

2010-2011 University Senate

Monday, May 9, 2011

3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

Eric Lifshin, Chair

Minutes

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Hassaram Bakhru, Robert Bangert-Drowns, Brea Barthel, R. Scott Birge, Bryant Barksdale, Brian Butcher, Lana Cable, James Dias, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, James Fossett, Cynthia Fox, Elizabeth Gaffney, Yenisel Gulatee, Janell Hobson, Michael Jaromin, Richard Johnson, Janine Jurkowski, Donald Keenan, Daniel Keyser, Ryan King, Laurence Kranich, Winifred Kutchukian, Vincent LaBella, Kajal Lahiri, Fernando Leiva, Danielle Leonard, Eric Lifshin, Andi Lyons, JoAnne Malatesta, Richard Matyi, Carla Meskill, John Monfasani, John Murphy, Heidi Nicholls, George Philip, Susan Phillips, John Pipkin, Tremayne Price, Katie Reed, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Hany Shawky, Leonard Slade, Jr., Lorre Smith, Nathan Kabel Stanwicks, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Christine Wagner, Daniel White, Kevin Williams, Rongwei Yang

Guests: Jon Bartow, Brett Bowles, Bill Hedberg, Allison Houston, Lani Jones, Tamra Minor, Matthew Thomas, Elga Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—GEORGE PHILIP

President Philip discussed the recent announcement by Governor Cuomo of the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program. The program is worth \$140 million with \$80 million coming from the state and \$60 million from SUNY. The program would enable each of the four university centers to compete for \$35 million in capital funding by submitting long term economic and academic plans. The program is predicated on legislation that was enacted for the University at Buffalo in the creation of private partnerships, flexibility in land usage and procurement. The President said a critical part for UAlbany is a rational tuition policy. Such a bill has been drafted in both the Senate and the Assembly calling for a 5.5% increase over five years which would be the equivalent of \$273 and the Governor has openly supported the plan. The second component is differential tuition which has the support of the Governor provided that it's invested for economic development in each of the four regions.

The President discussed UAlbany's plan which focuses on an expanded academic mission and calls for increased enrollment. Other parts of the plan include buildings for biomedical sciences and technology, with one possibility of utilizing an existing building on the Harriman Campus. A second project calls for redevelopment of Alumni Quad. He said neither project could be achieved with the \$35 million grant but leverage could come from incremental revenue such as rational tuition. Governor Cuomo is proposing a regional economic council and UAlbany expects to be a part of that.

A recent forum of 130 business leaders was well supported and the President said that additional support is being solicited from the Chamber of Commerce. The University hopes to submit a full page add in the *Times Union* which will feature a list of supporters. Other sources of support have come from faculty and staff who have reached out to legislators through letters and phone calls; the business community has stepped up and recognized

that the University is important to the vitality of the Capital Region, and the local press has been more supportive in its editorials.

President Philip reminded everyone that growth of the university is critical and will require increased enrollments. With the number of high school graduates expected to decline over the next ten years, the demographic is expected to shift to out of state and international students, as well as adult and distance learners.

Enrollment Management:

Enrollment deposits are up 5.6% compared to this time last year and the President expects a strong incoming freshman class. Increases are slightly higher in the Honors College compared to last year and the number of international students has doubled. The number of out of state students has increased but the numbers for transfer students is down 12%, as more student are electing to stay longer at their community colleges. Graduate admissions remain strong with a 15% increase in applications this year.

Campus Events and Notable Achievements:

- The School of Public Health held a gala on May 7 in the Campus Center Ballroom to celebrate its 25th Anniversary.
- Congressman Paul Tonko delivered the 27th Annual Burton Lecture on April 27. There were three honorees, most notably Associate VP for Academic Affairs, William Hedberg. President Philip offered congratulations to Vice President Hedberg.
- The UAlbany in the Community event held on May 2 was a celebration of student and faculty contributions in the community. Third World Impact received a \$25,000 grant through Newman's Own Foundation to support the building of a school for HIV-positive children in Uganda.
- President Philip congratulated the Women's Lacrosse team for its 17-0 record and being ranked 5th in the nation. The regular players play all of the games since they only have three substitutes.
- Distinguished Teaching Professor John Delano from Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences completed a four month appointment with NASA as co-chair of the "New Frontiers Mission Downselect Panel". The panel selects the next \$750 million interplanetary mission.

The President reminded everyone of Commencement this weekend and that it is meaningful for students and their families to see the presence of faculty. Gregory Maguire will be the speaker at the undergraduate ceremony and Randy Cohen will speak at the Graduate Ceremony. Both are alumnus of the UAlbany.

President Philip noted the passing of Vincent O'Leary on April 22. He was UAlbany's president from 1977 to 1990 and was instrumental in bringing the University out of a period of decline. President O'Leary played a significant role in creating the School of Public Health, working with David Axelrod at the time. President O'Leary was an important figure in the history of the University.

There was a brief discussion concerning a section of the final BAG IV report read by Professor Brett Bowles from Languages, Literatures and Cultures which stated that "Additional budget reductions are expected. Administrative plans for new academic and non-academic reductions already have been made, including a decision to deactivate degree programs in five academic areas, but potentially preserving several minors". Professor Bowles asked if these were reductions beyond the deactivation that occurred last fall. President Philip clarified that the minors of those programs have been preserved and these are not new deactivations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendations were made for minor changes, and the minutes of April 11 were approved.

PROVOST'S REPORT -- SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips said this is a time of celebration for everyone's hard work and thanked everyone for all they have done. She wished everyone good luck with the rest of the semester.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – ERIC LIFSHIN

Nothing to report.

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

Please see report provided separately.

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 returning individuals continued. Heidi Nicholls will be continuing as President, Sara Dapson as Lead Office Manager, Nic DePaula will continue as Grants Chair, Nick Fahrenkopf as University Council Representative, 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. Also, a BBQ is being held in Troy at Dinosaur 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

SA Chair Tremayne Price reported in the absence of SA President Wax Jacobs. The Student Association held Parkfest and a comedy show which raised about \$140,000. Proceeds will be donated to the UAlbany Fund for Japan, American Cancer Society and a program for suicide prevention.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Modern Languages 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 meet weekly and will do so until the end of May. Cases that arrive after the third week in May will most likely not be reviewed until the fall.

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.

Chair Kranich reported that GAC met this morning and approved a proposal from the School of Social Welfare and Rockefeller College in nonprofit management.

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.

CPCA and GAC for 2011-12 have elected chairs: Christine Wagner and Timothy Groves, respectively. Nancy Newman will be the 2011-2012 LISC Chair. The other councils and standing committees will be meeting over the next two weeks to elect their chairs, also.

Chair Fessler reported that Carolyn MacDonald was elected to chair CERS and Yenisel Gulatee will chair ULC next year.

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: 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 academic year. 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.

The ULC members also met on May 4th, 2011. In order to better understand alcohol use among UAlbany students, a specialist from the Counseling Center came in to talk to the ULC members. Dr. Brian Freidenberg, Licensed Psychologist and Addictive Behaviors Specialist, discussed how UAlbany students compare to student national levels and even North Eastern levels of alcohol use, issues and concerns, and programs in place to help students, including successes in implementation and challenges.

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

UPPC members have been involved in the final deliberations of the President's Budget Advisory Group (BAG IV) and in the preparation of the final report to President Philip. This report has been released by the President, with a "blast" e-mail to the entire university community, and distributed to the Senate. It has also been posted on the BAG IV website. In addition, UPPC has taken action on several proposals. It has approved a revised set of planning calendars proposed by the Registrar for academic years 2012 and 2013. It has also approved two proposals from the School of Public Health—one to establish an on-line version of the MPH degree aimed at public health practitioners and one to suspend admissions to the MS program operated by the Department of Health Policy Management and Behavior. It has also considered the resolution proposed by UAC for further action on the General Education requirements and voted not to support this resolution.

Report from UPPC re: State of University Budget --UPPC Chair James Fossett

Chair Fossett informed Senate members that it is UPPC's institutional role to be sure that everyone understands the different budget scenarios that have been presented. The budget envisioned in the BAG IV report contains a 10% operating cut. With no tuition increase the situation could deteriorate once UAlbany is assessed with its portion to make up for the shortfall to the SUNY hospitals. He said that layoffs would be a reality in this budget scenario.

The second budget scenario, based on a rational tuition increase over the next five years, contains an attempt at maintenance of effort with state support providing adjustments for wage increases as well as utility and enrollment cost increases. The idea is to create a segregated trust fund which cannot be used for other purposes. This budget attempts to avoid future cuts and would maintain the existing level of service but does not provide anything to recover past losses.

The third budget scenario is the NYSUNY2020 budget which offers a potential tuition increase combined with increased enrollment. Chair Fossett said it does not provide significant new resources which would be best for UAlbany, and it also has significant political and demographic risk. He acknowledged that we have more legislative support than we've had in the past and encouraged everyone to keep the pressure on the legislature.

Changes to 2011-12 Council Roster—Senate Secretary Danielle Leonard

Secretary Leonard reviewed changes that have occurred in the council rosters since they were approved at the April Senate meeting. She noted changes in three different categories: 1) people who have moved from one council to another; 2) new senators who were elected during at large elections, and senators named by the Schools of Business and Education; 3) one person who was on the omnibus list was placed on GOV when an opening became available. Secretary Leonard scrolled through the list of councils to review all the changes and said the changes were made within the parameters of the methodology initially used to populate the councils in April.

A discussion ensued, led by Senator White who expressed concerns about council members who had been bumped off a council before completing their two-year term. He specifically referred to a situation on LISC where a part-time professional staff member, Diana Dumesnil, from CNSE was placed on LISC while bumping Laura Schultz, also from CNSE, who had a legitimate spot on the Council. Secretary Leonard responded that it would have placed two members on the council from the same academic unit and would not have been keeping with the methodology that was used to populate the councils. Senator White pointed out that the Charter does not have such a rule. He said he believed that Laura Schultz should be allowed to serve her second term on LISC. LISC Chair Shahedipour-Sandvik said that Ms. Schultz's request was to continue on the Council, and since there were vacant seats on the Council it seemed it would be practical for her to continue than to have empty seats. Secretary

Leonard said the response was the same, citing the methodology above that was used in populating the councils. A debate continued which supported Ms. Schultz maintaining her seat on LISC while GOV Chair Fessler maintained that doing so violates the Charter. Chair Fessler also reminded the Senate that since Ms. Dumesnil was elected as senator at large, her placement was given preference. Secretary Leonard requested a vote to approve the changes in the membership. Senator White said the Senate has the ability to overturn that portion of the list and made a motion to add Laura Schultz to LISC. Chair Lifshin clarified that a vote could be taken on whether or not to approve the council changes proposed by Secretary Leonard and additional names could be proposed as a separate item. The changes in council memberships as proposed by Secretary Leonard were approved by a vote. Senator White moved to put his recommendation back on the floor for discussion. The motion was seconded and open for continued discussion.

LISC Chair Shahedipour-Sandvik said the Senate is not an exclusive body and people who are willing to serve should be allowed to do so. There were many people serving from CNSE and they had not made any attempts to use their service to accommodate CNSE. Concerns were raised that countered her argument calling for checks and balances to make sure that no one unit is able to assume control or have more influence on any particular council. Concerns were raised about setting a precedent of having a council overpopulated by any one unit. The motion to add Laura Schultz to LISC was put to a vote and defeated with 19 votes to approve and 20 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

Chair Lifshin informed Senate members that the Bylaws require agenda items to be submitted to the Chair of the Executive Committee at least ten days prior to the schedule meeting. Due to conflicts in the academic calendar this semester with spring break, the ten day period was not met for this meeting. The Chair explained that the procedure for adding items to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote of the Senators present approving the introduction of new business. Each bill will be voted on separately and if a bill is approved for the agenda the normal debate will occur. Any legislation not approved for the agenda will be deferred until next year.

Request to Raise FMR Admission/Retention GPA to 3.25 (UAC):

UAC Chair Malatesta gave a brief overview of the proposal which would raise the GPA of the major and minor in Financial Market Regulation (FMR) from 3.2 to 3.25. The measure would keep the FMR program in sync with the School of Business which raised its minimum GPA to 3.25 in 2008. Chair Lifshin asked the Senate to consider if the bill was in proper form to be added to the agenda. There were no additional comments and the Senate voted to approve adding it to the agenda for discussion. There were no further comments from Chair Malatesta and the Senate voted to approve the bill.

Changes to the History Major (UAC):

UAC Chair Malatesta presented the bill from the History Department which has developed a proposal out of concerns that students did not have the requisite background to take upper level courses. The bill proposes creation of a capstone course for the major. Chair Lifshin asked if there were any concerns about adding the bill to the agenda. There being none, the Senate voted to add the bill to the agenda.

A brief discussion ensued with Senator Barthel asking if capstone courses have been developed in other departments. Chair Malatesta said they have been implemented and correspond with the Provost's strategic plan. Responding to an inquiry concerning additional resources, Chair Malatesta said the program will not utilize any new resources. There was no further discussion and a motion was made to approve the bill and it was seconded. The bill passed in the resulting vote.

Report from UAC and the General Education Committee/Resolution of General Education:

UAC Chair Malatesta provided background on general education, beginning with revisions of the SUNY-wide general education requirements approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees in January 2010. Through passage of a resolution, the Senate approved creating a general education task force to review and develop a set of recommendations consistent with the SUNY requirements. The task force made its report to the Senate in December 2010 and UAC solicited input from the schools and colleges concerning the task force recommendations. A large volume of feedback came from the schools and college and UAC has been working to move forward with its charge, reviewing the task force recommendations and reconciling them with the concerns from the schools and colleges. There have been obstacles such as concerns about freshman writing and the World Within Reach. At this point, Chair Lifshin interjected to inquire if Senate members had sufficient information to add the resolution for discussion. Senator Leiva moved that the item was not agenda worthy for the last meeting of the semester. UPPC Chair Fossett added that the Council has voiced concerns about the formation of an administrative body.

Chair Lifshin asked for a motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote.

The discussion continued with Senator Pipkin adding that the CAS Dean has expressed satisfaction regarding the representation on an advisory board. However, faculty from Arts and Sciences have reservations about moving this forward at the end of the year. Chair Malatesta said that UAC's argument in favor of the advisory board is to draw on the expertise of the University. People who are involved in general education could begin to have a conversation about costs. She added that UAC could produce a bill but would like the University to work with them to define and understand what the parameters should be. UPPC Chair Fossett did not believe there was enough data concerning resources issues. He was willing to give this more work over the summer to define what the effects would. Given the budget uncertainty his preference was to defer the vote until next year.

The debate was closed and a vote to add the item to the agenda was defeated.

Suspension of Admissions to MS in HPMB (GAC):

GAC Chair Kranich provided a brief overview of the proposal from the School of Public Health which would suspend admissions to the MS program in Health Policy, Management and Behavior. There is currently one active student in the program. UPPC Chair Fossett added that UPPC has approved the bill. Chair Lifshin called for a vote to add the bill to the agenda and was so approved. Chair Kranich continued that the program was suspended in fall 2010. The intention is not to deactivate the program but to develop it into a component of the PhD program. There was no further discussion. A motion to approve the bill was made and seconded and the bill was approved by a vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder