teaching of diversity and pluralism, including the specific forms of knowledge such courses should produce. Students must come to know and understand: 1) “the social and cultural influences that shape the perspectives of various social groups”; 2) “the contributions of various social groups to U.S. society”; 3) “the sources and manifestations of controversy or conflict arising from U.S. diversity and pluralism.”

None of this language appears in the learning objectives for Challenges for the Twenty-First Century. To be sure, as currently written, those learning objectives mention “cultural diversity and pluralism” as first in a series of examples, which does suggest a sense of its importance. However, nowhere in either the description of the new requirement or its learning objectives are diversity and pluralism defined or given content, and even the structuring focus on the “U.S.” has been removed. These are significant omissions. Diversity and pluralism are not self-evident terms or concepts. To leave them open for individual courses or instructors to define risks a loss of intellectual content. Further, the learning objectives for the Challenges requirement provide no specific guidelines for how the teaching of diversity may differ from the teaching of other areas of challenge, like “science and technology.” Again, the clarity, specificity, and rigor with which the current requirements treat diversity and pluralism are reduced if not lost altogether.

Finally, it has been asserted that that value and ideal of diversity should be integrated into the study of every discipline taught at the University, and I certainly applaud that goal. However, we are scholars and educators, and so we deal in knowledges and competencies, as well as in ideals and values. To lose the careful definitions and explicit methodological guidelines, which frame the study of diversity and pluralism as a knowledge area and competency is to lose the intellectual content and academic integrity that must be part of how such complex issues are taught. And while we may now trust fully those colleagues who are currently staffing the general education committee to maintain the rigor and integrity of these courses, I don’t believe that any one of them has agreed to a lifetime appointment on that committee. New people

will take over the evaluation and approval of courses, and the only way to ensure continuity is to provide clear and rigorous definitions for what we mean when we say we value diversity and pluralism as a knowledge – above and beyond its status as one challenge area among many.

UFS Senator Shahedipour-Sandvik asked why this was not seen as a short term problem. Senator Greiman said there were concerns about the change of Diversity and Pluralism from a knowledge area to Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century where its curricular importance could be minimized. She added that the change may not be significant at first but had concerns for 5-10 years from now when a different committee would review GER without explicit guidelines in place.

Senator Hobson asked for a clarification and wanted to know if the amendment would add three credits bringing the total GER credits up to 33. Senator Greiman said that was correct. Senator Shahedipour-Sandvik asked for clarification about why the existing GE courses would not be able to count toward Diversity and Pluralism. Senator Greiman said the SUNY requirement was for a minimum of credits but there was no language to address a maximum number and she did not see a problem with going over the 30 credits. UAC Chair Malatesta referred to discussions the council had regarding the number of credits. They settled on 30 credits as they were looking for a way to streamline general education to allow students to complete their degrees systematically and to address concerns for transfer student to graduate on time. Currently, there are incidents where students have to take additional semesters to complete the GER. She added that this would provide a more seamless transfer for students from community colleges who are moving in the same direction for their curriculum. While she understood the reasoning behind Senator Greiman's amendment, UAC was not in support of it since any student who takes diversity and pluralism courses would be completing the requirements for Challenges, rendering the Challenges irrelevant. Senator Greiman asked if it would be feasible to redefine Challenges. Chair Malatesta said the given the amount of time UAC gave to defining Challenges, it would be unfair to bring it to the Senate floor and felt it would undermine the process.

Senator Fogarty said the 30 credits was not intended to be a maximum but is a minimum. The Challenges requirement predates the current GER and was initiated by the general education task force. The idea was to create a category that could embrace a broader array of topics than U.S. history and culture and diversity and pluralism (USDP). He referred to courses on health disparities in minorities, an active research topic on campus, as one area where courses from Challenges would apply. He did not envision those requirements being met by USDP which is more narrowly focused. He recognized that USDP is separate but at the same time was not convinced that Challenges was too vague that it would diminish the relevance of USDP. Senator Greiman said there appears to be important value to restoring USDP and would like to see it accommodated as a separate requirement.

Senator Cabán said the debate raises the issue of the quality and content of a UAlbany education which appears to be getting students through the process as soon as possible. He said there should be no assumption that diversity and pluralism deals only with women and minorities but historically includes disadvantaged people and this is an important element of the debate. Senator Greiman raises the point that diversity is a field of study with a certain body of knowledge and there is no doubt that it is an academic field of study. Senator Cabán said eliminating diversity and pluralism would imply that the field of study does not need validation and believes that would be contrary to the cutting issues of Challenges. Senator Cabán concluded that diversity and pluralism should be validated as an academic field within our curriculum. He said that the new general education policy relegates the struggles since the 1960's to a minor category.

Secretary Leonard had concerns about adding three credits to the GER which could delay students' graduation. With the increasing of cost of education this could make UAlbany less attractive among other SUNY centers and asked what their requirements are. Chair Malatesta said they are going through the same process of revising their GERs. Senator Fogarty said the US history requirements are set by SUNY but we need to decide what's right for this campus instead of being modeled against what is being decided elsewhere. Senator Greiman said that SUNY Buffalo had set their requirements at 39 credits. Chair Malatesta added that SUNY Binghamton is offering courses that are four credits each so we need to use caution when making comparisons.

A Senator expressed concerns about the university's reputation by excluding diversity and moving to technical training as a new model.

GOV Chair Lyons expressed her concerns about continuing to add to the GE bill and the effects on marketing to transfer students. Bringing transfers in has been an ongoing difficulty and it becomes a cost issue for students in the lower socio-economic level. She referred to the model that the general education committee was able to develop addressing issues that will allow students to graduate in a timely manner. If there are problems, the issues can be revisited but attempting to make a piecemeal fix at this point would be problematic.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Sue Faerman talked about the required number of credits which, currently is 30 in a wide array of categories and that number has been consistent over the years.

There was no further discussion and Chair Fessler restated the motion to have U.S Diversity and Pluralism added to the GER as a SUNY flex category. Senator Fogarty clarified that Diversity and Pluralism cannot be a SUNY flex category but rather, if added to the GER, would be a local requirement. Senator Greiman was satisfied with it being a local requirement. Chair Fessler restated the motion to add U.S. Diversity and Pluralism to the UAlbany GER as a local requirement of three credits increasing the number of required credits to 33. The motion was seconded but defeated with the following voting results: Approved: 17; Opposed: 31; Abstained: 5

### **Update on Council Membership for 2012-13:**

Secretary Leonard announced one change in the membership which would move Senator Weiss from LISC to COR. The change was proposed in response to a clerical error that erroneously placed Senator Weiss on LISC when it had not been one of her original council choices. There was no discussion concerning the change which was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 52; Opposed: 1; Abstained: 0

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Amendment to Senate Bill 1112-15 (Senator Pedro Cabán)**

Senator Cabán introduced the amendment in which he proposes changing the language of the International Perspectives component of the general education bill. The bill currently reads as follows:

2. **OR** knowledge and understanding of the history and/or culture of regions beyond Europe, through:
  - a. Knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of one region beyond Europe or European North America.

Professor Cabán has proposed the following change:

2. **OR** knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of one African, Asian or Latin American/Caribbean nation or region (collectively known as the Global South) through:
  - a. Knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of a nation or region in the Global South.

Senator Cabán discussed the amendment with the Senate Executive Committee. Two recommendations resulted from that conversation and they appear at the end of the rationale in the amendment. He said the amendment does not alter the learning objectives of "International Perspectives" or the credit hours students would be required to satisfy the category, and it would not be a mandate for students to take the courses. He added that it was consistent with the SUNY Board of Trustees' resolution.

Senator Cabán discussed the major reasons for his amendment. The Global South is substantively accurate where Beyond Europe lacks specificity. The term Global South also enjoys academic currency and is powerfully in accord with the UAlbany's World Within Reach motto. Senator Cabán noted that the federal government has



assigned ambitious initiatives in Global South areas and has plans to implement an exchange program for students to study in those regions. A discussion concerning the amendment ensued.

Senator Nowell commented that as the amendment is written, it would be difficult to include the Arabian Peninsula region. Senate Cabán said the amendment provides inclusion of that particular area and referred to item 3 under the section International Perspectives in the General Education bill which states “**OR** knowledge and understanding of cultures and traditions of any region, nation, or society outside the United States”. He added that identifying the regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America would not preclude studying other Beyond Europe regions. Senator Nowell said he was on the general education assessment committee and he had concerns that the amendment was not inclusive enough. Senator Cabán said it provided specificity to those areas. Senator Lanford said the term global south was confusing and asked why the amendment was coming from Senator Cabán instead of UAC. He said it would normally be discussed in a council first. He then asked if the amendment had been proposed to UAC and if not he proposed referring it to UAC for further development. UAC Chair Malatesta said it was not brought to UAC but was brought directly through the SEC and discussed with the idea of being able to move it forward since we were so close to the end of the semester. Senator Lanford moved that the amendment be forwarded to UAC for consideration.

At this point, Chair Fessler asked for a motion to extend the meeting for an additional thirty minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and extension of the meeting was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 38; Opposed: 12; Abstained: 1

Chair Fessler restated Senator Lanford’s motion to send Senator Cabán’s amendment to UAC. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 36; Opposed: 15; Abstained: 0

## **SENATE BILLS FROM UAC**

The following bills were introduced by UAC Chair Malatesta:

### **1112-10 Creation of Urban Studies & Planning Major**

The proposal would allow the department to make this an official major. There was no discussion concerning the bill which was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 47; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1

### **1112-24 Creation of Globalization Studies Minor**

The proposal is from the Department of Geography and Planning for a minor with a minimum of 18 credits. There was no discussion concerning the bill which was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 46; Opposed: 1; Abstained: 0

### **1112-25 Changes to Chemistry Honors BS Program**

The proposal calls for the addition of a Chemistry Biology track. The track is distinct enough for it to be offered at the honors level. There was no discussion concerning the bill which was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 46; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0

### **1112-27 Creation of Journalism Cognate in INF Minor**

Journalism is the most recent addition to the INF minor sequence. The syllabi includes the courses which will have sufficient seats for minors. There was no discussion concerning the bill which was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 38; Opposed: 4; Abstained: 2

### **1112-29 Revision to Major in Women’s Studies**

The bill has a number of provisions in the major including a new introductory course to core requirements. The proposal includes an internship and an additional 21 credits of electives. Sue Faerman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education said certain steps will have to be completed with SUNY Administration in order to make this a full department degree. She said she expected the process to take about a year. The bill was approved with the following voting results: Approved: 40; Opposed: 3; Abstained: 1

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Gail Cameron, Recorder