

**University at Albany, State University of New York
Governance Council**

Friday, November 20, 2009

Eric Lifshin, Chair

Minutes

Present: Ray Bromley, Nan Carroll, Richard Collier, Jane Domaracki, Reed Hoyt, Sung Bok Kim, Eric Lifshin, Candace Merbler, John Pipkin, John Schmidt, Daniel White

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm.

MINUTES:

The minutes of October 30 and November 17 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT BY ERIC LIFSHIN

Chair Lifshin attended meetings held today with Middle States representative, Dr. Donald Langenberg. Dr. Langenberg is quite impressed with our report and has highlighted some important points and observations. His main concern is what the University would like to accomplish and how he can assist in reaching its goal.

OLD BUSINESS:

GOV Comments Re: Middle States Report:

Chair Lifshin urged GOV members to review the relevant chapters of the Middle States report and forward their comments to Gail Cameron by December 1.

Additional Names for Strategic Planning Committee:

GOV members reviewed additional names for recommendation that would provide representation in the areas of part-time faculty, English, Biology and the arts. Members discussed the content of a memo that would accompany the names to be forwarded to Provost Phillips. They agreed the memo should reinforce support of previous recommendations that had not been included in the President's draft of invites. They also agreed to make a request for reviewing the final list and to be assured that it would be in compliance with the original request.

Follow-up on Meeting with GAC:

Members of the Governance Council held a special luncheon meeting on Tuesday, November 17 in response to a request by the Graduate Academic Council for access to the panel assessments of the Graduate Student Survey (GSS). At the conclusion, GOV members voted to endorse the request of GAC Chair Laurence Kranich for copies of each of the program assessments by the GSS. Those present for the vote were Erin Bell, Ray Bromley, Richard Collier, Ed Cupoli, Jane Domaracki, Reed Hoyt, Sung Bok Kim, Eric Lifshin, John Pipkin and Daniel White. Nan Carroll, Candace Merbler and John Schmidt were unable to attend. Senate Secretary Collier prepared a memo on behalf of GOV to Senate Chair Michael Range, expressing the support for GAC's request and provided its interpretation of the relevant sections of the Senate Charter supporting its view. Everyone thanked Secretary Collier for the memo and for speaking on their behalf. As a result of the memo, Chair Range sent GOV a note of appreciation for the clarification. He further indicated it was his belief the issue should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee. Chair Lifshin asked if GOV should add this to the agenda, but members believed that the GOV summary should reflect that GOV met and voted, and had met its charge.

Discussion of Excellence Awards Committee Nominees:

Senate Secretary Collier received a memo from Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, William Hedberg that names compiled by GOV had been accepted. Vice President Hedberg also provided a list of designees, made by the President, for each committee. The members of GOV discussed their concerns regarding the grouping for the Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and creative activities. Currently, UAlbany's award does not have the creative activities component but only recognizes research. GOV would like to assure that UAlbany's award is in line with the Chancellor's award, and that appropriate faculty in the creative activities area will be recognized. GOV will address the issue and make a request to create a separate category for creative activities.

Continued Discussion re: GOV Process for Selection:

GOV members revisited a previous discussion concerning the number of requests for recommendations and the selection process. Having a pool of candidates available could be accomplished by moving up the election of chairs for Senate committees to the spring semester. Once the councils and committees are populated, volunteers who were not assigned could be considered for the recommendations being requested from GOV. This would depend on the cooperation of the colleges and schools to elect their senators promptly. In order to expedite this process, it was suggested that the dean's council be contacted in early spring to explain the process. When the call goes out for volunteers, it would have to state that there is additional opportunity for University service if not assigned to a Senate council or committee. It was also suggested that information to serve in varied capacities be included in the faculty handbook.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gail Cameron, Recorder