

2015-2016 University Senate

**Monday, October 19, 2015
2:45 pm, Assembly Hall**

Cynthia Fox, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Abreu, Felix; Adams, Marcus; Alford, Julia; Almahamid, Ilham; Atrey, Pradeep K; Beach, Bob L; Brandon, Peter; Burke, Gerald T; Charles, Tiffany K; Collins, James P; Curtis, Henry W; Earle, Keith; Fabris, Daniel; Fessler, Susanna; Fox, Cynthia A; Gonzalez, Maria; Gulatee, Yenisel; Isralowitz, Joshua; Jahanbani, Nakissa P; Jaromin, Michael R; Jemmott, Jarius I; Jerison, Michael; Kearney, Ann C; Kiorpes, Karen E; Kressner, Ilka; Kuznetsov, Igor; LaFond, Deborah M; Levit, Rachel; Little, Walter; Londono, Johana; Mamorella, David; Manjak, Martin; Martinez, Maritza; McDowall, David; McKenna, Holly J; Mitchell, Rachel; Moore, Chris S; Mower, James; Pageau, Hanna Marie; Pande, Jayanti; Pastore, Christopher; Petry, Greta J; Prelow, Hazel M; Pyles, Loretta; Roberts, Nancy; Rosenswig, Robert M; Scheck, Helene E; Schmidt, John T; Slade Jr, Leonard A; Stefl-Mabry, Joette M; Webb, Raymond J

Ex Officio Administrators

Chen, Fan Pen; Stellar, James; Williams, Kevin; Wulfert, Edelgard

Guests: Wirkkula, Leanne; Murray, Ann Marie; Bartow, Jon; Chesin, Sorrell; Winchester, Kathie; Forsythe, Celine; Tsao, Sunny; Janiszewski, Caitlin; Caban, Pedro; Hedberg, William B; Luntta, Karl

The meeting convened at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 28, 2015 were approved with minor changes and the following voting results:
Approved 29 (94%), Opposed 0, Abstained 2 (6%)

PROVOST'S REPORT – JAMES R. STELLAR

Thanks to all those who provided feedback on the SUNY Excel Performance narrative that we've been working on. It goes in on Wednesday, and this satisfies all the things that SUNY requested we do, starting with the 14 2-page Performance Improvement Plans which were due on the 28th of August. It was unfortunate timing in some sense, since many of us were away. Of the 14 proposals, the 11 requested as 15-page full proposals have been submitted. They total \$24 million of the \$100 million that SUNY has set aside. I am proud of us, Provost Stellar stressed, for being aggressive about going after SUNY money for the University at Albany.

The second half of that was the plan by which SUNY will judge our work, which goes out in 2020. The most interesting element of that is that we, as the President announced in his State of the University Address last spring, plan to grow in size. The number we said we would try to be at by 2020 was about 20,000 students. Our hope is that this growth will support the new initiatives of Emergency Planning, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity and in Engineering and Applied Sciences. Simply put, we think

the tuition from the new students will pay for the new faculty so that the University will not have a weakening of the student-faculty ratio, but will rather be strengthened through the expansion. We hope to take advantage of certain efficiencies. For instance, we do not need a new Registrar's Office, though we might need a bit more staff, so that we will have some resources left over to do the things that we want to do including supporting these programs and hiring new faculty.

I do really like these conversations, Provost Stellar added, as I still consider myself “newish,” and many of you are educating me here and in my departmental visits which have started. Thank you for doing that.

Provost Stellar then addressed questions.

Q) When can we expect the report on the contingent faculty?

A) In the Executive Committee meeting today, we discussed the graduate student stipend report, which will likely be released first. The contingent faculty report was delayed in its delivery to the President in order that Bill Hedberg could incorporate the advice of good writers in the committee into the report. We expect that will be out in a short period of time.

Q) Regarding the 11 proposals that went in to SUNY, what is the next step, and when will we hear back from them?

A) We are hoping to hear by the end of the year or in January. It is anticipated the Chancellor will use some of the proposals as leverage in respect to funding requests to the legislature.

Q) Our goal is to reach approximately 20,000 students. If, optimistically, most of our 11 proposals are funded, will that assist us with that goal? If not, how else are we to reach it?

A) The idea is that we would first use the monies for these academic programs to meet the needs of the students and faculty. I think we can not only keep up with the demand, but we can do better so that we can both get better numbers and also strengthen the faculty. For example, one of the investments we made was in the UAlbany Advantage program to improve the freshman to sophomore conversion rates. If we could get from our current approximately 80.7% up to 90%, we could have \$6 million right there just from the additional students without having to go through any grant process. My guess, Provost Stellar approximated, is that half of that money would go towards hiring new faculty.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT – Cynthia Fox, Chair

1. Informational

- SEC met on October 5. The major item on the agenda was a discussion of the 11 proposals submitted for the SUNY Expanded Investment & Performance Fund. Several smaller items of business were referred to the Governance Council for consideration.
- Written feedback on the SUNY Expanded Investment Proposals that was provided by UAC and by CAFFECOR were forwarded to Provost Stellar.
- On October 8, Chair Fox, Vice Chair Collins and Past Chair Stefl-Mabry received a request for Senate comments and feedback on SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) DRAFT documents . Comments are due by October 19.

- The next monthly meeting of Chair Fox, Vice Chair Collins and Past Chair Stefl-Mabry with Provost Stellar and Chief of Staff Wirkkula is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13.

2. Actions Taken

- GOV has been charged with updating the Faculty Handbook so that it reflects current institutional policies and practices. The Handbook has been taken down from the Senate website pending those revisions.
- GOV has been charged with amending the Charter to reflect various organizational and administrative changes at the University (i.e., the loss of CNSE, the addition of CHEC, the renaming of CCI, etc.). GOV will also consider whether it could/should draft an additional amendment by which such “housekeeping” changes to the Charter would not have to go to the full Senate for approval.
- GOV has been asked to consider organizing a workshop or information session on sustainability as principle in UA undergraduate education.
- Chair Fox forwarded the SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) DRAFT documents to the SEC for comment and requested that UPPC Chair Stefl-Mabry circulate them to that Council for comment as well.

3. Recommendations for action.

- Following a discussion of the problem of loss of quorum at Senate meetings, it was recommended that Council Chairs remind their members that leaving Senate meetings before they are over prevents the Senate from completing its business in a timely fashion, and that this also be brought to the attention of the Senate at its next meeting.

Chair Fox and the Senate welcomed new Parliamentarian Ron Vero. On the 15th of October the Senate received a request from the Albany Chapter President of UU P to consider a proposal for an ombudsperson for the academic review, tenure and promotion cases. The proposal has also been forwarded to the university administration. The Chair had forward comments on the SUNY Excel PIP and thanked all those who were able to find time to make comments. She stated that we will do our best to end meetings at 4:15 p.m., but asked that senators please stay to the end so that we do not get cut off on our business. The Fall Faculty Meeting is scheduled to take place on October 27th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. At that meeting President. Jones will deliver his State of the University address. Please encourage colleagues to come.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senator’s Report) – J. Philippe Abraham, Walter Little & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

The UFS Senators look forward to the Fall Plenary at Buffalo State on October 22-24.

Chair Fox would also be attending as a campus governance leader.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Robert Beach, GSA President

The GSA has been very busy, as it always is. I’d like to update the senate on some of the things we are doing and some of our plans moving forward.

We have increased the number of groups under our purview by one from last year and now have a total of 27 graduate student groups in our Association. We are also working with at least 3 groups that hope to join our ranks in the Spring. We are actively recruiting graduate students to form groups and get involved in our mission.

Part of this recruitment drive was a campaign organized by our Vice President Kat Slye to visit department orientations at the beginning of the term. A number of our officers and other students participated and we visited 23 departments meeting more than 300 new graduate students in face-to-face meetings. We also had even more graduate students walking through our informational orientation organized by our Programming Chair Lisa Cassidy. The GSA would like to express its appreciation to all the University offices that participated.

GSA members have taken seats on a number of University councils and committees and we look forward to the opportunity to bring our skills and experience to the important conversations that occur in these committees. If there are any other committees looking for graduate representation, please contact me and we will find someone. If your committee does not typically include graduate students, consider adding one, we have a lot to offer, most importantly a different perspective.

Our involvement with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students is ongoing. We hosted their annual leadership summit and our great committee put together an excellent program. The theme for the summit was sustainable leadership and we have since shared this model with other schools, most recently Stony Brook. We also recently sent a student to the NAGPS Legislative Action Days in Washington D.C. The report is forthcoming.

Our other committees (Wages and Benefits, Equity and Inclusion, RGSO, Grants, Programming, and a new finance committee), are up and running. Each one has its own business, but is also working on new and exciting projects that we are looking forward to share with you as they continue to take shape.

We are starting the process of organizing our next forum with President Jones. We've appreciated his participation in the past and look forward to another productive conversation.

The GSA is also rolling out a new initiative to collect data on our student group-sponsored events. We are still figuring out a system, but we plan to use this information to better serve our constituents. First, we want to help groups with very little experience to put on better events that reach more students. Second, we want to improve our day-to-day operations. The Association is growing very quickly and we want to be able to continue to expand our reach despite our tiny budget. And third, we want to get a better sense of what our graduate students need so that we can better direct our advocacy efforts. We will update you on this process.

Our initial effort at data collection was done during our department orientation visits. One of the big messages that we heard loud and clear from new graduate students during these meetings was a perceived lack of University level support, especially for things beyond their academic departments. They don't have any formal orientation beyond what their department provides and there doesn't seem to be any central location where important and useful information can be found. The GSA will be investigating these issues and would like to enter into discussions with various University departments to help us close some of these gaps. Even larger gaps exist for our international colleagues in areas like language support services and academic writing programs. The plan to expand our international student enrollments is great, but it must be coupled with efforts to improve these important services.

On October 14th we will be organizing a national Message Congress Day for GradsHaveDebt2 as part of a national campaign with the NAGPS. We will be getting out the voice, so to speak, on legislation that lightens the debt burden for those pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

We are holding a social permaculture workshop on Sunday October 25th to give GSA members a chance to network and learn about this interesting topic. Social Permaculture is a movement that uses the principles of natural systems and ecological interactions and applies them to human communities. We are using this model to strengthen the interactions among our students and student groups and between our students and other entities on campus. We hope program can foster ties that will benefit the GSA during this year and beyond.

Our immediate project is a reorganization of our website. We hope to have a more informational website and we hope to be able to link from several other University Pages that can direct students to our presence on campus. We appreciate support from senate representatives to urge inclusion of these links on your departmental websites.

We are soon to begin our preparations for the upcoming SUNY SA meeting in November, a more detailed update will follow next month.

We are also trying to put together an advocacy group that will focus on local and state-level advocacy for graduate students. And finally, we are creating a 5-year master planning committee in the GSA. We hope to place the GSA in a position of sustaining its relevance in the short, medium, and long term.

On behalf of GSA and the committee for the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students summit which took place over the summer, GSA President Beach stated, I would like to thank Provost Stellar and President Jones for presenting and helping out. GSA members are willing to participate on councils outside of the Senate. If student members are desired, please contact me. If a committee does not currently allow student representatives, please consider doing so. GSA has a meeting on Thursday to discuss our Presidential Forum. On October 14th we coordinated with the NAGPS on their message for Congress Day. We sent a representative to the NAGPS on Legislative Action Day where issues were discussed including Perkins loans, international student visas and unionization of private university graduate students. I will be going to New York on November 4th and 5th, GSA President Beach added, and reporting on behalf of our Wages and Benefits Committee at the SUNY Board of Trustees public hearing on issues including contingent faculty and a new policy change that lowered the working hours for student assistants. The GSA Assembly recently approved that \$3000 be used in collaboration with the new school of Homeland Security on a major programming initiative.

SA (Student Association) – Jarius Jemmott, Student Association President

No response

The Student Association website is under construction. Once it is up to date, we will add a link to the Senate. On Sunday, October 11th we had our first SA President's day of service. We expanded the Pine Hills cleanup idea due to the large volunteer turn out. We had a board meeting to discuss program ideas to make going to Dippikill more appealing. Our Cultural Affairs Department put together a week of programming focused on diversity. The first of the Speaker Series will take place at the SEFCU, possibly in December, and will be centered more on faculty and educational background speakers. Our latest project is to build a better relationship between students and UPD. Officer Aaron Mull and Chief Frank Riley are discussing with SA the idea of a basketball tournament with integrated teams. The Town Hall meeting was on October 12th and is available on video. We will be doing fireside chats, speaking weekly to the student body. The E-board mixer on November 6th in the Campus Center ballroom is an event to help build relationships with the administration. Student Association Chairwoman Julia Alford added that they would be working on committee selection.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair

CAA met on 10/2 for its organizational meeting and elected chairs for the General Education Assessment Committee (Greg Nowell) and the Academic Programs Review Committee (Johana Londono).

CAA welcomes Rachel Mitchell.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

I. Informational

- CAFFECoR met on September 17, 2015. We discussed the proposal that was assigned to us (by Chair Fox) from the SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund, which is “UAlbany Advantage—Enhancing the Student Experience.” Chair Jewell asked Committee members (and subsequently sent an email to absentee members, requesting that they also) [to] send comments/concerns/questions on the proposal to her by October 1, 2015. Chair Jewell will compile responses and forward them to the SEC.

Also, we briefly discussed the policy initiative described here:

<http://system.suny.edu/healthaffairs/tobaccofree/>

And, we talked about other topics which CAFFECOR may discuss this year, in particular, the relationship between the administration and the faculty regarding the former's tendency to outsource to consultants areas of study about which its own faculty already has expertise, which we (CAFFECOR) believe is a blow to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

- CAFFECOR met on October 1, 2015, and discussed the "UAlbany Advantage" proposal, which we were asked to review.

II. Reports of Actions

- With the assistance of Committee members, Chair Jewell wrote a document expressing the views of CAFFECOR on the "UAlbany Advantage" proposal, and submitted it to the SEC on October 5, 2015.

III. Recommendations for Actions

None.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

CERS has had no cases of ethics violation to consider.

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

Nothing to report

CoR met and are close to filling the subcommittees.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Lynn Warner, Chair

CPCA met on Sep 28 and reviewed 1 continuing appointment and promotion case, and 1 tenure and promotion case.

CPCA is scheduled to meet on Oct 26 to review 1 continuing appointment and 1 continuing appointment and promotion case.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair

GAC met on September 28, 2015. The membership of the three committees of GAC were established, as was the chair of one of the committees (CA&AS). GAC still needs to find volunteers to chair its two other standing committees (CEP&P and CC&I).

GAC considered two proposals from Counseling Psychology, one to amend the PhD program, and a second to establish a new MS program. Professors Friedlander and Pieterse appeared before GAC to describe the programs and to answer questions. No actions on either proposal were taken at the meeting.

Council member John Bartow updated that GAC had met and had approved the two proposals mentioned above from Counseling Psychology.

GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair

GOV will meet on October 12. The agenda includes the following:

Old Business:

- Update: Clarification of Responsibilities of CAA
- UAC Concerns
- Honor's College nominees
- Update: Contingent, Student and Emeritus representation in Senate
- Administrative Review & Evaluation

New Business:

- Committee Memberships
 - i. Committee on Assessment
 - ii. Committee on Liaison & Election
- OneDrive account for digital documents for Governance
- Mechanisms for minor Charter changes

- Liaison: What must be posted on Senate website: UAC, CAAS
- Liaison: Workshop or information session on sustainability as principle in UA undergraduate education

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

LISC will be getting a tour of the new IT building at our next LISC Meeting on Oct. 26.

The search to replace the CIO is in progress. It is hoped to have a CIO in place by January 1, 2016.

We expect to move staff to the IT building on October 19th and 20th. The office of the CIO, EAS, RIT and ISO will be relocating to the Data Center. More staff will be moved off the podium to MSC over the next year, which will reduce our presence and give back to the campus. Moving to ITB is the first of a series of moves. The HelpDesk, test scanning and faculty support will remain on the podium.

Carole Sweeton will give a recap on the various space available (i.e., Microsoft One-Drive, Office 365) at the next LISC meeting.

The following is the Dean and Director's Report from Rebecca Mugridge of the University Libraries.

Rebecca L. Mugridge

University Libraries

Dean and Director's Report to LISC

September 21, 2015

Compact plan proposals. The Libraries submitted two compact plan proposals for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. One was to establish a research data management program and the other was a joint proposal with ITS to create a digital media center. The Provost advanced the first proposal to the final round for consideration. Decisions on which proposals will be funded have been made, but not communicated to us yet.

Acquisitions budget. The Libraries requested additional funding to our base to cover the increased cost of our electronic journal and database subscriptions. Mary Van Ullen (Associate Director for Collections), Brian Doubleday (Accounting and Budget Officer), and I are meeting with staff from the Provost's office to discuss the Libraries' budget and this proposal.

Status of vacant positions. Both the Marketing and Outreach Librarian position and the Head, Information Commons' positions are on hold pending review and discussion. Access Services' SL-2 and SL-3 searches are in process, as well as two CSEA positions. To bridge the gap until new staff are hired, we hired 3.0 FTE temporary Clerk 1s for Access Services; they will work through the end of the calendar year.

Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship. Erik Stolarski is our GA for the 2015/2016 academic year. Erik will be working on cataloging some of the collections in Special Collections and Archives.

Albany Law School. Mary Van Ullen attended a meeting in July with Sue Phillips (Vice President for Strategic Partnerships) and staff from Albany Law School Library to begin discussions about potential collaborations. The areas of interest are in collaborative collection development, shared staffing, and shared services, in particular in technical services. I expect these discussions to take some time and deliberation.

Group study rooms. Nine group study rooms have been built on the first floor. Room 137 has also been converted into a Mac lab. We'll be promoting both the group study rooms and the Mac lab with an event on October 9, (Homecoming weekend), 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Open Access Program. The Libraries will be celebrating Open Access Week with a program on October 20. I encourage faculty, staff, and students across the university to attend this timely and relevant program:

http://liblogs.albany.edu/librarynews/2015/09/celebrate_open_access_week.html

Student Advisory Board. Joyce Rambo (Assistant to the Dean) is contacting last year's members to see if they want to participate again this year. She's also recruiting new members by placing flyers in all three libraries. Please encourage your students to volunteer.

LISC will be meeting next week.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

- The UAC held its second meeting of the year on September 29.
 - i. Rick Fogarty, Associate Dean for General Education, “How to Review Competency Plans”: Fogarty provided some background on embedding competencies in the majors and introduced (5) principles for review. There are (8) new plans expected in 2015/2016, and (12) that are in the process of revision. Economics’ has submitted a revised plan to be reassessed by UAC.
 - ii. The UAC discussed the SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund proposals. Comments were sent to Cynthia Fox on October 2, 2015.
- Most committee appointments have been made. Chairs – Hazel Prelow (General Education), Christy Smith (Council on Admissions and Academic Standing), Jason Cotugno (Curriculum and Honors), and Stacey Zyskowski (Interdisciplinary Studies).
- UAC meets on October 9. There is only one agenda item - Statute of Limitations on late Withdrawals/CAS request.

ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair

We met on September 15th and discussed topics to review in 15-16. These included:

- Following up on the Tobacco-Free initiative
- Continuing support of UACCESS initiatives
- Review faculty/staff quality of life data including the way in which we welcome new staff
- Food pantry initiative
- Communications strategies for faculty/staff

Our next meeting is October 13th.

The President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion will continue the Dialogue in Action series. Participation is encouraged.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

The next meeting of the UPPC will be on October 21. Here is the list of new business that will be discussed at that meeting:

New Business:

- Proposal to establish a BA English / MA Liberal Studies
- Clarification of the *Campus Impact Statement* form
- Compact Process for the 2016-17 FY Budget

APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIPS – Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary

CAA – Rachel Mitchell
Grad student:
 Henry Curtis

CERS – Mitchel Leventhal

CoR – Loretta Pyles
Grad Students:
 Hannah Pageau
 Emelia Pawlowski

CPCA – Sarah Cohen
 Janet Marler
 Rachel Cohon

- GAC – Christopher Pastore
Justin Giboney
Stephen Hogan
Grad students:
Tiffany Charles
Rebecca Prince
Cristina Herrera
- GOV – Bryan Early
Grad student:
Caitlin Janiszewski
- LISC – Grad student:
Cathleen Green
- UAC – Chen Yu-Hui
Kamiar Alaei
Zina Lawrence
Hua Hui
Grad student:
Derek Ellis
- ULC – Peter Brandon
Alison Olin
Grad student:
Yueye Wang
- UPPC – Greg Nowell
Nakissa Jahanbani

A motion was made to accept the above membership changes, and they were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deactivation of Puerto Rican Studies Major

Chair Fox reminded that a vote could not be taken at the last meeting because quorum had been lost. During a brief discussion, a member reminded that a minor had been suggested and should be taken under consideration.

A motion was made to approve the Deactivation of the Puerto Rican Studies Major, with the following voting results: Approved 36 (82%); Opposed 2 (5%); Abstained 6 (14%)

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Fox reviewed the rationales and proposed amendments which had been endorsed by GOV on May 6, 2015.

A. Introduction of Charter Amendment 1516-01A RE: Asymmetry in LISC Standing Committees

A motion was made to approve Charter Amendment 1516-01A RE: Asymmetry in LISC Standing Committees, with the following voting results: Approved 41 (95%); Opposed 0 (0%); Abstained 2 (5%)

B. Introduction of Charter Amendment 1516-02A RE: Updates to Section X.4 (GAC)

It was discussed and clarified that GAC would have the ability to propose new policy to the Senate. The Council felt that new policies especially should come through the Senate.

A motion was made to approve Charter Amendment 1516-02A RE: Updates to Section X.4 (GAC), with the following voting results: Approved 41 (93%); Opposed 2 (5%); Abstained 1 (2%)

Other issues discussed included the following:

- Negotiations for contracts with UUP and SUNY Administration with regard to discretionary pay. Members were urged to contact statewide Vice President for Professionals Philippe Abraham who will be chief negotiator, and Albany Chapter President Bret Benjamin to register comments and concerns.
- The desire for faculty and administration to both recruit and hold on to our best.
- Perkins Loans potential sunset and financial impact.
- On Wednesday, October 21st A pedagogy workshop on facilitating discussions on race and dismantling racism within the classroom. Chair Fox would look into the possibility of sending out notices on such projects through the Senate notices.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder