

University at Albany, State University of New York

Governance Council

John Delano, Chair

April 11, 2008

Minutes

Present: Erin Bell, Nan Carroll, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, John Delano, Heather Horton, R. Michael Range, Helen Strother

Minutes: The Minutes of April 4, 2008 were approved with amendments

The meeting was convened at 3:05 PM in UNH 306

Chair's Report: Chair Delano reported that the revised IRCAP amendment would not be ready for the April 14th Senate meeting. He will make the revisions discussed at the last Governance Meeting and report it to the next Senate Executive Committee meeting, as well as provide copies to additional members of the University community (i.e., Sue Faerman; Marjorie Pryse).

The Chair also reported that he would be meeting with the Interim Provost Sue Phillips to discuss the proposed FYE Task Force next week, and would report the results of that conversation at the next meeting of the Governance Council. The Interim Provost had responded constructively to the Governance Council's suggestions for the composition of the proposed FYE Task Force not being strongly represented by individuals with an explicit stake in the *status quo*. Instead, the Task Force must be viewed as having no conflicts of interest. The Chair suggested that the proposed Task Force was timely and welcome, and could serve as a way forward regarding the UFSP 101 course, which was discussed in the following section of the Minutes.

First Year Experience (FYE) Task Force: Concerns were raised about the following characteristics of UFSP 101: (a) grade inflation in the Fall 2007 offerings of UFSP 101 yielded 82% with $\geq B+$; (b) 629 students were enrolled in UFSP 101 in Fall 2007, some of which indicating that they were told that the course was required; and (c) average GPAs at the end of Fall 2007 were lower for UFSP 101 students - 2.75 - than for those who completed other courses in the FYE - 2.90 - such as Project Renaissance (UUNI 100), UFSP 100, and ECPY 120.

Three options were developed for discussion with Interim Provost by the Chair. Those options for FYE in Fall 2008 were the following:

- (i) UFSP 101 would be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008 only, if the FYE Task Force was concluded to be a credible body that was likely to return important recommendations to the Interim Provost on the University's FYE program.
- (ii) UFSP 101 would not be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008. The FYE courses would consist of UFSP 100, UUNI 100, and ECPY 120. Members of the full-time teaching faculty would be recruited to teach these courses.
- (iii) UFSP 101 would be approved by the Senate for Fall 2008 only, if S/U grading was the sole grading system and no students would be bullied into taking the course.

These options would be brought to the Interim Provost next week by the Chair for discussion. The Chair would keep the Governance Council members informed of further developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.