

2014-2015 University Senate

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

Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

MINUTES

Present: AlMahamid, Ilham; Altarriba, Jeanette; Bernnard, Deborah; Burke, Jerry; Chittur, Sridar; Cohen, Marc; Dai, Aiguo; Earle, Keith; Fessler, Susanna; Fogarty, Rick; Ford, Michael; Fox, Cynthia; Goldfarb, Boris; Griffith, Glyne; Gulatee, Yenisel; Haile, Peatros; Hobson, Janell; Huang, Youqin; Isralowitz, Joshua; Janiszewski, Caitlin; Jaromin, Michael; Jerison, Michael; Jones, Robert; Kearney, Ann; Kuznetsov, Igor; Lahiri, Kajal; Lapenas, Andrei; Leonard, Danielle; Mamorella, David; Marler, Janet; McCaffrey, David; McDowall, David; Mielenz, Ben; Moore, Chris; Mulcahy, Timothy; Ng, Vivien; Pande, Jayanti; Parker, Catherine; Pasquill, James; Petry, Greta; Pettie, David; Poehlmann, Nancy; Putrevu, Sanjay; Robinson, George; Rorissa, Abebe; Rosenswig, Robert; Scheck, Helene; Schmidt, John; Slade, Leonard; Stefl-Mabry, Joette; Tucker, Ian; Wagner, Christine; Werner, Mike; Wulfert, Edelgard; Yagelski, Robert; Yan, Zheng; Zemel, Alan

Guests: Hedberg, Bill; Armour-Garb, Brad; Winchester, Kathie; Phillips, Susan D.; Jewell, Carol H.; Weaver, Benjamin; Harton, Janna; Tchernev, Alexandre; Bartow, Jon

The meeting convened at 2:45 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 12, 2014. The minutes were then approved, with a minor change and with the following voting results: Approved 34; Opposed 1; Abstained 13.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ROBERT J. JONES

(Pending)

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT – TIMOTHY MULCAHY

Interim Provost Mulcahy shared that he had worked with President Jones for 9 years before coming to UAlbany so knows him well and shares a common vision and working style. The Interim Provost shared information on his background, as outlined in his [UAlbany biography](#) and added that his wife is a graduate of this University. He iterated he was pleased to be here for these first 3 or 4 weeks and looks forward to working with all of you. He has a strong respect for and familiarity with administration and governance, having worked in both those areas, and considers it an honor to be here.

Interim Provost Mulcahy shared that he considers his style to be informal, with open communication. He likes to consult with folks before decisions are made and to get his and others' ideas on the table. He believes strongly in mutual respect and communication and hopes the UAlbany community will see those qualities and principles in action while he tries to help move this University forward. He reiterated that he is not a candidate for Provost but will continue in his Interim role until a new permanent Provost arrives on campus, or no later than June 1st, whichever comes first. However, he does not see his current role as a "placeholder" position. The Interim Provost expressed his excitement at the prospect of working with deans, faculty and student groups during his time here, to continue the momentum UAlbany has already achieved, and to help launch things which will continue long after he is gone. Interim Provost Mulcahy added he hopes to have something meaningful to contribute to future Senate deliberations.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS – SUSAN D. PHILLIPS

Vice President for Strategic Partnerships Phillips announced that she has also been appointed Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Downstate. In her first title, as President Jones noted, Vice President Phillips outlined three tasks on which she is focusing: 1) Shepherd the transition of the College of Nanoscale and Engineering; 2) Developing the partnership with Albany Law; 3) Developing the partnership with Downstate.

Regarding CNSE, the Vice President presented a snapshot of what has happened and has yet to happen. In March the Board of Trustees (BOT) gave CNSE the opportunity to merge with what was then called SUNY IT. In September the BOT authorized the new name of that entity, now known as SUNY Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly). In addition to the institutional status change, there will be other changes for staff and faculty, students, and basic operations. To begin, the faculty and staff transitioned from UAlbany to SUNY IT employment in July. All students in Nanoscale Science and Engineering programs remain UAlbany students at this time. A handout was provided to the meeting participants about CNSE student status during this transition. Before students can pursue programs in nanoscale science and engineering at SUNY Poly, that institution needs to have approval from State Ed and from their accreditor Middle States 1) in a new area; 2) at a new level – doctoral level; 3) at a new location (SUNY IT is in Utica). Those approval processes are now underway. We expect State Ed will authorize bachelor's and master's programs shortly and Middle States will follow before this calendar year end. It is likely that the doctoral program will take longer. Once programs are authorized to be offered by SUNY Poly, they can admit students and accept transfers. Until that time current students will remain UAlbany students and will have the option to finish their degrees here. Current students will also have the option to transfer to SUNY Poly to complete their degrees. It will be our job to help them continue on the degree paths they choose. We are working out an MOU for SUNY Poly students anticipated to be admitted, or transferred, in the Fall of 2015. The understanding would be that we provide to their students such services as access to Gen Ed courses, housing, meal plans, select medical services and recreation opportunities, and UAlbany campus transportation. The MOU should be complete shortly. Lastly, both a Campus Advisory Group and an Internal Operations Group have been working through a number of operational items which will continue throughout the transition process, including affiliation status for teaching faculty and researchers, registration for CNSE students, research operations and compliance, animal husbandry, facilities infrastructure issues, and other related issues.

Vice President Phillips noted that Albany Law, as the President outlined, is an opportunity about which many have shared their collaborative ideas and excitement.

Last, she noted that we are working at building educational and research bridges between UAlbany and SUNY Downstate, also known as the SUNY Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn. A team here has considered a number of Allied Health opportunities for undergrads that include a link with Downstate. There is already common ground in research, particularly in Neurosciences, health disparity and health policy, which will be further considered.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

(authored by Christine Wagner)

Senate Bill 1314-04: Proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in International Health and Human Rights was approved by the Senate on 4/7/14 and approved by the President on 4/23/14.

Senate Bill 1314-06: Proposal to Establish a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Major in Bio-Instrumentation was approved by the President on 4/18/2014.

Senate Bill 1314-05: Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Teaching Composition was approved by the President on 4/18/14.

A letter of intent from the College of Computer Science and Information for a new major in Computer Engineering has been received and is being reviewed in UPPC.

A letter of intent from the School of Education for a new major in Human Development has been received and is being reviewed in UPPC.

UPPC Chair Wagner added that the last 2 items in the report had been approved by UPPC since this report.

Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry offered a brief welcome introduced Senate Officers, SEC Members, Parliamentarian and Staff Support. To continue efforts moving toward transparency, participants were encouraged to reach out to the Senate and share information with their constituents. All were encouraged to look at the Charter and By-Laws, especially regarding particular Councils and Committees on which members serve. Senate procedures and information were reviewed, particularly to familiarize the many new Senators this year. It was noted that the UAlbany Charter specifies that membership include professional staff, faculty and students. UAlbany is not like all other universities in this inclusion, and Chair Stefl-Mabry is pleased we value all voices on this campus. Senate, Council and Committee service was encouraged, as there is still a need for members, especially for faculty membership, for instance on CPCA. The Chair noted she has made it a goal over the next year to solicit expertise and participation in Senate service. Parliamentary procedures were reviewed and the voting process was tested and discussed.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

We are looking forward to the Fall Plenary Session of the UFS at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse on October 23-25th, and will have more to report about the issues to be considered later.

We are also pleased to announce that the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the University Faculty Senate will be hosting a conference entitled "Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access and Impact" on November 12-13, 2014 at the Albany Marriott Hotel, located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. This conference will leverage SUNY investments in student success and diversity while exploring best practices in recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff within the domain of higher education.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Kerry Ann Rockquemore, President and CEO of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, and Dr. Daryl G. Smith, Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emerita of Education and Psychology at the Claremont Graduate University, join us as our two keynote speakers at this conference. For more information on this event and to register to attend, please visit our website at www.suny.edu/makingdiversitycount.

We hope you will be able to join us for this seminal conference as we collaborate and share best practices that will continue to help SUNY grow in this critical dimension.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

The GSA Executive Board has developed a strategic plan for the year which addresses our advocacy and professional development goals. Our advocacy vision statement emphasizes completing our internal structural reforms and raising awareness regarding the critical positions we hold within this institution such as the University Senate, our role in the SUNY Student Assembly, and within the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. Our professional development vision emphasizes the formation of a hybrid academic and non-academic professional development model for graduate students. We intend to capture the resources on campus to empower students for both the academic and non-academic job markets.

We have a surplus this year to help us work towards these goals and we are also developing solid fiscal policies and procedures to make sure we can sustain the pursuit of these objectives.

We have also moved locations due to the Campus Center Expansion project. It was a brutal process but we are mostly settled now.

Our Senate team (both Senators and council reps) plays a critical role in achieving our vision. We hope that you find graduate student participation meaningful and helpful on your councils this year.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

Dippikill

Completed

- Planning and Tabling for the Great Danetopia

In process

- I have been working with James to place an order for new Dippikill merchandise
- I am finalizing my office hours
- I am planning my Block Party Tabling Event

Upcoming

- I plan on contacting several student group E-boards about the prospect of having a Dippikill Retreat
- I plan to follow up with the International Affairs Director about planning a student welcoming event for this semester and potentially the beginning of next semester
- I will be planning out dates for my tabling events for the rest of the semester

Community Engagement and Outreach

Mississippi Day

- September 13, 2014
- Finding 25 UAlbany student volunteers
- Two shifts (10:00am - 1:00pm / 1:00pm - 5:00pm)
- Currently coordinating with Panama, Co-Community Service Chair for Alpha Phi Omega- should have list by the end of this week

September Service Day

- Date and Time are TBD- will be finalized by tonight
- Contacting 4-6 local external organization (Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, etc.) for the purpose of solidifying a common date where UAlbany students can go and serve the community collectively.
- Creating a flyer for the event to distribute at the SA Block Party
- Consider renting UAlbany Shuttles for Transportation
- Consider paying for Breakfast

Gender and Sexuality Concerns

National Coming Out Reception and Festivities

- Reception on October 23rd at 8:00pm
- Performance artist Lady Dane has been booked
- Plan to have other people share their coming out stories
- Will have food, refreshments, activities and giveaways

National Diversity Month/LGBTQ History Month (October)

- Working with Multicultural Affairs on planning events
- More details to follow

Luncheon with Sue Rankin (November)

- Speaker Sue Rankin- one of the creators of the campus climate index
- Will be discussing diversity on campus and what can be done to uphold our mission in supporting diversity includes our queer students in particular
- More details to follow

Communications

Press and Media Contacts

- Department has obtained direct numbers to contact for future press releases and event information
- Contacts include the Times Union and local news stations

SA Daily

- Establishment of Monthly SA Newsletter
- First edition to be released shortly

Academic Affairs

Albany Police Appreciation Night

- Saturday October 4th at 6:00pm at the Football stadium
- Please come out to the game to show support for the officers of the department.

DWI awareness Event

- Planning on tying into Alcohol Awareness Week in October
- More details to follow

Programming

Block Party

- September 7 at 12:00
- Putting together last minutes things

Fall Concert

- Looking into the possibility of having concert
- Potentially November 22

Alison Bliss, Director of Dippykill Outreach, reported on behalf of the Student Association. We have all new department leaders. It is Student Engagement month, National Diversity month, we are starting a newsletter, and all of you are welcome to Dippykill. Questions and visits to our office are welcome.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernard, Chair

There is no report from the CAA. We have scheduled our first meeting for Sept. 30.

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

CAFFECOR will have its first meeting of the semester on September 24, 2014.

We had our first meeting on September 24th and talked about changes to our charge and clarifying responsibilities. We will talk to the SEC and then start our work.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

Nothing to report

COR had just met that morning. They need the University's help soliciting membership for the FRAP Award Review Committee and for the committee that chooses the recipients of a distinguished research award.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The CPCA met on Sept. 3 and 17 and the next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 1. The council has low representation from the Sciences and is working to rectify this imbalance by adding more members from those fields.

The Council has now only 1 case, but Chair Putrevu is continuing conversations with deans to prevent a deluge and maintain instead a trickle.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

We had a planning meeting and an initial/general GAC meeting on Tuesday, 9/9. At the initial GAC meeting, the GAC's three standing committees (Curriculum and Instruction; Admissions and Academic Standing; Educational Policy and Procedure) were formed and their chairs elected. The GAC also has three student members. Each of them will serve on a standing committee.

The GAC and its standing committees will each meet at least once every month during the Fall semester (GAC meeting dates: 10/21, 11/18, & 12/9). We anticipate a fairly full agenda - new/revised graduate programs, student cases (mostly grievances), policy revision, etc.

We need a few more volunteers to serve as members of the standing committees: two more from the teaching faculty for the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure, preferably not from Biology or Criminal Justice. We encourage teaching faculty interested in serving on the standing committees to contact Jonathan Bartow (jbartow@albany.edu).

**GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair
(authored by Joette Stefl-Mabry)**

Governance Council Update: May 13th – August 15th

GOV met on May 13th

Senate Chair Wagner and Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula attended the meeting to discuss the Provost Search Committee. A review of the procedures for formal consultation was conducted referencing the following materials:

State University of New York Policies of the Board of Trustees, ARTICLE IX: COLLEGE OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS, TITLE B. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, § 2. Appointment. Appointments of all college administrative officers and professional staff not in a negotiating unit established pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law shall be made by the chief administrative officer of the college; such appointments shall be reported to the Chancellor. Appointment of academic officers such as vice-president for academic affairs, academic deans and others with similar responsibilities shall be made after consultation with the faculty.

Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany, Article I. Section 2.5 Faculty Participation in Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies. Administrators may choose to advance their leadership vision for the University by constituting special committees and task forces, selecting individual faculty members because of their experience or expertise. Ideally, such advisory groups shall be constituted in consultation with the Governance Council of the University Senate and lines of communication with relevant governance bodies shall be enunciated. In any case, such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty. Such groups may freely provide advice; however, for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative

process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate shall be consulted in the composition of all major University level search committees and committees to select honorary degree recipients.

Senate Chair Wagner's understanding was that to be considered formal consultation GOV could either approve a majority (51%) of the slate of faculty names A) GOV recommended or B) recommended by the President. In this context, faculty who hold academic rank who are not playing another role, such as a Dean.

Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula clarified that the Provost Search Committee had not been formed but, per the intended message from the President at the last Senate meeting, was on the way to becoming formalized. Candidates had since been notified of their nominations to serve, pending GOV's approval. Responses were due by the close of business that Wednesday. A total of 17 members would include a range of representation from different units: 9 faculty who hold academic rank, 4 academic leaders (M-C) who also hold tenure, and 4 administrators (M-C) who do not hold academic rank.

An open call for nominations went out to the campus in the February 28th announcement regarding the transition. The President also requested the Deans and GOV provide a proposed slate of faculty or staff.

GOV agreed to meet on Thursday, May 15th to review and vote on the President's proposed membership and to share any concerns. The list would be provided at that time.

Amendment RE: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to amend the Charter as follows:

Proposed Revision:

The following change was proposed:

X.1.3.3. The Committee shall develop and regularly administer assessment instruments, conduct data analysis and report findings to the Council **on a two-year cycle**.

Chair Stefl-Mabry said that she would send out the formal amendment to the GOV committee for a final review via email.

GOV met on Thursday, May 15th

The council reviewed the President's proposed membership, and sent its recommendations to the President.

On May 16th, Chair Stefl-Mabry received an email from Chief of Staff Wirkkula responding to the Governance Council's recommendations and asking GOV to vote on the amended list. Chief of Staff Wirkkula commented that the President had appreciated GOV's insight and constructive feedback. An email vote was conducted and GOV voted unanimously to accept the proposed slate.

On May 18th, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula to inform her that the Governance Council had (via email) approved the final slate of the Provost's Search Committee, as proposed by the President, after consultation with the Governance Council.

July 8th: Michael Christakis sent an email to Chair Wagner, informing her that since Candace Merbler had resigned from the UAS Board of Directors right around the end of the semester in May, and pursuant to UAS Bylaws, vacancies from "constituent groups" (in this case the "faculty"/the University Senate) shall be filled by said constituency group until the next such election takes place (in the spring, in this case), it fell upon the Governance Council to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board until the next election cycle.

On July 9th Chair Wagner sent the request to GOV to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board. On July 9th, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with a list of prospective candidates and asked GOV to vote via email. By July 14th a quorum had been reached and Chair Stefl-Mabry notified Senate Chair Wagner that by means of an email poll, the Governance Council had voted to accept the nomination of Gary Kleppel to the UAS Board as a replacement for Candace Merbler.

August 15th

Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with the rewritten Amendment re: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation Although the Council had already voted to accept the amendment, Chair Stefl-Mabry asked GOV to review the Amendment and rationale and share their thoughts re: the rationale:

Rationale:

The Governance Council has concluded it is important to institutionalize systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of governance in representing its constituencies, in addressing issues and concerns, and in affecting institutional decisions. This would support "the development of stable expectations and working relationships" as recommended in the 2009 Middle States Report, Chapter 4, p. 2 (see <https://wiki.albany.edu/display/middlestates/Home>). Although the recommendation put forward in the 2009 Middle States Report was for annual campus surveys of faculty (see quote below) the Governance Council has decided that a two year cycle would more effectively support a process of survey development, implementation, analysis, presentation of results and revision.

"It is strongly recommended that the campus survey of faculty completed for the Middle States self-study be done annually as a way to monitor faculty views and conditions at the University" (Chapter 4: *Leadership, Governance and Administration*, p. 8).

Once again, GOV voted unanimously to accept the Amendment.

Assessment of Governance and Consultation Ad Hoc Committee

Joel Bloom, Director of Academic Assessment & Survey Research, has been working with GOV on the implementation of the shared governance and consultation surveys. Bloom sent Chair Stefl-Mabry the results of the student and faculty and professional staff survey. GOV is currently working on analyzing the results of the survey and will share a preliminary report with GOV in the next few weeks.

GOV had its 1st meeting September 22nd. Two items are pending. GOV will get a report on the results of last semester's survey to faculty, staff and students at its next meeting and will work to implement suggestions. A Charter Amendment RE: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation had been approved to be sent out last week with the Senate agenda and to go to the Senate floor for a vote at the October 20th meeting. Language in the Charter was proposed to be changed from administered 'regularly' to 'on a 2-year cycle' to clarify the charge for the next GOV Chair and membership, allow time to look at results and make changes, and send out a new one. The results of the survey, Chair Stefl-Mabry added, would be shared at the next Senate meeting.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair

The Council of LISC is in the process of populating the two standing committee and is preparing for the first council meeting in the first week of October.

Chair Goldfarb stated they need 2 or 3 more volunteers for committees, so e-mail him if interested.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council held its initial meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year on Thursday, September 11th. At that meeting, the UAC committees were organized for the academic year, and the chair presented members with an initial agenda of items to be taken up by the Council. The Council also approved a request by the Department of Public Administration and Policy to change the name of its Public Policy and Administration major to Public Policy and Management.

The UAC met again on Thursday, September 18th to resume work on the General Education competencies plans that was begun by the Council during the 2013-2014 academic year. Under the new General Education curriculum, all programs were to submit by fall semester, 2013 plans for meeting the four general education competencies (advanced writing, critical inquiry, oral discourse, and information literacy). Seventeen such plans were reviewed and approved by UAC before the end of the 2013-2014 academic year; twenty-two plans were reviewed and returned to the appropriate departments for revision and remain to be approved. Three other plans were submitted but remain to be reviewed. On 9/18/2014, the UAC reviewed and approved the competencies plan for the Environmental Sciences major, which was forwarded to the Associate Dean for General Education. The UAC will resume its review of the competencies plans at its next scheduled meeting on October 9th.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

Nothing to report. Currently, we're working on scheduling the meeting times.

If anyone has items to be discussed, please forward them.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Christine Wagner, Chair

UPPC met on 9/11/14. Interim Provost, Dr. Timothy Mulcahy, introduced himself to the members of UPPC. Sue Phillips provided an update on the transition of CNSE to SUNY IT. UPPC approved an initial proposal for a new undergraduate major in Human Development from the School of Education and an initial proposal for a new undergraduate major in Computer Engineering from the College of Computing and Information. *UPPC will meet again October 9th.*

NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Senators Selected by their Council as Council Chair

A motion was made and seconded to make the following individuals Senators for 1 year, as they are now serving as Council Chairs:

Boris Goldfarb - LISC

Deborah Bernnard - CAA

Abebe Rorissa - GAC

Robert Yagelski - UAC

The motion was approved with the following voting results: Approved 38; Opposed 0; Abstained 1

b. **Approval of Changes in Council Memberships**

Chair Stefl-Mabry explained that Senator Yenisel Gulatee would share changes in the membership of the Senate and councils, which would happen throughout the year. Secretary Gulatee noted that Senate members had received via e-mail the information on changes to council memberships. She listed new Senators and Senator replacements and went on to review the changes that had occurred to council memberships.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the membership. The motion was approved with the following Voting results: Approved 36; Opposed 1; Abstained 1

c. **Introduction of Charter Amendment re: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation 1415-01A (for discussion on 10/20/14)**

Chair Stefl-Mabry noted the Amendment had been introduced at this meeting and was to be voted upon at the next Senate meeting on October 20th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder