

**Senate Secretary Christian Poehlmann  
Reports Submitted for April 3, 2017 Senate meeting:**

**CHAIR'S REPORT - James Collins**

**I. Informational**

1. On March 4 and 6, Chair Collins received communications from CPCA Chair Louise-Anne McNutt, Immediate Past Chair Cynthia Fox, and Parliamentarian Ron Vero about issues involved in redesigning CPCA's workload. This was discussed at the SEC meeting on March 20, and will be subject of a CPCA open meeting on April 6.
2. On March 7, Chair Collins had a conference call with University Council Chair Michael Castellana about insuring Senate input to the Presidential Search process.
3. On March 13 and 20, Chair Collins communicated with Kathie Winchester, support staff for UAC, about the schedule of annual Undergraduate Bulletin revisions as it concerns the scheduling of academic administrative changes (e.g. departmental name changes).
4. On March 15, Chair Collins confirmed April 20<sup>th</sup> as the date for the Spring Faculty Meeting with Alice Oldfather, Assistant to the President for Strategic Communication.
5. On March 16 Chair Collins met with Senate Officers (Cynthia Fox, Karin Reinhold, and Chris Poehlmann) to discuss bylaws amendments, Senate elections, the SEC meeting on March 20, and the CGL (Campus Governance Leadership) meeting on March 22.
6. On March 21, Chair Collins moderated a well-attended and lively forum on Contingent Faculty Concerns from 3-4:30 in the Campus Center Assembly Hall. There was a 'frank and open' exchange of ideas and opinions about administrative, union, and senate efforts improve compensation, job security and professional working conditions of the 500+ part-time and contingent faculty. They comprise a slight majority of the teaching faculty at the University, and teach a majority of undergraduates.
7. On March 22, Chair Collins, Vice Chair Reinhold, and Immediate Past Chair Fox met with for a regular CGL meeting with Provost Wheeler and Chief of Staff Szelest. Topics included the Spring Faculty Meeting, review of academic administrative units, proposed amendments to faculty bylaws, gathering information from the Council of Deans about evaluation of part-time and contingent faculty teaching, and the Senate website.

**II. Actions taken**

- a. The SEC endorsed a long-term effort to develop an archive of Senate Council and Committee operating procedures, in order to improve

'institutional memory' across successive iterations of Councils and Committees.

- b. The SEC endorsed a long-term effort to develop a feasible practice of regular reporting by Councils and Committees, including the uploading of agendas, minutes, and meeting schedules to the Senate website, in order to make the work of the Senate more transparent and accessible.
- c. The SEC endorsed a GAC request for information from various administrative units for information on the size, origin, and financial, economic and intellectual contributions of international students, faculty, and staff to UAlbany.

### III. **Recommendations for actions**

- a. In order to improve the quality and consistence of Senate work, as well as attendance at Senate meetings, the Senate leadership should meet with Chairs of Councils and Committees at the beginning of each academic year to discuss the rights of responsibilities of their office and the availability of information about the conduct of their respective Councils and Committees.
- b. In order to improve the ability of the Senate to function, including fostering regular attendance at Council, Committee, and Senate Meetings, the Chair of the Senate should meet at the beginning and end of each semester with the Presidents of the Student Assembly and the Graduate Student Assembly, and any leadership groups they wish to convene, in order to discuss how best to coordinate and conduct the work of a University Senate, which includes these large, independent Assemblies.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **UFS (University Faculty Senate) - Diane Hamilton, Walter Little & Latonia Spencer, SUNY Senators**

- Nothing to report

### **GSA (Graduate Student Association) - Saben Durio, GSA President**

- Nothing reported

### **SA (Student Association) - Felix Abreu, Student Association President**

- Nothing reported

## **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:**

## **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Alifair Skebe, Chair**

CAA met Tuesday, March 7.

### **1. New Business**

- a. Approved minutes from February meeting
- b. Approved two reports by APRC
- c. Gen Ed Fall assessments are on track

### **2. Old Business**

- a. Re-reviewed both the UUP report on the Use of SIRFs in Teaching Evaluations and 2016 Survey on Shared Governance

### **3. Actions Taken**

- a. Voted to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review Part-time/Contingent assessment of teaching in performance review
- b. Invited Contingents Working Group "Pathways to Permanence" to next council meeting
- c. Next meeting April 12, 9-11am AS 122

## **CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) -Carol Jewell, Chair**

- Nothing reported

## **CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) - Michael Jerison, Chair**

- Nothing to report

## **COR (Council on Research) - Daniele Fabris, Chair**

- CoR has received the Spring applications for the Benevolent Award. The subcommittee in charge of providing recommendations will meet on Apr 3.
- The subcommittee on Centers, Institutes, and Specialized Laboratories will meet on Apr 13.

## **CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) -**

**Louise-Anne McNutt, Chair**

- Discussion of possible change in Charter related to organization of CPCA will occur on April 6th, at 9:30 AM. Location TBD.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - James Fossett, Chair**

- Nothing reported

**GOV (Governance Council) - Karin Reinhold, Chair**

Mar 13th Maritza Martinez was added to the list of nominees for Open At-Large Senators after a successful petition to add her name with 29 signatures.

Mar 20th Meeting of SEC:

\* What should be in the Senate website?

We are proposing that the website should have calendar of Council meetings. It turns out that many councils do not meet regularly.

\* SEC endorsed the councils' reporting of agenda and minutes on the website.

\* Presidential search: there is still time to forward input to M. Castellana about your concerns or suggestions. For example, you could send names of possible candidates or sample questions to ask candidates. The search committee is working on a common set of questions to ask all candidates. Since there is no contingent faculty in the search committee, J. Collins suggested adding 2 questions about part time faculty.

\* There was a question about the role of the Senate on assessment of part time faculty. SIRF scores are the only tool used for evaluation of part time teaching faculty. Best practice in our own guidelines for hiring: peer review of teaching every 3 semesters.

\* CPCA is considering changing its structure for more efficient review of cases and reducing work overload of members. This will be discussed during the meeting of April 6.

Gov's procedures to be included in handbook:

\* Online procedure to add nominees for senators at-large.

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions>

\* Orientation meeting of Councils and standing committees' chairs at the beginning of the academic year to inform about reporting procedures, and general guidelines of council chairs responsibilities.

\* Meeting with SA and GSA presidents at the beginning of each semester to update student senator rosters. There is a high turn-around of student senators leaving councils and committees without appropriate student representation.

GAC requested information about contribution of immigrants: number, countries of origin, financial and intellectual contribution of international students, faculty and staff to UAlbany. GSA's chair suggested that the President should consider making a

statement regarding our support and acknowledging their contributions.

Mar 20th Announcement of Faculty Bylaws amendments.

Mar 21st Streamlining requests for volunteers for shared governance: google form.

Mar 21st: forum on contingent concerns: J. Collins, Professor of Anthropology & Chair of the University Senate, was the moderator. William Hedberg, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Chair of Implementation Team of Provost's Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent Concerns, talked about the gains achieved with the work of the Blue Ribbon Panels, Bret Benjamin, Associate Professor of English, President of Albany Chapter of United University Professions, talked about the work UUP has done advancing the cause of UUP most vulnerable members, the contingent faculty; Holly McKenna, Lecturer, Department of Communication, Member of University Senate and Contingent Concerns Committee of Albany Chapter of United University Professions (UUP), talked

about the plea of contingent faculty, Caitlin Janiszewski added the graduate students' perspective and Karin Reinhold, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Chair of Governance Council of the University Senate, talked about the work the Governance Council towards voting privileges of part time faculty. Provost Darrell asked the audience what can be done to change the culture within departments to have more participation of contingent faculty and more recognition of their work. Answers included: inviting more engagement of contingent faculty, having intentional dialogs that address this issue, bringing the dialog outside the circle of already committed individuals, bring the dialog to Deans and Department Chairs and heads of Units. Keep improving the remuneration and path to permanency. Encourage research and access to resources for research.

Mar 22nd Assessment of administrative units. The Senate will have 1 or 2 representatives in the Assessment Advisory Committee. It is advised that those representatives have knowledge of the Senate, program reviews and assessment. Prior Senate leaders, UPPC, GOV and CAA are appropriate choices.

Mar 22nd Leadership meeting.

Decanal 360 review is in the process of discussing parameters of evaluations. This review is internal to UAlbany, whereas the assessment of administrative units is involved with Middle States Accreditation. Minnesota has a pilot program in place. Consultation with the legal department is underway because of fear of FOIL requests of the reviews. Rules of items that are foible are governed by NY State law, and are different than Minnesota's.

Plans for the Spring Faculty Meeting are underway. It will have a conversational format with the President, the Provost and past Immediate Chair of Senate, moderated by Chair of the Senate. Questions from the audience will be welcomed.

Proposal to videotape senate meetings may have unintended consequences. Procedures to communicate the content of the

Senate meetings should be re-addressed. Consultation with the legal department is recommended.

The question of quorum was revised and promoted the question of efficacy of student participation in the Senate. A question to consider is whether the composition of the Senate is appropriate.

Next meeting of website working group: March 30th.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) - David Mamorella, Chair**

- LISC will meet on March 27.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) -Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs**

UAC met on 3/23. It reviewed and approved a proposal from Political Science for changes to the major by adding five new concentrations. It also reviewed and approved proposals under Rockefeller College, one for a Combined BA/MA in Political Science and International Affairs and one in Public Policy & Management and International Affairs. The Curriculum and Honors Committee reported that earlier in the month, it approved changes to the Public Policy & Management BA where students can opt to complete a 36 credit stand-alone major, identical to the current core courses that currently exist but where students declare a minor instead of an additional 18 credits for concentrations within the department. The General Education Committee recently reviewed and approved General Education Course Proposals. The Committee on Academic Standing continues to meet every two weeks to review student petitions and will begin to meet weekly after the last day to drop semester-length courses.

**University Life Council) - Ekow King, Chair**

- The next ULC meeting is on Monday, March 27th.

**UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) - Cynthia Fox, Chair**

**4. Informational**

- a. At its meeting of March 8, the Council heard reports from the Interim Provost, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Facilities Committee, and the Resource

Analysis and Planning Committee and considered program proposals from Rockefeller College and from the Center for International Education and Global Strategy. The recent Presidential Conversation on the role of the Arts and Humanities in a public research university was discussed as part of the Chair's report.

- b.** At its next meeting (March 29), the Council will hear a report on the recent UAlbany Branding Survey; consider a proposal to formally register the faculty-initiated concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies as a BS in Public Health; consider a proposal to create a minor in Educational Policy and Leadership (SOE); and provide consultation on the draft plan for the assessment of administrative units.

## **5. Actions Taken**

- a.** The Council voted unanimously to approve proposals for two BA/MA programs :
  - i.** BA in political Science/ MA in International Affairs
  - ii.** BA in Public Policy/MA in International Affairs
- b.** The Council voted unanimously to endorse a proposal for the Global Science and Engineering Program that would create a dual degree in STEM/LANGUAGE. Completed over five years, the program would include a mandatory one semester study/one semester internship abroad.
- c.** Chair Fox has circulated the recently released final report of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on Language Learning : America's Languages: Investing in Language Learning for the 21st Century.

## **6. Recommendations**

- a.** None at this time.