

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate Meeting, December 14th, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. Michael Range, Chair

Graduate Study Survey Report: On November 10, 2009, the Chair received a question from GAC Chair Larry Kranich regarding procedures for reviewing the GSS report. The Chair referred the matter to the Governance Council. GOV examined the question, and on November 17 submitted a detailed report to the Chair, which was copied to Graduate Studies Dean Pryse and to the GAC Chair. Unfortunately, some individuals misunderstood GOV's report to the effect that GOV was calling for another review of all the GSS data, thereby potentially questioning the validity of the GSS panel reports and furthermore delaying transmittal of the panel reports to the individual departments. However, the question addressed by GOV involved GAC's (and also UPPC's) review of the GSS Final Report and Recommendations (to be forthcoming), and whether the individual panel reports should be available to GAC at that time. The matter was discussed extensively with Provost Phillips and Dean Pryse at the Nov. 30 SEC meeting. It was emphasized that there was no intent to second-guess the GSS panels, but that in order to review any recommendations, especially in light of potential major impact on doctoral programs, the relevant data and reports which form the basis for such recommendations must be available. GAC and UPPC members involved in such review would have to maintain confidentiality. The Provost and the Dean made clear that no recommendations regarding program terminations or restructuring are considered at this time.

Definition of Diversity: President Philip had asked the University Community to review the draft of a revised definition of diversity and a new vision for diversity for UAlbany, and he had asked for feedback and suggestions. Both CAFFECOR and ULC have discussed the draft document. Because Tamra Minor, Assistant VP and Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action, was not able to join the SEC on Nov. 30, a discussion of this item has been rescheduled for the first SEC meeting in January. President Philip agreed to extend the period for feedback to that time.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford & Daniel D. White, SUNY Senators

Nothing to report.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Melanie Breganza, GSO President

Nothing to report.

SA (Student Association) – Josh Sussman, SA President

Nothing to report.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on November 16 to discuss incentives for high quality assessment and to share comments on chapters five, nine and ten of the draft Middle States report. Questions about and comments on the Middle States report were discussed. Council members agreed to post fine-grained, text-level suggestions for revision to the report on the website; broad stroke comments were summarized in a memo and sent to the MSCHE Self-Study Co-Chairs on December 7. A brainstormed list of incentives for assessment was generated and revisited at the meeting on December 8. The Council also reviewed a draft of a revised form used in the General Education assessment process to be piloted by the GEAC in spring, and received updates on the work of the General Education Assessment Committee and the Program Review Committee.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

CAFFECOR met on November 9th to discuss revision of the Community Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) document. At this point we have a compiled version of the CRR with member suggestions and await final member approval before it is forwarded to Student Success and Conflict Resolution for their review. Of note is that, in the course of inputting suggested changes, the chair of CAFFECOR has noted sections which are pertinent to ULC and LISC also. For example, if the CAFFECOR changes take effect, one part of the policy on computer usage (LISC's purview) would also have to be changed. The electronic version of the revised CRR draft has been circulated to SEC members, but the chair of CAFFECOR would like to emphasize that this draft has not yet been finalized by CAFFECOR. Constructive criticism is welcome. CAFFECOR will meet one last time this semester on Monday, December 14th to finish reviewing changes to the CRR.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair

The Joint CERS-GOV committee has completed an initial draft of the CERS policy document and has begun scheduling meetings with concerned faculty and the administration concerning it.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

Nothing to report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

CPCA has nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

The GAC approved a proposal to establish an Advanced (Graduate) Certificate Program in Professional Science Management (PSM). The proposal is on today's Senate agenda.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Strategic Planning Committee: At its November 20th meeting, GOV identified individuals it felt would be important to include on the SPC group, representing large academic areas or populations not represented thus far on the group. Chair Lifshin has transmitted this list to the Provost.

Excellence Awards Committees: In accordance with SUNY and SUNY Senate Awards Committee requirements for campus excellence awards committees in order for local recipients to be eligible for the Chancellor's Excellence Awards, GOV approved and transmitted to the President membership for this year's committees, other than the student representatives, the one member to be designated by the President, and the one member to be designated by the Senate Chair. GOV also suggested that the President's nominee convene the first meeting of each committee and preside over the election of their chair, noting that both the President's and the Senate Chair's designees are voting members of the committee and could be elected chair of the given committee. The committees are for the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Professional Service, Excellence in Librarianship, Excellence in Support ("Classified") Service, Excellence in Academic ("Faculty") Service, and Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. GOV noted that the last award has *two distinct sets of criteria*, one for "Scholarship" (formerly the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research") and "Creative Activities." The UA Senate Charter designates the responsibility for the "Research" award to the Council on Research, but does not address "Creative Activities." [The criteria, requisite forms, and the allocation of awards to UA can be found on the following SUNY sites: <http://www.suny.edu/provost/facultyAwards.cfm?navLevel=5> and http://www.suny.edu/provost/faculty_awards_files/CEA%202009-2011%20policies%20and%20procedures.pdf. Consequently, the membership for "Scholarship and Creative Activities" expressly avoided the research component and included membership suggested by Provost's Office concerned with "creative activities." Bill Hedberg responded that the membership was acceptable for all except the "Scholarship and Creative Activities" committee, but he is passing on to COR the list of members. He also provided the names of the President's designee for each committee and, in most cases, the name of a support staff person. Senate Chair Range provided GOV a tentative list of his designees (not all of whom as yet had agreed to serve on the committees.) GOV expressed concern that UA faculty who seem to meet the "Creative Activities" criteria may not be (and may not have been) given appropriate consideration for that award. There is no question about COR continuing its appropriate role in selecting a committee to nominate faculty it deems worthy for the President's Award for Research (and thereby the Chancellor's Award for "Scholarship") but it may be desirable in the future to have a separate committee concerned with a President's (and Chancellor's) Award for Excellence in Creative Activities.

GAC inquiry regarding reports from the Graduate Student Support (GSS) panels: Senate Chair Range asked GOV to provide an interpretation of the Senate Charter in response to a request from GAC Chair Kranich. Specifically, Kranich noted that in response to the GAC request to Graduate Dean Pryse for information on the GSS deliberations, "The Dean told the Council that GAC will receive a copy of the final report of the GSS review but not the individual program assessments. She assured the Council that the GSS report will not include proposals for continuing or discontinuing programs nor will it contain any funding recommendations. Therefore, it was her interpretation that since the GSS reports will not recommend the discontinuation of graduate programs, GAC does not need to see the specific GSS recommendations.

At a special meeting of GOV on November 17th, the council strongly disagreed with that interpretation. However, recognizing the critical importance that the GSS findings not be made public, it suggested GAC (and as necessary UPPC) members made privy to those findings take a confidentiality oath. This response was sent to Chair Range with cc's to Pryse, Kranich and UPPC Chair Delano and has been distributed to SEC members. It was subsequently noted that this document was cited as a reason for not informing program directors of the panels' findings—nothing of that sort is stated in the document nor was this the intention of GOV. The council was also informed that some GSS panel members felt they were being "second-guessed."

At its December 11th meeting, GOV again discussed these issues and agreed that it did **not** intend that GAC should receive the "raw data" that GSS panels had received and did **not** expect that GAC would "second guess" the GSS panels' consensus about the ratings assigned to the academic strength and quality of our doctoral programs. The reason for GAC's receipt of assessment information about graduate programs (and UAC's for undergraduate programs) is to allow those councils to fulfill their charge of working with programs when problems or weaknesses are identified. If such efforts fail, GAC (like UAC) might itself recommend that a program be discontinued, suspended or restructured or may need to consider such a recommendation it received from the program's home college/school. The GAC's deliberations and those of UPPC and the Senate must taken into holistic consideration other concerns than the given program's current academic strengths and quality, the appropriately narrowed focus of the GSS panels.

Also at its December 11th meeting the Governance Council responded to problems it found in the draft of Chapter 4 "Leadership, Governance and Administration" of the Self-Study document and provided data on progress in strengthening University governance accomplished during the past decade that was not recorded in the draft. This information is being sent to the chairs of the Self-Study Steering Committee with a copy to SEC members.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

IT Committee chair Larry Raffalovich reported that the IT Committee met and discussed privacy and security concerns, as well as how much is being monitored, and does the University have the authority to monitor content and usage. University Counsel John Reilly was invited to attend the November 23 meeting of the IT Committee to discuss privacy policy.

Other issues raised were concern with the embedded links that accompany emails and the caution that should be taken when opening these links. A discussion followed regarding the lack of subject lines in blast emails and some of the electronic classrooms being non-conducive to teaching. A suggestion to revisit "email as an official means of communication" by the Committee was made.

LISC members are asked to review and comment on the Middle States Self-Study Report, especially Chapter 3.

At its December 7th meeting, LISC members discussed the draft Self-Study. Comments were submitted to the Self-Study committee. At a meeting of the Libraries Committee, members decided to focus on two issues this year: open-access publishing and the University's development of a digital file repository with images from the art museum, Writers' Institute events, and other university items. This repository will be available to the university community soon. A wider institutional repository would be more expensive and time consuming but possibilities for developing one will be investigated by the Libraries Committee. Members of the IT Committee met with University Counsel John Reilly recently to discuss legal issues and University policies relating to IT privacy. Apparently, some regulations are written but many are not.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC approved a CAS course for training tutors under a grant.

UAC learned that the number of students electing S/U grading has greatly increased now that the last date to do so has been moved to later in the semester (877 in Fall 09 with a later deadline compared to 396 in Fall 08 with Sept. 22nd deadline). It remains to be seen if the number of appeals will go down! (Students who elect S/U grading must obtain a C or better to pass.)

UAC discussed the concept of granting blanket Gen Ed approval for topics courses. No vote was taken. The sense of the group was that each course, or in this case, group of courses, should be reviewed on its own merits, and that a general topics course in an area that fell under a particular gen ed could be approved if set up to clearly show those objectives would be met in all topics.

UAC began a discussion about determining whether a student who missed more than 2 weeks of classes due to illness or any "allowable" reason should always be allowed back in class at the request of the Dean, as is the case for shorter absences of similar nature.

The new date and time for UAC meetings in the spring 2010 semester has been set for Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am.

The UAC reviewed Chapter 9 of the Middle State Self-Study draft report and submitted comments as requested.

The UAC proposes a **revision in the General Education Foreign Language requirement**. [bill is on the Senate agenda] The proposal has been distributed to SEC members and is on today's agenda.

The UAC approved the retention standards proposed by the Governing Board of the Honors College. The proposed "**Grade Point Requirements for Continuing in the Honors College**" bill is on the Senate's agenda.

After continuing discussion of the progress being made to reinvigorate the majors in **Global Studies** [on Senate agenda], UAC voted to recommend that no student be permitted to declare either of the Global majors during the spring semester. In order to keep the PeopleSoft records of students currently in the major functioning normally, this policy will be administered by the staff of the Registrar's Office and the Advisement Services Center. All students who are known to be considering this major will receive advisement from ASC about their options, which include waiting to declare or switching to another major instead. Of the current students interested in this major but not yet declared, only one is a junior. The others are frosh or sophomores, so this issue should resolve itself shortly. However, should a new structure not be defined during the spring, UAC will consider further action with regard to the majors.

With regards to revisions to the **Music minor** [bill on the Senate agenda], we note that these are revisions to revisions made last year and approved by the Senate. The Bulletin copy for 09-10 reflects changes that were approved last year. The new changes further clarify the minor and would go into effect after approval by the Senate.

UAC approved some revisions to the applications for student-initiated majors and minors, so that the sponsoring faculty will now be in academic departments from which coursework is drawn, and so that each proposal will include learning objectives and outcomes for the proposed majors and minors. By previous legislation, faculty sponsors must be members of the tenure-track teaching faculty. This has also been clarified on the forms.

UAC approved changing the deadlines for submission of UUNI390 (University-wide Internship) applications so that they are more realistic for students. The deadline to apply for credit for an internship to be undertaken in the subsequent spring semester has been changed from December 1st to December 15th. The deadline to apply for credit for an internship to be undertaken in the subsequent fall semester has been changed from May 1st to August 1st.

A small working group formed of UAC members will work during the month of January to try to make some progress on UAC's work this fall to identify what might be a satisfactory set of graduation requirements should minors themselves be made optional. UAC will then continue on that project and see where it leads.

Also planned for the spring is a review of restricted majors. One concern is that there are students who have not been allowed to declare a restricted major who have nevertheless been allowed to complete all the coursework for it. However, they still cannot graduate, because they cannot declare. UAC will be deciding early in the spring semester what data we wish to gather.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC met to discuss the Middle States Self-Study draft; its comments on chapters 10 and 7 follow:

Chapter 10 typos: Page 8, course prefix is 'RSSW'. Page 8 is missing a link. Page 18 'Capitol' should be spelled 'Capital'. Page 12 number of veterans is now 221 as of fall 2009.

Chapter 10 comments: Page 3, reference to a "dip to 72.4% [retention] after eight semesters", it is unclear whether this is correct. Shouldn't retention dip to zero given graduation after eight semesters for EOP students, especially in light of the fact that in the very next sentence Institutional Research has calculated the graduation rate at 60%?

Chapter 7 typos: Page 9, third paragraph: acronym "LGBTQ" should be "LGBTQQA" (Questioning, Allied). And, last sentence, same paragraph is a fragment "In and examine...faculty and staff."

Chapter 7 comments:

1. Student Services for Graduate Students needs to be explicated. Notation that 30% of the crime on campus is "theft"--what is the other 70%? Is it more serious crime? Needs explanation and data.
2. Perceptions of safety? Where are the stats that demonstrate that UA is more safe than the general Albany community? There is one chart (Appendix 7.2) with 'Students as Crime Victims OFF CAMPUS', how about stats on students as crime victims on campus?
3. Appendices 7.1- 7.5, charts or appendices entitled "Cultural Leaders Avg. GPA", "Prevention Program Attendance", and "Residence Hall Programming" are not referred to in the body of the chapter.

ULC continues to ask for three undergraduate student members for the University Life Council, one of whom must be a Senator

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair

The UPPC met on November 19 and December 3 to review a 15-page Letter of Intent (LoI) from Rockefeller College for the creation of a Masters in Global Affairs program. Provost Phillips and the Office of Graduate Studies had referred the LoI to the UPPC for its perspectives, as per the review procedures (step 4) described at: <http://www.albany.edu/gradstudies/gradprogdevguide.shtml>. The UPPC reviewed the LoI for its strategic and budgetary implications (according to Senate Charter X.2.4), and compliance of the LoI with the informational requirements listed in 'Guidelines for the Submission of Graduate Academic Program Proposals' (November 2005 version) that is available by clicking on the 'SUNY Guidelines' link at the URL listed in the previous sentence.

On November 19, the UPPC met with Dean Jeffrey Straussman and Prof. Rey Koslowski. Following that 90-minute discussion, comments and suggestions by the UPPC were forwarded Dean Straussman and Prof. Koslowski for revisions to the LoI. On December 3, the UPPC met again with Prof. Koslowski to review and discuss the revised LoI that contained more detailed budgetary and resource information. The revised version of the LoI was accepted by a formal UPPC vote. If the LoI has continuing administrative support (refer to URL above), the LoI is prepared for transmittal by either Provost Phillips or President Philip to the SUNY System Provost for step 5 in the 18-step review process.

At its meeting on December 3, the UPPC also discussed two chapters in the current draft of the Middle States Self-Study (i.e., Mission and Goals; and Institutional Resources). Comments and suggestions for revision of those chapters were sent to the Co-Chairs of the Middle States Self-Study, Vice Provost Sue Faerman and Prof. Steven Messner.