

**Governance Council**  
**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**  
**3:00 PM**  
**UNH 306**

James Mower, Chair

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** King, Chad; Malloch, Carolyn; Moore, Chris; Mower, James;  
Poehlmann, Christian; Sorensen, Lucy; Yonkers, Virginia

*Absent:* Herrmann, Susan; Kressner, Ilka; Nold, Patrick; Schmidt, John;  
Young, Yuchi

*Note:* Replacement needed for Keith Earle

The meeting convened at 3:05 p.m.

**1) Approval of Minutes**

- a) Since quorum had not been met, Chair Mower indicated that the minutes of May 10, 2017 would be voted upon electronically. The Chair later reported on 9/15/17 that the minutes had been approved, with six abstentions.

**2) Introductions**

Members introduced themselves, and Chair Mower provided an overview of GOV's charges per the Charter and Bylaws. He noted that the Charter and Bylaws, and other Senate documents and information, were available on the Senate website: [www.albany.edu/senate](http://www.albany.edu/senate). He explained that the Immediate Past Senate Chair also serves as the Chair of UPPC, the Senate Chair also serves as the SEC Chair, and the Vice Chair also serves as the GOV Chair.

**a) Our subcommittees**

- i) **Liaison and Elections Committee (LEC)** – Senate Secretary Poehlmann Chairs this GOV subcommittee and manages membership changes and spring Senate elections.
- ii) **Assessment of Governance and Consultation Committee (AGCC)**. Membership and Chair election needs to be established for this GOV subcommittee. The AGCC conducts a bi-annual survey to aid in assessment of the Senate, analyzing and reporting on the results and making recommendations.

**b) Our shared document space**

GOV Member Chris Moore reviewed procedures for accessing the Office 365 folder, a system adopted by GOV in recent years for housing and sharing files and working documents. Senator Moore welcomed members to contact him with questions regarding accessing the folder. This year Office 365 folders were created for each of the Senate committees.

**3) Chair's Report – Jim Mower**

Senate Chair Reinhold, Vice Chair Mower, Immediate Past Chair Collins and Cynthia Fox (Chair LLC) met with campus governance leaders (Interim Provost Wheeler and Chief of Staff / Vice Provost for Administration Szelest) on 2 occasions over summer break. During both meetings, we discussed Senate priorities for the 2017-18 academic year such as next steps for:

- Strategic Planning,
- Assessment of academic units, and
- Assessment of administrative units.

Reinhold, Mower, Collins, and Fox also met with incoming President Havidán Rodríguez to discuss the relationship of the University Senate and administration roles in shared governance. We found the conversation to be congenial and we expect that President Rodriguez will be an active partner with the Senate.

The President also convened a series of facilitated focus groups over the summer to establish campus priorities and to get a sense of the University community's opinions on a wide range of academic and administrative topics. Reinhold, Mower, Collins, and Fox participated in a leadership group on August 30 to express our opinions on campus governance, academic initiatives, and many other topics.

#### **4) Old Business**

##### **a) Senate webpages**

Chair Mower explained that the Senate website was being re-designed at [www.albany.edu/universitysenate](http://www.albany.edu/universitysenate). GOV would be reviewing procedures and content and recommending changes.

##### **b) Faculty Bylaws Amendments BA 1617:01 and BA 1617:02: voting rights for part time faculty to elect their own representative and clarification of voting senators.**

Over the summer, GOV Chair Mower and Senate Chair Reinhold had considered strategies to address potential related quorum issues. Chair Mower would review a related petition in support of the amendments for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **5) New Business**

##### **a) Senate appointment to the Campus Recreation Advisory Board**

Chair Mower reported that GOV members had voted electronically to unanimously approve recommending a nominee, whose name the Chair had forwarded to Sam Axley, Director for Campus Recreation for consideration.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Elisa Lopez, Recorder