

University at Albany
State University of New York

University Council

Minutes
March 9, 2012

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on March 9, 2012 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Daniel Tomson (Vice Chair/Presiding Officer), Pierre Alric, Patricia Caldwell, James Clancy (by teleconference), John Fallon, James Jackson (by teleconference), Abner JeanPierre, Michael Stein and Student Member Tremayne Price; also Nicholas Fahrenkopf (Graduate Student Representative), Andi Lyons (Faculty Representative), and Canon Kay Hotaling (Alumni Representative).

Also present were: President George Philip, Vice Presidents Stephen Beditz, James Dias, Lee McElroy, Fardin Sanai and Vincent Delio (Chief of Staff).

Mr. Tomson called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Fallon/Caldwell), the minutes were approved with one typographical correction.

Moving to the President's Report, President Philip commented on the SUNY2020 Plan noting our campus submission which had a biomedical focus. He highlighted several topics which were addressed at a recent meeting with the Chancellor and SUNY campus Presidents. A discussion ensued with Mr. Stein, Ms. Caldwell and Mr. Alric commenting. The President said that the new athletic facilities would offer future expansion capabilities should there be such a need and he reported that the New York Giants football team will return this summer to the UAlbany campus. He said that due to the construction that will be underway at the athletic field sites, there have been discussions with the Giants to assure that their field needs will be met.

Continuing with his report, President Philip noted that long-time football coach Bob Ford has been recognized by the City of Albany who named a "Bob Ford Day" in his honor. And, a fund-raising initiative is being launched to underwrite a Bob Ford Football Field. He commented on several other initiatives, including a successful UAlbany Day at the Capitol, a small business program that has received external recognition, and a number of student sponsored programs. In response to a question about the status of the campus management study, Vice President Beditz noted that a final draft has been submitted, is being reviewed, and will soon be released. It does, he said, suggest a number of steps to streamline several administrative areas.

Moving to the Student Report, Mr. Price reported that the annual student election resulted in a run-off for the positions of President and Vice President but a new Student Council member had been elected and will begin his term in May. He said that a new Student Constitution had also been adopted.

Continuing with his report, he said that the current Student Association officers had been dealing with a revenue shortfall for the past few years in funding the various student organizations. He also highlighted a host of student-sponsored programs, some campus-based and others community-based. President Philip commended the Student Association for their various community and volunteer activities.

Moving to the Faculty Update, Professor Lyons reported on several Senate activities including action taken on GenEd requirements. She said that the Senate was looking into several areas of importance including the academic program reductions from last fall, the future of the campus Strategic Plan in view of the arrival of a new President, and engagement in the Presidential Search process. A discussion ensued on both the SUNY2020 Plan and the fall campus program reductions with Mr. Delio, Mr. Stein, President Philip, and Professor Lyons commenting. With regard to the program reductions, President Philip noted that the Budget Advisory Group's plan had, in fact, called for deeper reductions in certain circumstances and Professor Lyons concurred.

Continuing with her report, she said that there was growing concern about the proposed movement of certain departments and other units from the Uptown to the Downtown Campus as well as movements within the Uptown Campus. President Philip and Vice President Beditz responded that the objective was to make better use of the facilities on both campuses.

Moving to the Graduate Student Update, Mr. Fahrenkopf highlighted several programs sponsored by the Graduate Student Organization, noting that their activities were very limited when compared to the Student Association in view of their rather small budget.

Moving to the Alumni Update, Canon Hotaling reported a number of programs sponsored by the Alumni Association that will take place during the current semester and into the summer months including several which assisted in the Admissions Office recruiting activities. As one example, she distributed a handout which was sent to alumni inviting them to volunteer to serve as advisors to students who might be interested in their career.

Moving to New Business, Dr. McElroy announced that the UAlbany athletic program had recently received NCAA certification in recognition of its quality and meeting specific requirements. And, he expressed his praise of the women's basketball team for another successful year. Continuing with his report, he provided a PowerPoint presentation about the campus athletic program – its past, present and future. It highlighted the 19 intercollegiate sports that are active on campus, both women and men, touched on the conferences in which the teams play, the values and diversity that are critical to the overall program, and underlined the fact that the academic records and graduation rates for these athletes parallel the institution as a whole.

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Alric suggested that the Council consider adopting by-laws, similar to those used by the SUNY Stony Brook Council. Mr. Tomson agreed and Mr. Alric volunteered to gather some additional information and prepare a draft for consideration by the Council.

Moving to the next agenda item, Vice President Sanai said that the University Foundation was establishing a *George and Sandy Philip Scholarship* in recognition of President Philip's commitment to undergraduate education at the University and the fact the both he and his wife are alumni. He noted a goal of raising \$500,000 and that a challenge gift of \$50,000 had been made by Mr. Morris Massry, Vice President of the Foundation. Continuing with his report, he said that Norman and Micki Massry had been selected by the Foundation to receive the 2012 Citizen Laureate Award for their outstanding contributions to the community and that Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson, Dean of the School of Social Welfare, had been selected to receive the Academic Laureate Award. The 2012 event will be chaired by Mr. John Nigro, a former Citizen Laureate recipient and prominent business leader in the community.

Mr. Sanai noted several development-related activities occurring in the coming months and, in response to a question, said that the UAlbany Magazine return to print form this semester. He said that budget constraints last semester resulted in an on-line issue. In response to another question, he said that the name of the \$1 million gift donor that had been reported at the last meeting was still anonymous but will be revealed in the near future.

Moving to the final agenda item, Ms. Caldwell reported on the Presidential Search noting that the search consulting firm of Isaacson, Miller had been engaged to assist with the search and that the consultant had been on campus several weeks ago for two days of meetings with various campus constituencies. She said that earlier today the search committee held the first of two "listening sessions" for faculty and staff to express their views and offer comments to the search committee with the second session scheduled for March 20. Mr. Tomson said that the search committee had met with the Chancellor, who gave the committee its "charge." In response to a question, he said that a formal search timetable was not certain at this point but that a Presidential Profile was being developed, which would allow for recruiting potential candidates.

As the meeting came ended, Dr. Chesin noted that a new amendment to the Open Meetings Law Requirements for College Councils had just been received and would be incorporated into the Council's procedures.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sorrell E. Chesin, Ph.D.
Secretary to the University Council