

**University at Albany, State University of New York
University Senate**

**Minutes
May 16, 2008**

- Present:** Sandra Austin, Kristina Bendikas, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Irina Birman, Ray Bromley, Sairam Chinnam, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D’Andraia, John Delano, Phil Erner, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Robert Gibson, Sanjay Goel, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Donald Keenan, Sung Bok Kim, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Zai Liang, Eric Lifshin, Irene Lurie, Carolyn MacDonald, Paul Miesing, John Murphy, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, Malcolm Sherman, Lawrence Snyder, Rose-Marie Weber,
- Guests:** Jonathan Bartow, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan, Tamra Minor, Bruce Szelest, Daniel Truchan

New Business – Continued from May 12, 2008:

Senate Bill 0708-25: (IRCAP) Initial Review Committee of Academic Proposals (Charter Amendment). A motion was made to postpone further discussion of the Amendment to the first or second meeting of the fall. All agreed, with one abstention. The discussion on the Amendment is postponed.

Senate Bill 0708-16: Combined B.A. in Economics and M.A. in Public Affairs & Policy. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-19: Combined B.S. in Economics and M.A. in Public Affairs & Policy. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-17: (UAC) Deactivation of Asian Studies Major and Minor. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-21: Revision of Anthropology Minor Requirements. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-28: Revision to the Minor in Computer Science. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-29: Computer Science Departmental Honors. The Bill was approved with two abstentions (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-30: Revision to the Major in Computer Science. The Bill was unanimously approved (no discussion).

Senate Bill 0708-31: Honors Program in Theater. There was a brief discussion, and the Bill was unanimously approved.

Senate Bill 0708-32: Revisions to the Human Biology Major. There was a brief discussion, and the Bill was unanimously approved.

Senate Bill 0708-34: New Chemical Biology Emphasis within the BS in Chemistry Major. There was a brief discussion, and the Bill was unanimously approved.

Senate Bill 0708-26: UFSP101 Proposal. The Bill was introduced by GOV Chair John Delano. Dean Pryse questioned how it would be determined that the FYE Task Force was “credible,” referring to “option (i)” of the Bill: *UFSP 101 would be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008 only, if (a) the FYE Task Force was judged to be a credible body that was likely to return important recommendations to the Interim Provost on the University’s FYE program, and (b) no students were told that the course is required. In addition, any subsequent offerings of UFSP 101 (or its equivalent) beyond fall 2008 would be subject to an approval process consistent with the Senate Charter.* Chair Delano explained that the Governance Council had already made that judgment and therefore supported “option (i).”

Senator Kim asked who would be teaching the course and the cost involved. It was explained that Professional Faculty teach UFSP101, as opposed to Teaching Faculty who teach the existing UFSP100 course. There was discussion on Teaching Faculty vs. Professionals as teachers. Student Senator Fahrenkopf noted that professional staff are tied to the University and have a vested interest. Senator Bessette spoke in favor of Professionals with appropriate credentials teaching, as he teaches IT courses. There was further discussion regarding the extremely high percentage of grades of B+ and higher awarded in fall 2007 UFSP101 and the impact on grade inflation. Chair Delano indicated the proponents of the course requested that it remain graded A-E for the fall 2008 semester.

The Bill was approved with one opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh
Recorder