

2005-2006 University Senate Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes Monday, April 3, 2006

Present: J.P. Abraham, R. Collier, D. Dewar, S. Herbst, V. Idone, W. Lanford, A. Lyons, C. MacDonald, S. Messner, E. Redkey, J. Savitt, M. Sherman, D. Shub, L. Snyder, D. Wagner, R. Zitomer

Minutes: The March 6, 2006 Minutes were approved.

Provost's Report: **Presented by Susan V. Herbst, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Searches:

- Rockefeller College Dean: The search is coming to a close. It has been narrowed down to one candidate. No offer has been made yet, but it will happen soon.
- Vice President for Research: The candidates will be here soon, possibly in two or three weeks. The present Interim Vice President is not a candidate for the position.
- Assistant Vice Provost for the Honors College: Candidates will be visiting the campus beginning March 31st.
- Director of the Center of Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL): The search will begin soon.

The Budget: NYS Budget hearings have begun. This year will be the first that Administration will meet with the Deans. The Vice President meetings will continue as in the past, but with a little different process. Professor MacDonald asked if Schools and Colleges will be asked to propose a 5% decrease this year. The Provost answered no, and she noted that the news from the Legislature is very good.

Mission Review: The Mission Review document is now in President Hall's hand; he is reworking the entire document. The document is due at SUNY early next week and a copy of what is submitted will be sent to the Senate Executive Committee. There was a question about the 2002 Capital Plan regarding deferred maintenance. The Provost reported that deferred maintenance will be in the MOU. She reported that the President will give the Executive Committee an opportunity to review the MOU, it is an edit in progress, and that SUNY will review it too. She suggested that the Senate might want to look at it over the summer.

Chair's Report: Presented by Steven Messner, 2006-07 Senate Chair

Searches: Chair Messner reported that the Executive Committee will be hosting an “Open Session” for the candidate for the Vice President for Research position on Thursday, April 27th at 3:00 p.m. He urged Senate participation, especially COR representatives, and noted that input from COR is most welcome.

Senate Elections: The process has begun with the March 20th broadcast calling for nominations. Thus far, not very many applications have been received.

Alfred University: Chair Messner reported that he received an email from the Faculty Council Chair at Alfred expressing great gratitude to UAlbany, and other SUNY campuses, that showed support for them last fall.

Faculty Forum on *The First Amendment on Trial*: The March 27th Forum was held as scheduled. There was a reasonable turnout. It was done well, and the student presenters were very impressive.

Senate Support Staff: Chair Messner announced that Nancy Davis has accepted a permanent position with the College of Arts and Sciences beginning in two weeks. He and the members present commended Nancy for her outstanding, dedicated service while working with the Senate; she will be sorely missed.

April Senate Agenda Items:

1. **Resolution No. 0506-04R – ULC: Resolution for Position for Intramurals Program:** ULC Chair Joan Savitt introduced the resolution. She noted that ULC fully supports and endorses it. There was discussion on the position being placed under the Athletic Dept. vs. other schools having it under Residential Life. Also discussed was the difficulty of getting access to the gym. It was suggested that student intramurals do need an advocate, and that possibly the Vice President for Student Success would be more likely to be in charge of the position. After lengthy discussion, Chair Messner asked if the members present were comfortable with making a resolution of this type. It was further discussed that members were uncomfortable with the Senate making judgment at this point. Professor Reed suggested asking UPC to assess the priority before it goes to Senate. UPC Chair MacDonald noted that without detailed budgets at this point, UPC does not have the ability to know what would be lost and what would be gained and she further explained that the detailed athletic budget would have to be looked at to know. After discussing the resources for the position and further discussing the location of the position, it was agreed that this proposal will go to UPC and that VP James Anderson be brought into it.
[Moved to “send to UPC,” all in agreement.]
2. **GAC, UAC: Proposal for BA/MA in Sociology/Public Affairs & Policy:** This proposal was introduced by Chair Messner and briefly discussed. The

Committee members agreed to move forward with it. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**

3. **GAC, UPC: Proposal for a Dual Degree Program: MS Bioethics/MPH, with Albany Medical College/Graduate College of Union University:** This proposal was introduced by Chair Messner. There was brief discussion, including a question on if the program will be registered with the Department of Education. UPC Chair MacDonald noted that it will be registered if it is passed in Senate. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
4. **UAC: Proposal for Documentary Studies Minor/Major:** The proposal was introduced by R. Collier. There was a brief discussion and it was agreed to move forward to the Senate. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
5. **UAC: Proposal for a Major in Globalization Studies:** The proposal was introduced by R. Collier. There was a brief discussion and a question on the purpose. R. Collier explained that it will be largely used by CAS students; many have will have two majors. It was agreed to move forward to the Senate. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
6. **UPC: Proposal for Institute for Social Services Research and Development:** The proposal was introduced by UPC Chair MacDonald. Chair MacDonald explained that the proposal was developed in COR then moved to UPC. There was discussion on the meaning of “evidence based education” and resources. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
7. **UPC: Suspension of BS in Geological Sciences:** The proposal was introduced by UPC Chair MacDonald and there was a brief discussion. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
8. **UPC: Proposal for Informatics Department:** The proposal was introduced by UPC Chair MacDonald. There was discussion about what the term “informatics” means, and where the faculty will come from to form the department. Chair MacDonald noted that it is an administrative unit, not a department. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**
9. **CERS: Amendment to Misconduct Policy:** CERS Chair Richard Zitomer introduced the proposal. He explained that the only change is about protection for accuser. There was lengthy discussion about that, and about protection for the falsely accused person. **[Moved to “forward to Senate as a Bill,” all were in agreement.]**

NEW BUSINESS

ULC: Family leave policy: ULC Chair Joan Savitt reported that ULC's *ad hoc* Benefits Committee prepared its report and presented it to the full Council. The ULC is about ready to bring it forward, and she asked if another Council might want to look at it. Discussion then began about whether family leave rights are within the University's purview, or that of the Unions'. After lengthy discussion, it was suggested that a ULC representative should meet with HR Director Beditz; and UPC suggested bringing it to Administration also. There was further discussion on whether or not it should be a matter of Senate. Chair Savitt will discuss it with HR Director Beditz and take the matter back to Council.

ULC: Requirement for Students to Purchase Health Insurance: ULC Chair Savitt introduced the proposal and explained that the undergraduates have an option of buying health insurance; they are not required to have it. ULC members have strong feelings that all students should be required to have it. ULC wants to bring a resolution saying that health insurance should be mandatory. The matter was thoroughly discussed, including the financial implications for students, and whether or not it can be made mandatory for part time or non-matriculated students, and proof of coverage. It was noted that UAlbany is the only one of the four year SUNY schools that does not have mandatory insurance. Chair Savitt noted that ULC is almost through discussing the matter, and wants to know how to bring it to bring to the Senate. Bringing it to Senate as a bill was agreed upon.

COR: Review Procedures for Centers, Institutes, or Labs: COR Chair Idone reported that COR is going bring this matter to the Governance Council. Chair Messner noted that UPC would also be involved because it does involve a Charter change.

OTHER BUSINESS

Paper Saving: A remark was made commending Senate Chair Messner for his newly instituted change in the way Senate meetings are run with regards to saving paper by using PowerPoint presentations, rather than providing 60 copies of each handout. Someone complained that it would have been more beneficial to have paper copies of pertinent information available so Senators in attendance could look over language changes, etc. After some discussion, Chair Messner asked the Council Chairs if they wanted leave it to their own call as to what needs to be available in print at the meetings, since they are more familiar with what is most pertinent. D. Wagner noted that ultimately, he was of the opinion that the Senators should be responsible for bringing what they may personally need to the meetings themselves, since it is all sent out via email prior to the meetings. This led to more discussion on the matter and Chair Messner closed with asking the members, as Council Chairs to exercise their judgment, to stop needless duplicating.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder