

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, May 2, 2011

As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Nothing to report.

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

Unable to respond in time for this report.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative

As the semester comes to a close, the GSO held their end of the year President's Gala via a cruise on the Hudson River. Over 140 graduate students dined and danced the night away, celebrating the end of a great year and welcoming the new Executive Board. Elections results were announced and some new faces were welcomed and some retuning individuals continued. Heidi Nicholls will be continuing as President, Sara Dapson as Lead Office Manager, Nic DePaula will continue as Grants Chair, Nick Farenkopf as University Council Respresentitive, and Fotini Spero as a Senator. Sarah Taylor, this year's Vice President will be switching roles as she is the new MCAA Chair, and Christine Preble, this year's Programming Chair, will serve as next year's Vice President. As for new members, we welcome Ersin Dincelli as our Treasurer and Giray Askoy as our Lead Senator. In addition to executive board members, this year's elections also included the GSO fee and 2 referendums. The GSO fee will continue for another two years to mandatory, there is now a two year term limit imposed for any one position for executive board members, and the senators are no longer required to attend their GSO assembly meetings. This week, in honor of finals, the executive board has offered to man the office in order to make it possible to keep the office open for extended hours as well as a BBQ is being held in Troy at Dinasour BBQ on reading day to feed and motivate our fellow graduate students in the final stretch of this semester. This coming Friday will be the last assembly meeting of the year. We will be confirming any senators, our grants chair, our programming chair, and 2011/2012 working budget.

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

Nothing to Report.

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

The CAA had a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Significant issues that were addressed include the following:

1. Several outstanding program reviews are still in progress; the Program Review Committee will continue its work over the summer to complete these reports.
2. The outlook for program reviews for the 2011-2012 academic year was discussed. A large number of programs (Chemistry, Political Science, CNSE, Anthropology, Art (incl. Art History) and Liberal Studies) are tentatively set to proceed for 2011-2012.
3. It was recommended that reviews of LLC and Theatre should not proceed in 2011-2012.
4. It was decided that, of the outstanding General Education categories, assessment of Natural Sciences can proceed by scheduled for Fall, 2011.

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

Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on April 27th and considered several topics. The first was to endorse the recommendations of the Benevolent Award Review sub-committee and forward them to the VPR. These awards are sponsored by the Benevolent Association for graduate student research support. Awards will be announced after review by the VPR.

The second topic was the report by the Conference/Journal Support Award sub-committee. The sub-committee recommended support for two applications and this recommendation was forwarded to the VPR for consideration and subsequent announcement. It was also decided that a third round of applications will be called for in light of the remaining available funds for this program.

Finally, the current discussion of the UB2020 plan and the implications for UAlbany status were considered. All COR members were urged to contact their legislators and COR will assemble a statement concerning the impact on research opportunities that this situation will have on the UAlbany campus.

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

CPCA continues to review cases at about 3 per week. We will meet regularly until the end of May.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

At its meeting on April 29, GAC deferred consideration of a proposal by Rockefeller College and the School of Social Welfare for curricular changes to the joint Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership pending further clarification. The Council approved a proposal by the School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior to suspend admission to its M.S. program. It also approved a request from the College of Arts and Sciences Psychology Department to revise course requirements for its M.A. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology program. Finally, the Council resumed discussion of the CAA program reviews. It will conclude its consideration of the program reviews at its meeting on May 9.

GOV (Governance Council) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

GOV met on 4/14 and 4/28. We did not have any actionable items, but had extended conversations about governance issues that we anticipate will carry on over into 2011-12. Many are technical issues related to the Charter, e.g., unclear wording that we feel could be clarified, etc., and it is our hope that next year GOV will be able to bundle these suggested Charter amendments/corrections into one bill. GOV also discussed at length what the definition of an “academic unit” has been in the past and what it might be in the future. No consensus was reached. Finally, in the wake of the at-large elections, the Chair is arranging for 2011-12 council organizational meetings during the weeks of May 2 and 9, the sole purpose of which will be for the councils and standing committees (CERS and CAFFECOR) to elect a chair. Once chairs are elected, they will work with the Secretary to address any residual council membership issues, all of which will be subject to Senate approval.

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

LISC met on April 11th. The last meeting of LISC for the year is scheduled for May 9th.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

UAC met on April 13th, 20th, and 27th. Much of the time in these meetings was spent discussing and revising the general education proposal. The UAC continues to work closely with the General Education Committee to create a General Education Program that is consistent with the principles set forth by the General Education Task Force and incorporates the feedback from Schools and Colleges while also being mindful of the SUNY Strategic Plan and issues associated with student mobility. Significant progress has been made toward the creation of such a proposal. However, given the quickly approaching end of the semester and the need for additional work to be completed, the UAC agreed to that it would not be prudent to rush a bill to the Senate. Therefore, at the April 20th meeting a Resolution was introduced which details the history of this General Education Project, asks for the creation of a General Education Advisory Board, and sets a resolution that the Advisory Board be charged to continue the review of the General Education proposal. The Resolution was unanimously approved and is expected to move forward to the Senate.

Additionally, UAC has reviewed and approved a number of Bills including: proposal for revisions to the Major in Documentary Studies; realignment of FMR GPA requirements with the School of Business; and updates to the History Major. These three proposals were approved by UAC and will be forwarded to the SEC and Senate for final approval. UAC also approved a proposal to allow UNL205 and UNL206 to be offered for 1 or 2 credits based on section.

ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

On Tuesday, April 12th 2011, the ULC meeting focused on discussing the suicide incidents the university community has faced this Fall semester. Mr. John Murphy, Associate Vice President for Student Success, informed us how the university has responded to the last student suicide, including the actions taken to support students, faculty, and family members. He explained the Suicide Response Plan and how the university is making sure we have programs in place to assess the risk of students. Through various committees and subgroups, the administration quickly mobilizes to evaluate the risk some student behavior may pose to themselves and to the general university community.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Jim Fossett, Chair

UPPC members have been involved in final deliberations of President's Budget Advisory Group (BAG IV) and in drafting of final report to President Philip. This report has gone to the President and should be available shortly for distribution to the SEC and the full Senate. In addition, UPPC has voted to approve a revised set of planning calendars for Spring 2012 and academic year 2012-2013 and has voted to approve a proposal from the School of Public Health to establish a completely on-line version of its MPH degree aimed at public health practitioners.