

University at Albany, State University of New York
University Senate
MINUTES
Monday, April 16, 2007

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Ana Cervantes-Rodriguez, Maria Chau, Fan Pen Chen, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Diane M. Dewar, Peter Duchessi, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Sally Friedman, Mary Gallant, Robert Gibson, Frank Hauser, Susan Herbst, Reed Hoyt, Allen Isreal, Jon Jacklet, Nikki Kotary, Donald Keenan, Laurence Kranich, Kevin Lahey, William Lanford, Zai Liang, Eric Lifshin, Irene Lurie, Carolyn MacDonald, Steven Messner, Robert Miller, John Monfasani, Gwen Moore, John Murphy, Joy Newman, Olympia Pelosi, Marjorie Pryse, R. Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, David Shub, Lawrence Snyder, Timothy Stephen, Daniel Truchan, III, Monica Vargas, Lynn Videka, Daniel White, Alissa Worden, Edelgard Wulfert, Kehe Zhu, Adam Zonder

Guests: Jonathan Bartow, John Delano, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan

Provost's Report: Presented by OIC Susan Herbst: OIC Herbst reported that SUNY is seeing the best Budget in over a decade. There is still some negotiating left to do. She did note that there will be no tuition increases for 2007-2008. The base funding will support mandatory contractual salary increases, structural improvements, energy costs and some additional operating costs. More details to follow in the report to the Faculty at its Annual Spring meeting later in the week.

Chair's Report:

Spring Forum on Academic Integrity: Chair Dewar reported that the Spring Forum on Academic Integrity was lightly attended, although those that were there posed very interesting thoughts and questions, there was good discussion.

New University Data Center: Chair Dewar reported that she is on the Advisory Board for the new data center design being developed for the University. She noted that it is an exciting development; and it will go through UPC next year.

Writing Program: Chair Dewar invited people from UPC, CAA, and UAC to the next writing program committee meeting.

Resolution Supporting Chancellor Ryan: The Senate will table the Resolution, to allow time for gathering more information regarding the Chancellor's involvement in the CIT Corporation.

Council Reports: Only Councils with reports are listed:

GOV (Governance Council), Reed Hoyt, Chair: The Governance Council met on 19 March, primarily to discuss the procedures and format of the upcoming elections.

ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair: ULC met March 19 with V.P. Lee McElroy to discuss ways to increase recreational opportunities for UA students, faculty, and staff. Improvements in this area will lead to increased student satisfaction. A resolution on this subject is likely to be forthcoming. ULC met March 29, 2007 and continued its discussion of the need for the University at Albany to include recreational space into the master plan. A resolution related to this issue is being drafted now. ULC heard a presentation from Maria Chau, President of the GSO, about concerns for the housing needs, including legal advice, of students who live off campus. She also presented data showing what services are available at the other university centers. Margaret Reich, Director of International Student Services, also mentioned needs of international students for assistance in finding safe and available housing in the short time period they can arrive prior to the start of classes and for temporary housing immediately upon their arrival. Tom Gebhardt, Director of Personal Safety and Off-Campus Affairs, provided historical information about the services that have been available and those that still are, along with copies of informational brochures on safety matters and other topics. ULC also discussed the question of housing as it related to the recruitment of students and their on-going satisfaction with UA. Knowing as we do that some sophomores will be living off campus starting next year, and that many juniors, seniors, and graduate students already live off campus, it was the opinion of ULC that UA should strengthen its services to students who live off campus. A first step in this direction would be to create a clearer source of information on-line on the housing pages. ULC expects to continue to study this issue and then make additional recommendations for action. ULC met April 12, 2007 and passed a resolution that enhancement of recreational facilities and the financing thereof be made a high and immediate priority for the University, and that suitable locations for facilities be incorporated into the campus' master plan. ULC continued its discussion of off-campus housing needs. Specifically, in the near future, we hope to see the University find a way to provide transitional housing for students arriving from afar who must live off campus, and for the University to reestablish an office charged with providing information and assistance to students living off campus.

New Business:

Proposed Procedures for conducting Senate Officer Elections: This Proposal was introduced by Richard Collier, Senate Secretary. The proposal was approved by the Senate.

2007-2008 Senate Vice-Chair Ballot: The candidates gave two-minute introductions before the paper balloting began.

John W. Delano was elected to the 2007-2008 Chair-Elect position.

Senate Bill 0607-11: Proposal to establish Electronic Mail as an Official Means of Communication with Students: The bill was introduced by Daniel White, Chair of LISC. After discussion, the bill was passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 0607-12: Proposal To Establish A Dual-Degree Graduate Program MA in Communication and MS in TESOL: The bill was introduced by Sally Friedman, Chair of GAC. After discussion, the bill was passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 0607-13: Proposal to Establish a Certificate of Graduate Study (CGS) Program in Teacher Leadership: The bill was introduced by Steven Messner, Chair of UPC. After discussion, the bill was passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 0607-14: Proposal to establish a combined Bachelors/Masters Program B.A. History / M.A. Public Affairs and Policy: The bill was introduced by John Monfasani, Chair of UAC. After discussion, the bill was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder