

2010-2011 University Senate

Monday, September 27, 2010

3:00 pm, Alumni House

Eric Lifshin, Chair

Present: Sandra Austin, Hassaram Bakhru, Robert Banger-Drowns, Paulina Berrios, Tom Bessette, R. Scott Birge, James Castracane, James Dias, Jane Domaracki, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Cynthia Fox, Elizabeth Gaffney, Timothy Groves, Kristen Hessler, Michael Jaromin, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, Daniel Keyser, Laurence Kranich, Vincent LaBella, Danielle Leonard, Eric Lifshin, Richard Matyi, Candace Merbler, John Monfasani, Gwendolyn Moore, Nancy Newman, Heidi Nicholls, Stephen North, Julie Novkov, Dana Peterson, George Philip, Susan Phillips, John Pipkin, Tremayne Price, R. Michael Range, Katie Reed, Donna Scanlon, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Kabel Nathan Stanwicks, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Christine Wagner, Daniel White, Kevin Williams, Rongwei Yang

Guests: Annis Golden, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:04 pm.

Chair Lifshin welcomed everyone. He informed members of the Senate that an orientation meeting was held on September 20 to provide information on what the councils do and their charges for the coming year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 10 & 14, 2010

Separate motions were made to approve the minutes of May 10 and May 14. Both were seconded and both sets of minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by GEORGE PHILIP

President Philip welcomed everyone and said he looked forward to a productive year.

The President began his report by informing members of the Senate on the state of the budget. The State budget was not finalized until late August. The adopted State budget did not restore the substantial cuts to SUNY, did not provide for a 2% tuition increase, and did not incorporate the financial and regulatory flexibility sought through PHEEIA. SUNY's cut from the State budget amounted to approximately a \$170 million reduction in State tax support resulting in a \$12 million cut to the campus. Since 2008, this brings our total reduction to over \$33.5 million – more than a 30% decline. The President expressed his gratitude for the work of the Budget Advisory Group (BAG3) which has provided helpful perspectives and guidance. The President mentioned that he will be saying more about the budget in the near future.

President Philip discussed many of the events and work that took place over the summer. Work continued on the Strategic Plan and a final draft is in place. The plan, once final, will be shared with the campus community in the near future. The President indicated that the University received its reaccreditation from Middle States this past summer.

The University also launched two pioneering institutes this past June. First, the Institute for Financial Market Regulation (IFMR) was created in partnership with Rockefeller College, the College of Computing and Information, the School of Business, and Albany Law School, along with other public and private sector partners. The goal of the Institute – the first of its kind in the nation – is to help advance state-of-the-art research and education aimed at strengthening financial market regulation, and in so doing, safeguard and protect our financial markets.

The University also launched a pioneering RNA Institute – a new paradigm to advance the development and delivery of innovative medicines, vaccines and diagnostics. It brings together leading researchers from higher education and other institutions, as well as facilities for RNA-based drug discovery. Through its cutting-edge RNA research, the Institute will be a center of excellence here at the University at Albany.

President Philip highlighted the many new construction projects underway:

- A new \$70 million student housing project is proceeding apace and will provide an additional 500 beds when it is completed.
- The \$54 million School of Business project has started as well as the replacement for visitor parking.
- Many of the coniferous trees have been removed and will continue to be removed. The trees have outlived their 40-year life span and many are diseased.
- The \$40 million, much-needed expansion of the Campus Center is underway. The new space will provide additional room for the growth of student groups over the years and will improve the quality of life for students.
- Deferred maintenance continues with the installation of new windows and new roofing in many of the buildings.

The President reminded everyone that capital funds being used for construction projects are not available for operating functions.

Enrollment:

The University received approximately 22,000 freshman applications and admitted 2,250 students. The number of newly admitted students was a planned reduction. The quality of the class is very good with the mean SAT score 10 points above the 2008 entering class and a mean high school GPA of 90.5.

The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering admitted its first class of 13 freshman students to its new baccalaureate programs. The students come with a mean SAT score of 1373 and a mean high school GPA of 94. The Honors College admitted 117 freshmen. The University admitted 206 scholars including Presidential and Frederick Douglas scholars, and 1,396 transfer students were admitted.

Opening weekend activities were outstanding and highly attended. The President thanked all the participants and said he was very impressed with the quality of instruction that was given.

Faculty Accomplishments & Campus News:

- Six faculty members were named Fulbright Scholars for 2010-11.
- Researchers in the Chemistry Department received over \$3.7 million in awards.
- Professor Cheryl Frye in the Psychology Department received a \$1.2 million award from the National Institute of Mental Health.
- The School of Social Welfare's Center for Excellence in Aging and Community Wellness received funding from New York State.
- Faculty members from the Political Science Department presented papers at the American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, DC.

- The School of Business was selected as the “Most Innovative Business School in the Northeast Region of the US” by European CEO Magazine.
- The School of Public Health is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. At the kickoff to a yearlong series of celebratory events, the School’s Center for Continuing Public Health Education announced \$7.9 million in new grants which support its research and educational goals.
- President Philip expressed pride in our students who were instrumental in helping Hannah’s Hope win \$250,000 in funding from the Pepsi “Good Ideas” Refresh Challenge.
- The campus is celebrating Hispanic Heritage month during September.
- The homecoming and fall festival will be held from October 8-10.
- The University at Albany Foundation has named Sally Temple and John Nigro as its 2010 Citizen Laureates.
- The Student Association’s World Within Reach Speaker Series will present Barbara Walters on October 9.

President Philip responded to a question regarding an expansion proposal at CNSE. The President indicated that there are plans to expand CNSE in the areas of nanoenergy and nanomedicine.

SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT by ERIC LIFSHIN

Chair Lifshin said he hoped that we will be judged by our efforts to move the University forward through meaningful legislation and the activities we accomplish. Procedural issues remain important, but should not be the principal focus of Senate activities. He informed Senate members that we have a unique opportunity to ask questions of both President Philip and Provost Phillips and should take advantage of that opportunity. As this year’s Senate Chair, he will leave his specific college affiliations at the door and while senators need to represent their constituencies they also should work for the overall good of the University. He stated it is important that chairs of the councils realize they are leaders and must also act in an unbiased way.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senator’s Report) -Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The SUNY-wide Faculty Senate will meet on October 21-23, 2010 at Alfred State College and the College of Ceramics at Alfred in Alfred New York. All three senators plan to attend. Senator White sent information to SEC and GOV members about getting involved in the Chancellor’s next phase of the Strategic planning process. Those who have volunteered should please let Gail Cameron or Dan White know if they have been put on a committee. The SUNY Faculty senate will hear reports from the Chancellor and the Chancellor’s executive staff Dr. Lavallee and Ms. Rimai. Likely topics of concern will be the failure of PHEEIA in the legislature, continued budget shrinkage, maintaining academic quality in the face of likely program reductions, etc. Please feel free to discuss suggestions for resolutions, discussion topics, or areas of clarification with any of the three SUNY-Faculty senators (Abraham, Shahedipour-Sandvik, White).

CAFFECor Member Malcolm Sherman gave a report from the SUNY Statewide Meeting that he attended. The main topic of discussion was the raises given to Chancellor Zimpher’s three aides. The actions were widely criticized and felt to be damaging to the Chancellor’s credibility. Senate President Kenneth O’Brien discussed the effect on PHEEIA and believes all chances for its passage are gone.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) - Nicholas Fahrenkopf, GSO Representative

Nothing to report.

SA (Student Association) – Justin Wax Jacobs, President Student Association

Nothing to report

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Richard Matyi, Chair

The council will hold its first meeting on September 29.

CAFFeCoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) - Pradeep Haldar, Chair

Nothing to Report

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

Chair Monfasani reported that he has met with University Counsel John Reilly to review the misconduct policy. He is scheduled to meet again with Mr. Reilly and expects to bring the policy to the October Senate meeting.

COR (Council on Research) - James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research held a preliminary meeting on August 31st to elect a Chair. James Castracane was re-elected. The Council on Research held its first meeting of the academic year on Sept. 15th. The main order of business was to select Chairs for the 8 sub-committees. This was successfully accomplished.

In addition, two issues left from the previous year were discussed involving the FRAP funding procedure and an adjustment to the UAlbany Excellence in Research Award guidelines to bring them more in line with the SUNY Chancellor's award procedure.

Chair Castracane informed the Senate that the FRAP A application period is open and information is available on line.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) - Vincent LaBella, Chair

We held our first meeting and elected a chair. We will be looking at our first case in two weeks.

Chair LaBella reported that the Council met last week and reviewed two cases. One new member has been added and he is waiting for a member from the School of Education.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - Laurence Kranich, Chair

At its organizational meeting on August 30, 2010, Laurence Kranich was elected Chair of GAC. Also, Chairs were selected for each of the three standing committees. The first regular meeting of the Council will be on September 24. In addition, the Council will hold extra sessions in October to discuss CAA assessment reports.

At its meeting on 9/24/10, GAC approved membership rosters for its standing committees, conditional on identifying an additional member of the teaching faculty to serve on the Committee on Educational Policies and Procedures. Also, the Council considered a proposal from the School of Business for a Graduate Certificate in Information Security. The Council tabled action pending modifications to the proposal.

GOV (Governance Council) - Susanna Fessler, Chair

GOV has been tasked by the SEC to address concerns about proportional representation on the SEC itself. GOV has also been tasked to address a proposal that the composition of the CPCA as stipulated in the Charter be revised to limit membership to full professors only. These items will be on the agenda of our next meeting on Friday, September 24th.

Chair Fessler discussed the CPCA proposal that would increase the percentage of full professors as members. The proposal would also require the chair of CPCA to be a full professor. She will write up the bill and take it to the Executive Committee. She also discussed the need for regulated diversity on the Executive Committee. GOV has recommended that council chairs be subject to approval of the Senate at its first meeting and she will also write the bill to be presented to the Executive Committee.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) - Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Chair

LISC convened on Tuesday 31st of August and elected a new chair. Other than that there is "nothing to report".

Chair Shahedipour-Sandvik reported that LISC will hold its first meeting on October 18. At that time its two standing committees will be populated. Members do not have to be senators and she welcomed anyone who might be interested.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) - JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

UAC has no new business to report at the moment. We have formed sub committees and our first meeting will be next Wednesday

ULC (University Life Council) - Danielle Leonard, Chair

ULC is fully constituted and will be setting the first meeting date for the next week or two.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) - R. Michael Range, Chair

The Council met on Friday, September 17, 2010. The main item on the agenda was a proposal from the School of Business for a **Graduate Certificate in Information Security**. Professors Goel from BUS and Bromley from International Education were invited to the meeting. There was a lively debate. The proposal was tabled pending resolution of a procedural question and submission of

additional material from the proposers. The procedural question has been resolved in the meantime, to the effect that per the latest 2005 SUNY regulations, a Letter of Intent is no longer required for a graduate certificate program. The Council will continue its review of the certificate program once the additional material is received.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Council and Standing Committee Memberships:

Chair Lifshin informed the Senate that formation of the councils was done during a meeting of the Committee on Council Nominations, held on June 4 and attended by the members as specified by Charter Section X.1.5. Before the vote was held to approve the memberships, the following statement from Professor Kajal Lahiri was read by Senate Secretary Bessette:

“Dear Senators, since I am currently in Luxembourg for a conference, I am appealing to you in absentia not to approve the current composition of council membership as a whole and the resulting choice of SEC. Given the size of CNSE in relation to the rest of University, I find the SEC composition overwhelmingly out of proportion in favor of CNSE. Please vote “no” until some sense is brought into the choice of SEC. Thanks. Kajal Lahiri, Distinguished Professor of Economics, and a Senator”. Chair Lifshin then opened Professor Lahiri’s statement for discussion.

Senator Monfasani expressed his dismay at the number of chairs that are from CNSE. In looking at the composition of councils he identified a problem concerning the Committee on Council Nominations which he said should be looking for balance on the councils. He referred to the Charter, Section X.1.5.2 which states “Normally no council shall have more than one member from the same academic unit.” The proposed membership has more than one CNSE member on at least five of the councils, not including the SEC. He sees this as an egregious imbalance that needs to be addressed. Senator Moore stressed the importance of approving the council memberships. Not doing so will set back the work of the councils and we need to move forward.

Chair Lifshin requested a clarification on the definition of an academic unit. UPPC Chair Range pointed out that as a point of order, the Chair should not be involved in the discussion. Chair Lifshin said his question was for clarification for the members of the Senate to better understand the issue being discussed. Chair Lifshin reminded the Senate that the vote is not related to the chairs but to the list of names and whether this is the set of councils that people are willing to accept. CAFFECOR Chair Haldar informed the Senate that CNSE has four academic units, each having their own professional staff. GOV Chair Fessler said that CNSE is parallel to how other schools are formed. She gave the School of Business (SOB) as an example which has departments such as Marketing and Accounting, but SOB is still considered one academic unit. Chair Fessler referenced the section of the Charter previously referenced by Senator Monfasani and said that although councils should not have more than one member from the same academic unit, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is the exception.

UPPC Chair Range pointed out an overrepresentation of Mathematics on CPCA. The matter was resolved when it was realized that Branka Arsic was listed in error as being from Mathematics instead of the English Department. Chair Range continued and acknowledged GOV’s efforts to add more full professors to CPCA. Currently there are six associate and three full professors. He pointed out that this is the body that makes decisions with long range consequences for tenure. He was pleased that Professor Shub was being considered for approval but concerned about the lack of the core sciences. Chair Range solicited the chairs of the science departments and received two nominations which he forwarded to the Senate officers. Chair Range introduced a formal amendment to add Professor Saj Alam from the Physics Department to CPCA. CPCA Chair LaBella informed the Senate that with the addition of Professor Shub, there are four full professors and one O’Leary Scholar on CPCA. Chair LaBella had discussed the need for more representation from the sciences with Associate VP from Academic Affairs William Hedberg. Chair LaBella informed the Senate that his own background is in Physics and it would be inappropriate to have another person from the same background on the council

SUNY Senator Daniel White called for a vote on council memberships. Before doing so, the amendment to add Professor Alam needed to be resolved and the motion to add him to CPCA was seconded. CPCA Chair LaBella repeated his request to add someone from another discipline. Secretary Bessette informed the Senate that the School of Education (SOE) has provided the name of a new Senator, Associate Professor Donna Scanlon. She was going to be placed on GOV but could be placed on CPCA. A motion was made to table Chair Range's amendment until the SOE can be consulted. A senator who is on CPCA is on sabbatical and Professor Scanlon could fill the slot temporarily until other solutions come forth. A motion was made and seconded to table the proposed amendment and approved by a vote.

Chair Lifshin then called for a vote to accept the roster of council memberships. The results of the vote were 23 approved, 8 opposed and 11 abstentions and the councils were formally accepted. Chair Lifshin informed Senate members that the various councils are duly constituted, having elected their chairs. He informed the Senate that as members of the SEC, the chairs by an e-mail vote, had elected Nicholas Fahrenkopf as the parliamentarian.

Election of Senators Selected by their Council as Council Chair:

Chair Lifshin informed the Senate that two of the councils have elected chairs that are not senators and therefore need to be approved as senators for a one-year term by the Senate. A motion to appoint Richard Matyi, Chair of CAA and JoAnne Malatesta, Chair of UAC as senators was made and seconded. A vote was taken and both were overwhelmingly approved.

UPPC Chair Range raised a point of order that he said the Senate needs to understand concerning the vote put forth for the parliamentarian. On Friday, September 17 Chair Lifshin sent an e-mail to the SEC calling for a vote via e-mail to approve Nicholas Fahrenkopf as parliamentarian. Chair Lifshin's message indicated that Mr. Fahrenkopf was the only respondent to a notice that was posted on the Senate website. Chair Range raised the question as to whether the vote was premature since the membership of the SEC was not approved by the Senate. He had made a request to suspend the voting until the Senate approved the council memberships. He made a motion to have the Senate annul the vote of the non-approved membership of the SEC. The motion was seconded and a discussion ensued. The section of the Charter which addresses appointment of a parliamentarian was reviewed. The section state "To facilitate the conduct of Senate meetings, the Executive Committee may appoint a parliamentarian." Chair Lifshin said the Executive Committee vote followed normal procedure. The procedure for canvassing the University for a parliamentarian was discussed. A notice was posted on the Senate website. In response, Chair Range felt that may have been too optimistic. He continued, stating that if the vote were annulled today, the Executive Committee could take up the matter at its next meeting. Efforts could be made to canvass the University more widely for someone more suitable. GOV Chair Fessler read a section from *Robert's Rules of Order* concerning the duties of the parliamentarian which stated, "...its parliamentarian has the same duty as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote. He does not cast a deciding vote, even if his vote would affect the result, since that would interfere with the chair's prerogative of doing so. If a member feels he cannot properly forego these rights in order to serve as parliamentarian, he should not accept that position."

Senate members expressed concern about spending too much time on the matter when there is a lot of hard work to be done. Senator Merbler stated that given the absence of language in the Charter, the Senate does not have the authority to change the vote of the Executive Committee. However, a motion to annul the vote appointing Nicholas Fahrenkopf as parliamentarian was made and seconded, but not supported by the resulting vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Gail Cameron, Recorder