

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, May 11, 2015
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

I. Informational

- Proposal for a new Advanced Certificate Program, Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators was approved by GAC (April 28, 2015), UPPC (April 09, 2015).
- Proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Human Development was approved by UAC (April 09, 2015), UPPC (April 30, 2015)
- Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity (UAC, April 23, 2015), UPPC (April 30, 2015).

II. Reports of Actions

- Bill 1415-03 to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security was approved by the President 05/04/2015
- On 04/27/2015 the Chair received a memo from Dean Edelgard Wulfert, CAS that “effective the Fall 2015 semester, the Journalism program, currently housed in the Department of English, will move to the Department of Communication. All faculty will retain their current departmental affiliation (two Journalism faculty have their home in Communication, one in English). Journalism, Communication, and English have been consulted an support this move.”
- 05/04/2015 SEC approved a resolution to support the Creation of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity

III. Recommended Actions

N/A

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

Submitted by John Schmidt, UFS Senator

The following issues were considered at the Spring Plenary

1. **Budget.** The budget includes a modest increase in Tax dollar funding for SUNY, but not enough to meet the increased costs (e.g. UUP 2% increases in salary this year and last). The state operated campuses budget increased from \$713M to \$730M, a \$15M increase or 2.1%. This includes an \$18M Investment performance category to be doled out based

on the SUNY Excels metrics (individual campus plans yet to be submitted, but this year will be based primarily on student completion rates). There will be another \$300 tuition increase this the final year of SUNY2020, which (assuming approximately 200,000 students) will add approximately \$60M, same as last year. The UUP's 2% raises this year and last would increase costs about \$60M each year. Hence costs are being shifted from State tax dollars to tuition again. On the capital funds side, there is also another \$200M for critical maintenance, same as last year. Still to be considered by the legislature are SUNY's proposed extension of SUNY2020 for further tuition rises, and a clarification of the "maintenance of effort" to include cost increases, rather than just constant dollars.

2. **Experiential Learning (or Practical Learning or Internships).** The budget still included language on experiential learning (which we consider a terrible precedent of Legislative mandating of curriculum), in spite of letters from SUNY UFS, CUNY Senate and Faculty Council of Comm. Colleges Chairs to the Higher Ed Committees of the Legislature opposing it, although the requirement was considerably modified. It now calls for the SUNY Board of Trustees to pass a resolution to develop a plan on Experiential Learning by June 1, with implementation delayed to June 1 of next year. Individual campuses would decide whether the plan is feasible for them, and the implementation must explicitly engage Campus Governance Leadership and the UFS. The UFS plans to set up a steering committee to ensure faculty input into the requirement in line with the faculty's primary responsibility for SUNY's curriculum.
3. **Seamless Transfer.** Seamless transfer has been largely implemented with 52 discipline's transfer paths covering 32,000 courses. (62 waivers were approved and 185 courses redesigned, largest and most comprehensive transfer system in the nation). SUNY System Admin is now concentrating on a new audit program called "Degree Works," which works like DARS on our campus, but would allow prospective transfers SUNYwide to plug into any program at any SUNY campus and see where their current courses fit into the new program, allowing them to see how long it would take to finish that program before they even apply to transfer. It is now operating on 9 campuses, and is slated to cover up to 45 campuses by the fall of 2016.
4. **Open SUNY.** The infrastructure (Help Desk, Concierge, Hotline, etc) is now up and running The predecessor online program, the SUNY Learning Network, has served 88,000 students over the last 20 years. The goal is to add 100,000 more within 2 years, to extend the SUNY brand/footprint and to insulate SUNY from the downturn in numbers of high school graduates in NY State. SUNY has a Provost's Open SUNY Advisory Committee (POSAC) that is working to implement this slowly to be sure it will head in the right direction with an eye on quality. One thrust is to create a Faculty internal quality control via the Center for Online Teaching Excellence (COTE) website. Some web addresses for POSAC and Open SUNY that may prove helpful:

A. POSAC webpage, with Minutes of every meeting.

<http://commons.suny.edu/opensuny/about/the-provosts-open-suny-advisory-committee/>

B. Open SUNY FAQs.

<http://commons.suny.edu/opensuny/faq/>

C. MOOC/Coursera FAQ

<http://commons.suny.edu/opensuny/mooc-faq/>

D. COTE (Center for Online Teaching Excellence)

<http://commons.suny.edu/cote/>

E. Open SUNY Toolkit

<http://open.suny.edu/toolkit>

F. Institutional Readiness

<http://commons.suny.edu/opensuny/institutional-readiness/>

G. SUNY Research about On-line Instruction

<http://commons.suny.edu/cote/suny-research-abstracts/>

5. **Intellectual Property.** SUNY is working to update its rules regarding patents (but not copyrights) within the next year, removing ambiguities about patents worked up “on one’s own time” and the split between the SUNY Campus and the individual faculty on royalties. They aim to clarify the language so that there is less barrier to contracts with industry, and to promote student and faculty innovation and entrepreneurship. There will be at least on open webinar before finalization.
6. **Retention and Completion Rates.** The SUNY wide completion rates (47% at 4 years, 62% at 5 years & 64% at 6 years) is markedly better than that of the nationwide public universities (33%,52% & 57.5% respectively), but not quite up to that of private universities (48%, 63% & 65% respectively). The average first year retention rate at SUNY University Centers is 87%. Research funding grew 87% from '03 to '12, with only Michigan, Texas and North Carolina ahead of us among national public university systems. SUNY is now searching for a new head of the Research Foundation/ Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development.
7. **Fall Conference Planned.** There will be a SUNY Conference on “Building a new business model for the academy” on Oct 29-30 in New York City to discuss various trends and movements including Partnerships, Mergers, Acquisitions, etc.
8. **Review of Campus Presidents.** In the next month SUNY will be reviewing 10 campus presidents (mostly 4 year campuses, except for Stony Brook). These are supposed to be 360 reviews, soliciting input from all stakeholders. Campus Governance Leaders will be asked to submit names of people who should be surveyed. This year includes the campus presidents that have been in office the longest (with a view to possible salary adjustments), but the next two years will move to other campus presidents, and so may include UAlbany at some point.

Resolutions were passed on the following subjects:

1. Resolution on Faculty oversight of the curriculum (see above).
2. Resolution on Applied Learning (see above)
3. Resolution supporting renewal of SUNY 2020.
4. Resolution encouraging SUNY to explore initiatives in Open Access Journals to avoid extortions from Elsevier and other blocs of journals.
5. Resolution encouraging SUNY to set up Graduate Fellowships for our best undergrads seeking to enter graduate fields at SUNY institutions.
6. Resolution urging SUNY and Faculty to lobby for continued overall funding of NSF, and against specific directorate cuts to social science (proposed 45% cut this year).

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President

The GSA has had a very successful year. Since we raised the fee two years ago we have not substantially changed our spending patterns meaning that we have banked a very comfortable surplus for our future. We have spent a great deal of time rebuilding our organization by reforming our governing documents and overhauling our standard operating procedures. During this transformation we were able to gather broader participation from our own student body so that we could have a productive effect on the Senate, the SUNY Student Assembly, and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. With this progress and money to fall back on as enrollments drop, we are poised to extend our reach even further to more effectively represent graduate students. We are proud to report that our efforts have not gone unnoticed. Recently, at the SUNY Student Assembly spring conference we were given the "Strongest Campus Student Government" award and also recognized for our "Commitment to Female Leadership and Empowerment". Winning the bid to host the National Leadership Summit for the NAGPS was another recognition of our potential and growth. To spearhead this growth is our new leadership which is transitioning in to start on June 1st.

The new E-Board is the following:

President: Bob Beach

Vice President: Kat Slye

Treasurer: Hina Thalho

Equity and Inclusion Chair: Amani Edwards

*Note: our constitutional amendment passed which changed this officers position from Multicultural and Affirmative Action Chair (MCAA) to Equity and Inclusion Chair.

Lead Senator: Hanna Marie Pageau

University Council Representative: Caitlin Janiszewski

We will be working on appointments of the Programming and Grants Chair positions as well as

Senators immediately. We have a very busy end of the semester with planning for the NAGPS Leadership Summit this summer, the President's Forum, as well as our trips to the NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference and SUNY Student Assembly meetings. We had very productive meetings in both places. But of course, what is keeping us busier than anything is the beginning of transition. We hope to have a very solid transition this year with several returning officers along with new and excited officers. The new E-Board is excited to work on strategic plans again and gear up for a productive 2015-2016.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

New SA President: Jarius Jemmott

New SA VP: Kevin Murphy

Academic Affairs

- Academic Affairs has a very successful year! We kicked off the year with an APD Appreciation Day as an initiative to give back to the police that keep our neighborhoods downtown safe. Later in the semester, we initiated our “University at Albany, You Should Know” campaign, demonstrating the reality of the UAlbany student body. We finished the fall semester with SA’s first annual Pizza Wars, helping raise money for PAL’s Holiday Toy Drive. Finally, this semester, we followed up on our support for law enforcement with UPD Appreciation Day.

Communications

- Communications worked hard this year laying out the groundwork for the work of the department in the future. We began by establishing the monthly “SA Daily” newsletter, keeping the campus updated on our important news and announcements. In addition, we established our presence both within the Capital District by establishing connections with local media outlets. Finally, we worked amongst other student government leadership in nearby colleges to lay the foundation for an upcoming Student Governance Conference.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- Over the course of the Spring 2015 Semester, the Student Associations Department of Community Engagement and Outreach has taken part in and completed a multitude of community service initiatives. These initiatives range from Relay for Life to the 5k color run to a University Police Department Appreciation dinner and more. Perhaps the most notable initiative, Pine Hills Cleanup, had combined the efforts of not only the UAlbany community, but the Pine Hills Neighborhood as a collective effort to clean up the Pine Hills neighborhood. Not only was one large cleanup organized, but several smaller cleanups were brought together to be known as the Pine Hills Improvement Group Cleanup Initiative (PHIGCI). PHIGCI has utilized not only the Student Association staff, but a variety of other groups, such as the American Red Cross, Middle Earth, and the Cross Charity.

Dippikill

- Dippikill had a phenomenal year both improving and expanding the work of the department. We began the semester by ordering a variety of exciting Dippikill themed merchandise for marketing opportunities and giveaways as a way to get our name out there. In the fall, we created photo albums to keep at reservation desks to give our guests a preview of our cabin options. Throughout the spring, we worked closely with the Department of Environmental Sustainability from the University in order to plan and collaborate on joint-initiatives for the upcoming year. Finally, we finished off our year with the framework for next year's plans to expand the department in the direction of environmental sustainability!

Gender and Sexuality

- The Department of Gender and Sexuality Concerns was an absolute success this year. Since August, we have accomplished a series of different initiatives and events including the recognition of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a "Love is Love" flash mob on the podium demonstrating the numerous different forms that love exists, helping establish a new student group which serves as a safe space for queer people of color with intersecting identities, and finally, hosting an NELGBT Conference with over 600 people!

Legislative Affairs

- The Department of Legislative Affairs started off the fall semester with a voter registration drive which proved to be an enormous success, as we registered over 500 students to vote on campus! In addition, we met with local legislative representatives to discuss common issues students experience with transportation downtown. We brought Mayor Kathy Sheehan and County Executive Dan McCoy to campus to help bring students closer to their elected officials. Finally, we hosted a UAlbany Legislative day, where UAlbany students met with state-government officials advocating for tuition affordability.

Marketing

- The Marketing Department had a productive and successful year as expected. We kicked off the fall semester with our yearly marketing materials order, which were a huge hit on campus this year! We have out fun giveaways courtesy of SA to thousands of dedicated students on campus, including summer orientation students and block party. In addition, we had a busy year marketing several of our programming events, amongst other department's work as well as student group's events. We're looking forward to continuing our work next year!

Multi-Cultural Affairs

- Multi-Cultural Student Advisory Council, which is a monthly meeting for the e-boards of the cultural groups on campus who have the opportunity to exchange and meet with one another. In addition, we were proud to establish the UAlbany Spiritual council, which is similar to the Multi-Cultural Advisory council, except for all religious groups on campus. Finally, we wrapped up the semester with our annual Cultural Carnival, celebrating the numerous cultures on campus.

Programming

- Programming kicked off the year with our annual Block Party, followed by our Fall Concert featuring artists Famolous and Konshens. In February, we brought golden globe and Oscar-award winning artist Common to campus as Part 1 of our Speaker Series. The event was a huge success and received phenomenal feedback from the campus and the Albany community. In March, we featured Bill Nye the Science Guy as Part 2 of our Speaker Series. The event sold out and SEFCU was full. Finally, we are wrapping up our year with our Parkfest Concert, proudly featuring the talented performers August Alsina, Rae Sremmurd, and Fetty Wap. Thanks for another great year and enjoy the summer!

Student Group Affairs

- Student Group Affairs has another phenomenal year helping organize the hundreds of SA recognized and funded student-run organizations. Throughout the year, we were successful in helping groups work with Sodexo for catering opportunities. In addition, we helped e-boards connect and collaborate with an e-board mixer. Finally, as usual, we finished the year with our annual Purple and Gold Awards, recognizing our hardest working and most successful groups on campus.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernnard, Chair

The CAA met on May 1 and provided input for the Middle States Periodic Review Report. CAA also reviewed the proposed Charter Amendment which clarifies the roles and responsibilities of CAA.

Reports from the on General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC) on General Education History classes and History in the University in the High School program were reviewed and approved.

Reports from the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) on the Communication Department program review and the Sociology Department program review were reviewed and approved. A report from the APRC on the Biology Department program review was reviewed and tabled pending revision.

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

Nothing to report

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

The Council on Research has completed funding rounds on both the Conference and Journal support award and the Benevolent Association Awards for Graduate Student Research.

The Conference and Journal Support awards review committee had 3 applications for support for conferences, and one application for support for editorship of a journal. The committee recommended that the 3 applications for conference support be fully funded; the Journal support request was reviewed and it was recommended that funding not be awarded during this round. If the applicant confirms their editorship of the journal in question, the application may be re-submitted for future funding. The Council voted to approve the recommendations of the subcommittee. An additional request was received from PIs who applied for a conference support award last year and were approved at a lesser amount of funding than that requested. While they submitted a revised budget, they did not provide the additional justification needed for expenses that the subcommittee members were concerned about, and it was therefore the decision of the Council that additional funding not be provided as sufficient justification for an increased amount was not received.

The Benevolent Association Awards for Graduate Student Research review subcommittee received nine applications for funding from graduate students, as previously reported. These nine applications were thoroughly reviewed by a university-wide committee and it was the recommendation of the committee that seven of the applications be funded. The Council voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the review subcommittee.

The FRAP review subcommittee were notified that one of the recipients selected for the FRAP-A awards this year is no longer eligible; as the award period had not yet started, the committee returned to the review of applications and unanimously recommended that the next application in their ranked reviews be funded. This recommendation was unanimously supported by the Council.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next CPCA meeting is on May 6.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

I. Informational

The GAC met on April 28, 2015. Items on the Agenda included reviews of: (1) a report from one of the GAC's Standing Committees, and (2) a proposal from the School of Education (to establish an Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators).

Our next scheduled meeting is on May 12.

II. Reports of Actions

- The GAC, based on the review and recommendation by the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction, unanimously voted to accept the committee's recommendations to approve a proposal by the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences, to make changes to existing graduate programs (M.S. & Ph.D.) in Atmospheric Science. The proposal sought to require a 12 credit core curriculum in the M.S. program. The proposal also requires its Ph.D. students to complete the Atmospheric Science coursework (core) requirements of the M.S. degree as part of a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours in courses, seminars, and independent study.
- The Council, after extensive discussions and questions, unanimously approved a proposal by the School of Education for a 15 credits *Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators*.

III. Recommendations for Actions

The GAC endorses introduction of a bill to the University Senate to establish an *Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators* by the School of Education.

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

1. Our next scheduled meeting is May 6.
2. Kajal Lahiri has been identified and has accepted to be the faculty member to serve as the Senate Designee to the START-UP NY Advisory Committee.

II. Reports of Actions

N/A

III. Recommendations for Actions

N/A

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair

Nothing to report

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on April 9th and resumed discussion of a proposal from the School of Education, brought to the full council by the Curriculum and Honors Committee, to establish a new undergraduate program in human development. Council members focused discussion on revisions made to the proposal in response to the UAC's initial review on March 26th. These revisions primarily addressed Council members' concerns about the proposed program's admissions criteria and procedures. Members were satisfied that the revisions sufficiently addressed their concerns and unanimously approved the proposal.

The Curriculum and Honors Committee reported the English Department proposed a revision to the English minor—specifically, a requirement that all students enrolled in the minor take English 205Z. Curriculum and Honors approved the proposed changes after obtaining clarification from the English Department on several issues regarding transfer students.

UAC also met on April 23rd and reviewed a proposal to establish a new undergraduate minor in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity. The proposal was submitted by the Department of Public Administration in view of the founding of the new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity. The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee reviewed the proposal and identified several concerns related to the design of the core curriculum in the proposed minor and to the academic foundation of the minor; they brought these concerns to the full UAC. Representatives of the team that designed the minor, including David Rousseau, Interim Dean of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity, attended the UAC meeting and answered Council members' questions about the proposal. After the discussion, UAC voted to approve the proposal.

In addition, the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee reported that it had reviewed and approved a proposal to revise the undergraduate minor in International Studies. UAC endorsed the committee approval.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

Joel Bloom presented to ULC on April 27th on "Quality of Life" data for students, faculty and staff.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –David McCaffrey, Chair

UPPC met on April 30. At the April 30 meeting UPPC reviewed and approved the proposed Minor in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity. UPPC also reviewed and recommended for approval options for the 2016-2017 academic calendar, following a discussion led by Registrar Karen Chico Hurst.