

2007-2008 University Senate Executive Committee
September 8, 2008
John Delano, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Henryk Baran, Richard Collier, John Delano, Reed Hoyt, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Carolyn MacDonald, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Glen Pichardo, Lawrence Raffalovich, Michael Range, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith

The meeting was convened at 3:33 PM.

Minutes:

Joan Savitt recommended editing the first sentence under Faculty Hiring to read: “Senator Goel asked about the status of faculty hiring...”

Sue Philips raised concerns about the wording referencing the Writing Program Proposal under UPC. She believes the proposal originated in UAC and would therefore have been referred back to UAC and the original authors for further consideration. Since attendees had differing recollections on the subject, John would like members to work it out in an online discussion and table the item at the moment.

President’ Report by Interim President George Philip:

Interim President Philip reported there had been several events and initiatives which have increased the visibility of the campus and its positive attributes. He further reported on the following:

- **Research:** Of particular significance was approximately \$392 million received in research awards in 2007-08, a 39% increase from the previous year. This ranks the University 15th in research expenditures among universities without a medical school.
- **Enrollment:** A Freshman class of 2,400 has been admitted for the current academic year. The University received a record 22,000 applications. There were increases in Latino and African American populations as well as Asians. The male population exceeds that of females and there were 1,500 transfer students. The most popular majors for transfers are from the CAS disciplines.
- **Budget:** The Governor’s recent announcement of a zero growth budget, combined with reductions from earlier this year could prove to have serious consequences for the University. The Governor, however, has endorsed increases in student aid.

Provosts’ Report by Interim Provost Sue Phillips:

- **First Year Task Force:** Much work was done over the summer and a set of recommendations is forthcoming, pending feedback from participants. Should be completed by the end of the semester.

- **Going Forward Plan:** The response to this has been promising from both faculty and students. The planning conference will begin on September 23 and hundreds are expected to be involved.
- **Study Abroad:** The provost is conducting her own “study abroad” program by visiting several departments on campus to learn about their operations and how they work.
- **Albany Medical College (AMC):** The possibility exists for a MBA/PhD program through the School of Public Health. There is a potential for a medical school tract/premed into AMC for undergraduates, using a similar program at RPI as a model.

New Business:

Report on Middle States Self-Study (JWD to write)

Guests: Sue Faerman, Steven Messner, Bruce Szelest

Sue gave a brief history beginning in Spring 2007 when she was asked by then Interim President Susan Herbst to chair the Steering Committee. They explored the possibility of delaying the process for a year but were convinced by Middle States to continue. In doing so, the committee worked with ITS which resulted in setting up wiki to create transparency, Steven was recommended as co-chair and about 80 people volunteered for committee work.

Steven reported the first meeting of the Self-Study Steering Committee convened on June 24, 2008. Meeting updates are posted on the the web site. The Self-Study provides an opportunity for the university to examine what and how it is doing. He stressed that this should be a candid assessment, pointing at strengths while looking for areas of improvement.

Bruce reported that there is a link to the Self-Study on the UAlbany home page and additions are welcome.

The subcommittees will meet throughout the academic year and by the end of the year, each committee will submit a first draft to the Steering Committee. Dr. Luis Pedraja from Middle States will visit the campus during the fall semester.

Report on the Honors College (JWD to write)

Guest: Jeffrey Haugaard

Jeffrey reported that the Honors College is in initial stages of growth and off to a good start with support from faculty and the administration. Continued support from the University is needed to achieve excellence and realize the vision of the Honors College. The first group of juniors will be moving into a new phase of advisement as they prepare for their thesis.

The issue of space and increased visibility was discussed. It is important to have a physical place where students can come and have a place to be, preferably not the basement of one of the dorms. A few possibilities were suggested such as the now vacant Health Center. A suggestion was made to submit a request to the campus Space Committee. Support for a new building could be an item in fund raising to meet this vision.

On the topic of retention rates, Sue Faerman suggested the Governance Council should make recommendations on standards. There seem to be discrepancies in GPA requirements for those trying to get into the college as opposed to those already in the program. The admission requirement of a 500 word essay was discussed and not seen as a solid objective in the process. Jeffrey indicated that part of the legislation mandates admission of 150 students per year. The admission procedures are extensive and the essay is extra. Admission has been reduced to about 80 due to lack of the essay on the part of the applicants. Jeffrey will report further to the Senate on September 22.

At this point, the issue of time was realized and it was decided that the chairs of the committees and councils would submit their report via email to the SEC Chair and the Committee moved on to old business.

Old Business

Proposed IRCAP Amendment (Senate Bill 0708-25)

Additional time need to be given to reconsider the proposal. The SEC Chair proposed that the Governance Council examine the proposal and submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Proposed Combined MA Women's Studies/Ph.D. Sociology Program (Senate Bill 0708-23)

Although this bill passed on floor of the senate, it was not signed by the president due to lack of similar program at other university centers. GAC will need to re-examine the program proposal.

Richard Collier raised the concerns of the schools who are failing to identify senators in their areas after repeated requests. A suggestion was made to the Provost that deans be made to explain the delay for providing these names.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:38 p.m.