

## **Council and Committee Reports for SEC meeting on March 5, 2018**

**Christian Poehlmann, Senate Secretary**

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Karin Reinhold**

On Feb 14th, Chair Reinhold received a request for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan for UAlbany, mandated by SUNY in 2015. The ODI office created a UAlbany plan in 2016 and it is now being addressed and updated by the current group on Diversity and Inclusion of the Strategic Plan. ODI did not respond to the request for the plan.

On the Feb 21st UPPC meeting it was decided to create a Task force to study of the academic preparation of entering freshmen and transfer students and prepare a report by the end of term. The group members are Professors Jim Collins, Kajal Lahiri and Louis-Anne McNutt together with Jack Mahoney from Institutional Research. They are tasked with investigating whether students' academic preparation had declined over the last decade, and providing recommendations for implementing solutions that would help students succeed at UAlbany.

UPPC also discussed draft proposals about career paths for contingent and part-time faculty, and new teaching focused faculty positions. These proposals are ways to implement part of the recommendations made by the implementation team (9/15/2016) ([https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent\\_progress\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent_progress_report_final.pdf)). See also the recommendations from the report within the 2016 Provost's Panel on Contingent Concerns:

[https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent\\_Faculty\\_Committee\\_Report\\_10-1-2015.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent_Faculty_Committee_Report_10-1-2015.pdf)

It was decided to bring these items to the next SEC meeting to discuss the proposals about job security and career paths for contingent and part-time faculty, which are part of the recommendations from the documents above. Additionally, we may also want to address the report on Graduate Students Stipends:

[https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Report\\_of\\_the\\_Graduate\\_Stipend\\_Committee\\_final\\_draft\\_070615.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Report_of_the_Graduate_Stipend_Committee_final_draft_070615.pdf)

Under instructions from President Rodriguez Estella Rivero and Dolores Cimini are to implement a task force for implementing a Tobacco –Free Policy at UAlbany, and invited the Senate to send a representative. As background on this measure, the Senate had passed a resolution in 2009 on Smoke free campus, an initial task force was created in 2014, chaired by Phil Nasca, which returned a report with a commitment to bring about a tobacco-free campus. The current task force is charged with the creation of a tobacco free policy for UAlbany with an action plan for its implementation.

Chair Reinhold received an announcement about a Proposal to link Digital Forensic Major and Legal Studies Minor, and a request to include Discontinuance of Deactivated Programs at the next SEC meeting.

The new shared governance webpage will be released at the end of February after deans and administrators' approval. All support persons of Senate Council have been given authority to change the website on order to be able to update the webpage of the councils they serve. Most council's pages are up-to-date. However, the listing of Senate legislations is incomplete as of Feb 22, including only bills but missing amendments to the Senate's Charter and Bylaws, and Senate Resolutions.

Openings in the Senate: At-Large open category 2, At-Large Professional 2, SUNY wide Senator 1, UAS Board 2. Also UPPC committees, Resource Analysis & Planning Committee and University Facilities Committee, for next year.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Actions Taken**

Given the short due date, LISC was requested to submit recommendations on open access policy directly to the Chancellor.

Requested a report on the implementation of Blue Ribbon panels by Asc VP and Sr Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Bill Hedberg, together with data on ratios of contingent hires in the past 5 years to be presented at the Mar 5 SEC meeting.

Requested a report of the Assessment of Administrative units Advisory Board to be presented by the Senate representatives during April's SEC meeting.

Requested the UAlbany diversity, equity and inclusion plan to be shared with the Senate constituency.

Requested a report on the work of the Task force on Graduate enrollment by Dean of Graduate Education Kevin Williams.

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

- Senate Forum on The State of Arts and Humanities: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:30-5:30pm  
Multi- purpose room
- **Spring Faculty Address, April 3 at 1:00 pm in the CC Ballroom.**
- Senate Forum on The State of IT on Campus: April 10<sup>th</sup> .

Other announcements:

- Feb 29th GSA Higher Education Advocacy day.
- March 2nd : SUNY Voices Conference: Middle States & Shared Governance, 10:00-4:30, SUNY Administration, Albany, NY
- April 1st : Date planned for Strategic Plans to be submitted.
- April 13th : President's Inauguration

- April 20th: SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium 2018, Oneonta, and Saturday,
- April 21th at Monroe County Community College.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

**UFS (University Faculty Senate) – Diane Hamilton, Walter Little & Latonia Spencer, SUNY Senators**

- Nothing to report

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Dawn Wharram, Lead Senator**

- Nothing reported

**SA (Student Association) – Jerlisa Fontaine, President**

- Nothing reported

### **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:**

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Istvan Kecskes, Chair, Mary Ellen Mallia Co-Chair**

- Nothing reported

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

- Nothing reported

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) –David Wagner, Chair**

- Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) – Robert Rosenswig, Chair**

- Nothing reported

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Jim Hargett, Chair**

- Nothing reported

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Sean Rafferty, Chair**

- Nothing reported

**GOV (Governance Council) – Jim Mower, Chair**

GOV met on 2/21 (rescheduled from 2/7 because of snow). The following items were acted upon:

- We received a report from Chris Poehlmann on the feasibility of using Qualtrics, a subscription service recently implemented on the University computing system. Chris reported that Qualtrics looks promising as a replacement for the Senate's current voting procedures, allowing users to more easily cast their votes than in the current system. More testing will be performed before a final decision will be made.
- Under co-chairs Carolyn Malloch and Virginia Yonkers, the Committee on Assessment of Governance (CAGC) is now constructing the biennial survey of the faculty mandated by the Charter. They will meet on Wednesday, Feb 28 to map out the content and process.
- The GOV Committee on Liaison and Elections (CLE) is in the process of formulating the preliminary slate for the spring elections for University Senate Senator-At-Large, SUNY-wide Senator, and UAS Board positions.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Billie Franchini, Chair**

- Nothing reported

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

UAC Report to SEC

March 5, 2018

UAC met in February 20, 2018

- Sanjay Goel attended at the start of our meeting to further discuss the Program Proposal in Digital Forensics. He reiterated why changes are being made to reflect NIST and NSA cybersecurity curriculum standards and because he will be seeking NSA accreditation for cybersecurity research. Programming courses on campus could be cross-listed to minimize overlap. The proposal was approved.
- Two General Education Competency plans are still being reviewed.
- Two UNI 390 internship proposals were reviewed and approved.
- The Curriculum and Honors Committee of UAC reported that last week, reviewers made their site visit for the proposed major Electrical and Computer Engineering. This week reviewers are making their site visit for the proposed major in Environmental and Sustainable Engineering. The program proposal for a BA in Business Economics is being reviewed in Arts and Sciences and an external review in Fall 2018 is anticipated.

- Under *New Business*, UAC discussed a proposal for a new Higher Education concentration for the BS in Human Development. We will revisit this at our next meeting (March 20).
- Dr. Matthew Ingram met with UAC to consider a proposed new minor in Legal Studies, Department of Political Science. Six courses are required and up to two courses can come from other departments/disciplines. This would not be a restricted minor. Council members noted that there is a need to serve students with interests in legal issues. Attendance at this Council meeting was low; as such, we will revisit the proposal at our next meeting (March 20) to have additional discussion. The History department will be providing some information about some concerns.

### **ULC (University Life Council) – Ekow King, Chair**

#### Report of Chair, University Life Council

- I. Informational
  - a. VP of Finance and Administration reported that the new eating space in CC West will be opening by the end of February. Also as it was a cold winter, Pipes burst on campus during intersession.
  - b. There were questions about the H<sup>2</sup>O Zone fountains that were in the CC prior to the recent modifications. The council appointed a member to investigate further.
  - c. EAP Director shared update on resources for Faculty & Staff and shared that they provide referrals and all work is confidential.
  - d. Discussion was held regarding the impact of the most recent charter changes; Increased graduate student representation, CSEA representation on the council, Director of Athletics to be invited as Ex-Officio.
  - e. Chair has been asked and accepted invitation to serve on Tobacco Free Steering Committee
  - f. Graduate Students parking issues and General parking issues were discussed at length
    - i. Graduate rep and Chair will meet with Dir. of Parking management
  - g. Council members continue to work on the following resolutions:
    - i. Affordable Childcare
    - ii. Interfaith Center

- iii. Trauma Informed Responses to Oppression
- iv. Inclusion of Eid al Adha and Eid al Fitr on the University Calendar
- v. Indigenous People's Day

II. Reports of Actions

- a. The Council agreed to invite Kevin Benn, Pres. Of UAlbany CSEA chapter, or designee as a representative on the council
- b. Mark Benson, or designee would be invited to serve as Ex-Officio on the council

III. Recommendations for Actions

- a. No recommendations at this time

Respectfully submitted,

D Ekow King, M.A.

Chair, University Life Council

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

**UPPC Report for SEC Meeting on 030518**

**Information:**

The Council met on February 21.

Provost Stellar reported that the Strategic Plan's 'road shows' were nearing the end of the process, after which there would be period of studying alignment plans from University academic and administrative units, followed by review and revision of the Strategic Plan, with implementation processes to be designed over the summer and the new Strategic Plan officially underway during the Fall of 2018. He then reported on several ongoing Deans' searches, stating that the intent with the Rockefeller College was to have Interim Dean Rethemeyer appointed as Dean, pending feedback and (unspecified mechanisms for) faculty approval. Chair Collins asked whether this consultation process was used in the appointment of the Interim Deans of the University Library and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to Deans of their respective units. The Provost said no. Senate Chair Karin Reinhold asked about the availability of the ODI Plan for Diversity and Inclusion. The Provost replied that it would be made available soon.

Associate Vice President for Financial Management and Budget, Kim Bessette, made a brief report on the NYS Governor's Executive Budget and the uncertain implications for

the University. She took questions from Council Members and the Chair on the budget, and clarified that the Compact Planning process was underway for budgeting 'efficiencies' in academic and non-academic units in line with the announced budget plan for the anticipated 2018-2020 'structural deficits'. Chair Collins and Senate Chair Reinhold expressed surprise and concern that the Compact Planning process was underway, and near completion, without the Senate being informed or provided an opportunity for review and comment, given that Senate representation in the Compact Planning process had been agreed to by the Administrative leadership in 2016.

#### UPPC Chair's Report to Council on 02/21/18

##### Information:

Council and Committee Changes: Professor Sanjay Goel of SB has resigned from UPPC, because of scheduling conflicts. We thank him for the years of service. Professor James Hargett of CAS has been removed from the UPPC listserv, where he was erroneously placed last semester. Professor Sridar Chittur, has stepped down as Chair of the Facilities Committee, but will remain on the Committee as a Member. Ray Bromley has been elected Chair of the Facilities Committee.

Website. Council Agendas and Minutes have now been uploaded to the Senate Website for last semester and will henceforth be done after each meeting. There has been considerable delay in support staff gaining access to the website.

There is something odd occurring with the website as an opportunistic portal for volunteers. I have received two email requests, one to join the council, and one to be granted access to the Council Shared Drive. Each requested seemed to come from the Shared Drive portal. I continue to investigate this.

The Senate and UUP Forum on Gender Equity and Inclusion was held on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a small audience, slightly more than twenty, staff and faculty except for one student reporter. After two sets of two presenters, there was a lively discussion about the incidence and University response to sexual harassment and violence and about pay equity and family leave policy.

The next Senate Forum is on the role of the Humanities and Social Sciences in our changing university, it will be held on March 7, 3:30 till 5:30.

On February 7, I wrote to Dean Williams of the Office of Graduate Education about the RAPC recommendation regarding the recruitment of International graduate students. No response. I will inquire again. Should I ask Dean Williams or his designee to come and discuss the recommendation with the Council?

On February 5, I reported the Council's work on incoming freshmen and transfer students, including our focus on EOP, LLC and Honor's cohort, and on Academic Dismissals. A Senator who had taken part in earlier working groups on retention questions suggested that we separate gender on Academic Dismissals. As you will see from the data we have obtained on academic dismissals, there are significant female/male differences.

### Two items of substance.

First, **Strategic Planning**: As a member of Senate leadership, I was a co-signer, along with leadership from United University Professions, of an open letter criticizing Strategic Planning and raising concerns about its implications. The letter was distributed to various constituencies on February 5-7, and on February 8, myself, Chair Reinhold, Vice Chair Mower, and UUP Vice Presidents for Academics and Professions, Professor Paul Stasi and IT specialist Tom Hoey, met with President Rodriguez, Chief of Staff Bruce Szelest, and Vice President Michael Christakis met to discuss the letter and the Strategic Planning process going forward. After some clearing of the air and establishing context, we had a productive discussion in which President Rodriguez agreed that there should be a place for the Senate and UUP as organizations in designing the process for implementation and taking part in budgeting discussions. That being the case, it is important that the Senate, and especially this Council, take seriously their responsibility, articulated in the Senate Charter, to be actively involved in policy and planning, and in budgeting groups at the University. We will discuss that more fully below under new business item A.

Second, Contingent Faculty: a long-standing Senate, Union, and Administration commitment has been to improving the conditions of contingent and part-time faculty. There appears to have been a long hiatus in the work of implementation groups for contingent concerns, but there are clearly presented 'draft' reports concerning pathways to continuing appoints for contingents and step systems for part-time lecturers. This Council and the Senate need to begin a wide discussion and debate of these proposals. We will discuss that more fully below under old business item B.

(End of Chair's report to Council)

#### Reports from Committees:

There was no report from the **Facilities Committee**, since as new Chair – Professor Ray Bromley – had just been chosen from the Committee and will be setting up a schedule for spring meetings.

The **Resource Analysis and Planning Committee** presented an Agenda and Minutes, but had nothing to add to Associate VP Bessette's report. The Committee will need to recruit new members for 2018-2020.

#### **Old business:**

The Council then discussed its ongoing study of the academic preparation of entering freshmen and transfer students, focusing on retention data the general undergraduate population and for selected cohorts – EOP and the Living Learning Communities – as well as data on academic dismissals by gender. Chair Collins proposed a smaller working group, to deepen the study and prepare a report by the end of term, roughly on the question of whether academic preparation had declined in the last decade, if so, what units were affected, and what solutions and resources would best help students do well at the University. Professors Kajal Lahiri and Louis-Anne McNutt have volunteered to join Professor Collins in the effort.



The Council also discussed how to promote discussion in the Senate of efforts to improve the status of Contingent and Part-time Faculty at the University. The Council agreed that it was time to distribute to the SEC and Senate the draft reports from the Implementation Teams working since 2011 to implement some of the recommendations from the 2016 Provost's Panel on Contingent Concerns ([https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent\\_Faculty\\_Committee\\_Report\\_10-1-2015.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent_Faculty_Committee_Report_10-1-2015.pdf))

In order that the SEC and Senate might begin to discuss the proposals about job security and career paths for contingent and part-time faculty, which are part of the recommendations and implementation tasks originally announced on September 15, 2016: ([https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent\\_progress\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/academics/files/Contingent_progress_report_final.pdf))

**New business:**

The Council discussed its role and that of the wider Senate in the budgeting and implementation processes that will follow upon the adoption of a new Strategic Plan.

It reviewed a proposal from the School of Education to link three BS/MS degree proposals, building upon existing BS programs in Human Development, and MS programs in Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education. The Council approved the proposals and referred them to the SEC, for review and subsequent referral to the Senate.

**Actions taken:**

The Council approved a working group on undergraduate academic preparation and success in the past decade, and steps the University is taking or might take to improve the education of undergraduates going forward.

Approved a proposal integrate the BS programs in Human Development and MS programs in Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education, and referred the proposal to the SEC.

The Council tabled requests to modify the Campus Impact Form until its next meeting.

The Council tabled proposals for a Digital Forensics Major and a Legal Studies Minor, pending the submission of appropriate documentation.

**Recommendations:**

That the Senate begin to study and discuss the recommendations and implementation proposal's originating in the 2016 Provost's Panel Report on Contingent Concerns.