

# COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

## Senate Executive Committee Meeting, March 8th, 2010

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

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

**Gen Ed Task Force.** The Task Force has been constituted as stipulated in Senate Resolution 0910-01 approved on February 8, 2010. Information about the membership has been sent to Senators in an earlier mailing. The work of the Task Force is ongoing, and the SEC and UAC will be receiving initial recommendations by March 19, 2010.

**SUNY UFS Senators.** UFS President Ken O'Brien has officially confirmed to President Philip that UAlbany is eligible to be represented by *three* senators rather than two. Consequently UAlbany will chose two new senators by university-wide election in April. Dan White will continue with the second year of his first 3-year term. The Chair encourages senators to consider standing for election and to encourage colleagues across the university to consider representing UAlbany on the SUNY senate. An invitation will be sent out in due time to all faculty and staff.

**Review and Evaluation of Administrators.** The SEC discussed materials from the SUNY UFS regarding faculty evaluation of administrators. These materials have been sent to Senators last week. There was a consensus that UAlbany should consider setting up such an evaluation process, which is in place, for example, at Binghamton and Stony Brook. However, there also was consensus that endorsement by the Senate would be needed before proceeding further. Discussion and vote of a resolution proposed by the SEC concerning this matter is on today's agenda. The text of the proposed resolution has been mailed out together with the agenda and other materials.

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

Nothing to report.

### **GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkopf, GSO Representative**

Nothing to report.

### **SA (Student Association) – Dustin Lanterman, Academic Affairs Director, SA**

The spring 2010 edition of the *World Within Reach Speaker Series* will feature Howard Dean and Karl Rove, discussing the important issues of today's world.

### **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 February 11, 2010. The chairs of the Program Review and the General Education Assessment Committee provided updates; the potential impact of the new SUNY General Education requirements for the work of each committee was discussed. We also discussed the need for the Graduate Academic Council to review assessment reports from the CAA pertaining to graduate programs. We revisited an earlier discussion of ways to create incentives to engage faculty in constructive assessment and voted to allow programs with extraordinarily effective assessment plans to move to an alternate year reporting schedule. Finally, we continued our review of the Graduate Student Support report and edited a draft response to the Provost.

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

Two members of CAFFECOR conducted an "in service" training session for the Res Life professional staff on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The topic was free speech in the residence halls: what defines it, how to handle borderline situations, and ways to engage the student body in meaningful dialogue that promotes both free speech and diversity. A follow-up session took place with the student staff.

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

The Joint CERS-GOV committee of Carolyn MacDonald, Edward Cupoli, and me completed a draft of a revised CERS policy text in December. There have since been conversations with John H. Reilly, the University's Counsel. CERS itself has started to meet concerning the text. When it has finished its deliberations, the text will be sent to GOV and COR for their reaction. We hope to be able to bring the revised CERS policy text to the Senate floor in April.

### **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**

At its meeting on March 2, 2010, GAC approved a proposal to deactivate the Russian MA and Certificate of Advanced Study programs. This matter will now go to UPPC before advancing to the full Senate. In addition, the Council acted upon a grievance before its Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. The Council also discussed the Initial Allocations for 2010-11 Graduate Student Support, distributed by Dean Pryse on February 26, and it continued its discussion of the 2009 GSS Review Final Report.

## **GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair**

The Governance Council met on Friday, March 5th and discussed spring elections. A call letter will be sent to all voting faculty asking for nominations for the positions of Senate Vice-Chair and Senate Secretary. GOV members began putting together a slate of nominees for Senator-at-Large positions and those people will be contacted to identify their willingness to serve. In addition, GOV members identified possible candidates for SUNY Senators to fill Senator Lanford's vacancy and for a third SUNY Senator. Call letters will be sent as soon as the volunteer web application is up and running. IT has been contacted to assist with coordination of this effort. Senate Secretary Collier will be contacting the schools and colleges to inform them of pending vacancies in their various departments. GOV's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 18.

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

**Report from Dean of Libraries, Mary Casserly:** The Libraries are working with Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, an architectural firm chosen last year, to develop a plan for renovating the University Library. A steering committee and working group have been appointed and are meeting today. It will be important to work in close collaboration with those planning the Campus Center renovations in order to assure that services and functions that are needed by the University Community are available in the appropriate places but are not duplicated unnecessarily.

The Library Advisory Committee reported that this committee is looking at issues related to open access journals. OA journals are freely available online. They do not charge subscription fees to libraries or individuals but they cover their publication costs through author fees, endowments, institutional subsidies, sponsorships, etc. The committee is particularly interested in those that charge author fees. Some journals charge lower fees to institutions that have "memberships" to their parent organizations/associations. Some of our faculty have had questions about these memberships and about whether there is funding to support OA journal author fees.

**Report from the CIO, Christine Haile:** Chris presented the ITS Operating Plan for the July to June fiscal year. Chris distributed the *Office of the CIO Priority Areas 2009-2010* handout to the committee, which highlights ITS priorities for the fiscal year, explained some of the priorities spearheaded for this year, and answered questions from the committee. She stated that most things are on schedule and within budget.

She also reported on UDID (University Digital Database). The software package, known as LUNA, is up and running. Brian Keogh was appointed project manager and is ready to unveil. So far, 2500 objects from the museum archives have been loaded into the system. The next step is to identify areas around the University for departmental or personal content.

**Report from IT Committee, Larry Raffalovich:** The IT Committee plans to look at the ITS "Draft Strategic Plan." As a result of the meeting on November 23, it was concluded that the University does have the authority to monitor content and usage of one's University-owned machine if it is warranted.

## **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair**

UAC passed a bill clarifying and changing the way excuses for student absences can be obtained and reviewed (for Senate vote 3/8). UAC continues to collect and discuss data on the way students who begin their university studies at UA and those who transfer in complete their minors at UA and the problems they encounter in doing so. For example, UAC has learned that about 300 seniors whose degree programs require them to complete a minor are yet to declare one. Four UAC members have been appointed to the Task Force on General Education.

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

ULC met on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Smoking Policy: We are at a point where we can schedule campus *fora* later this term to gain feedback on the proposed policy; we will also be contacting Institutional Research about a survey this coming fall of employees. This year was heavy with surveys due to Middle States and other initiatives so it is impossible to get another survey done. We are also having a yearly discussion with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics, about the NCAA academic scores, annually published in spring. One of our items is to discuss divisional, campus, system and NCAA controls for eliminating violations.

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

The two previously scheduled meetings on February 12 and February 26 were cancelled due to (a) key-individuals for agenda items being unable to attend, and (b) scheduling conflict with Strategic Planning Retreat on Feb. 25-26, respectively. Six (6) UPPC members are on the Strategic Planning Committee. Efforts to schedule a UPPC meeting on Friday, Feb.19, were again not successful due to key-individuals for the agenda being unable to attend. The next UPPC meeting is scheduled for March 12 when the agenda will include discussions of (i) a proposal to suspend admission to a M.A. program, (ii) the GSS report, and (iii) a question bearing on the university budget.