

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate Meeting, February 11, 2008

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -- William Lanford, Chair

CAA's Committee on Program Review (Chair: Peter Duchessi) is currently reviewing the assessments of the Sociology and Communications programs. CAA's Committee on General Education Assessment (Chair: Seth Chaiken) is currently working 2006-07 assessment survey summaries. CAA is waiting for response to the report from the outside reviewers of Project Renaissance. The University in the High School is undergoing assessment.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

December 12, 2007: The Council learned of research accomplishments and honors to university faculty from the Vice President for Research, and vetted committee reports from the Benevolent awards Committee, the committee to review applications for conference and journal support, the IRB policy committee, and the FRAP A competition. Forty FRAP A applications were received and 17 were recommended for funding for which funds were sufficient for 13, but as was learned at the following meeting, the VP R did develop funds for the additional 4 proposals making a total of 17 funded. A discussion of the FRAP process including the process for feedback, occurred and was followed by a discussion of infrastructure support for research.

February 6, 2008: The Council heard the Vice President for Research report that there was a 10% increase in research proposals submitted to external sponsors compared to the same time period last year. A call for nominations has sent to the Deans requesting faculty nominations for the Research Foundation Awards. The awards are categorized as: 1) Rising Star, 2) Outstanding Researcher/Scholar; and, 3) Lifetime Achievement (sponsored by Sun/Serverware or TIAA-CREF). Nominations should be forwarded to the Vice President for Research as soon as possible, as the deadline to submit to the Research Foundation is February 18, 2008. Faculty Research Award Program (FRAP) discussion focused on procedural changes to ensure appropriate and timely feedback to unsuccessful applicants. Council was updated on Coeus and the perception of users so far. There are still many issues to be worked out, but overall there are positive responses. Questions or concerns should be forwarded to CoeusHelp@lbany.edu or to the respective Research Administrator.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

CPCA will have met twice by this Monday's Faculty Senate meeting. In our first meeting we acted on two cases with two more last Thursday.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) -- Sally Friedman, Chair

At the GAC meeting of 12/19/07 (date rescheduled due to snow), the main item of business was a discussion of new initiatives on Preparing Future Faculty sponsored by Dean Pryse and others at the university. Among other things, these initiatives will lead to enhanced instruction of graduate students as to their responsibilities as future faculty. To bring them into line with other university programs, we also considered and passed a mostly administrative proposal to drop doctoral residency requirements from LLC programs. Finally, in line with GAC's responsibility to oversee the ombuds program, a meeting of the ombuds committee is in the works for February.

GOV (Governance Council) – John Delano, Chair

The Governance Council has discussed three agenda items during its two recent meetings. (a) Proposed revision to Senate Bill 0708-04 dealing with the ITLAL Director on LISC and CAA; (b) Proposed revision of Senate Bill 0708-05 that was not approved by the Interim President; and (c) proposal for the creation of a new layer of review for course/program proposals originating from 'not degree-granting units' at UAlbany. The GOV Chair has met with the Director of ITLAL, the Interim President, and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies to ensure that their perspectives are represented for items 'a', 'b', and 'c', respectively, during the GOV discussions. I have e-mailed Sue Faerman to provide her with the GOV idea for composition of the proposed layer of review, and also to confirm whether the ITLAL Director reports directly to her.

GOV met again last Friday and this will be reported in the chairs' reports

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

LISC met Friday afternoon, January 25th. . . 1. We voted to stick with the 2005 email policy. 2. We discussed potential technological solutions to the academic integrity problem discussed at the last Senate meeting (the resolution from CAFFECOR). We have no information regarding the relative merits of specialized software to catch plagiarism compared to Google. The consensus was that there is no technological fix. 3. We voted to approve a proposal to revise the Charter to modify the name and charge of the IT Policy Usage Committee, and to have it chaired by the CIO. This proposal is printed below. 4. LISC discussed the continuing erosion of the Libraries' budget, which has been flat for several years. Costs continue to rise, exacerbated by the weak dollar. Academic resources are threatened and the Libraries' national ranking has fallen. The Library Committee is preparing a report to be submitted to Council.

LISC proposes an amendment to the Charter to change the ITUPC Committee that will be voted on at the March meeting of the Senate.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair

UAC unanimously approved changes to the honors program in Psychology and in Africana Studies as follows.

- a. *Psychology Departmental Honors Program changes.* To be admitted a student must have an overall GPA of 3.25 and maintain a GPA of 3.50 in the major. In addition the student would need to complete APSY210 and APSY211 with a grade of C or better. The requirements for the departmental honors program will be the same as the Psychology Department major. The Psychology major has changed their restricted electives into 4 sub disciplines: 1) cognitive approaches to behavior 2) clinical and developmental approaches to behavior 3) social basis of behavior and 4) biological basis of behavior.
- b. *Africana Studies Honors Program changes:* Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 in University courses of and 3.50 GPA in the major to be able to enter the program and to remain in it. Also students enrolled in the Honor Program will have to write a thesis which will be worth 6 credits. The changes will appear in the 2008-2009 Bulletin.

Women's Studies proposed LGBTQ Minor: UAC approved the proposed minor but its name was cause of concern. The title is an acronym for Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer. Several members felt that the term Queer was derogative and therefore it was not a good idea to have it in the name. We requested an explanation from the Women Studies Department. Christine E. Bose, Women's Studies and Sociology explained that the minor name is the above acronym and not all the terms spelled out. She also explained that "*Queer Studies is now the most progressive term in this field. The term incorporates a broad spectrum of sexual identities, including gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, but also transgender and other identities as well. In essence, scholars have reclaimed the word, once used disparagingly, to represent a new progressive approach. ... Currently "Queer" is the accepted terminology in academia that acts as an umbrella term to encompass all sexual and gender identities that are marginalized, not just lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ones. While in the past, queer was used as a derogatory term, over the past few decades, it has been reclaimed as a source of pride and resistance.*"

A member still strongly opposed the use of Queer and not having the terms spelled out. UAC voted to have the minor be named LGBTQ as the Department of Women Studies proposed, without the terms spelled out and it passed by majority vote. Then UAC proceeded then to vote on accepting the minor as proposed by the Department of Women Studies, with the word Queer still in it.

A member was very much in opposition and requested a roll call vote. The result of the voting was as follow:

8 Yes: Maria Brown, Sue Faerman, Sue Phillips, Bill Rainbolt, Karin Reinhold, Jane Kessler, Nikki Kotary and Greg Stevens.

2 Nos: Chris Faugere and Dan Truman III with rights (see attached email).

2 abstain: Ann Withington and Maria Moon.

Daniel Truchan III Rights from the voting according to Roberts Rules of Order: "I am quite disappointed in this committee for not doing its job and rushing this minor with out all the committees questions answered. This committee is here to make sure that all of the different areas of academics are looked after. Being a Research Center we must look at how all programs will have an impact on the institution. Being that this minor is not being spelled out shows that this Institution has something to hide and since the motion to spell it out the words that form LGBTQ failed, I am very appalled to see this bill pushed through with out the final question of whether or not the Women's Study department wanted to see it spelled out. This committee failed to do its job and those who pushed it through should be ashamed of themselves and reexamine why they are here."

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

ULC met briefly Monday, Feb. 4 after as many members as possible had attended the diversity audit meeting for faculty from 3:30-4:30 convened by Dr. Tamra Minor, UA's Chief Diversity Officer. The Residential Life Committee submitted a report. Main concerns continue to revolve around un-met housing needs for students arriving from a distance before the start of the term and for visiting scholars who come at various times over the year. Because of the continuing remodeling program in the dormitories which is taking buildings out of service, it is doubtful that any on-campus solution to these problems will be forthcoming in the near future. ULC will continue to study this problem and hopes that a solution for 2008-09 will emerge. ULC also has heard via library staff of many students have been looking for copies of their course textbooks there since they were unable to purchase their books at the bookstore. Please advise ULC if you have information to report on this issue. Student members of the council reported that morning busses from the downtown campus were so overcrowded and/or infrequent in the time slot around 8:30 that many students were unable to get to class on time.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Diane Dewar, Chair

Two presentations were included in the UPC meeting. One was concerning the Undergraduate Writing Program proposal presented by Professor Robert Yagelski. The second was regarding the new Data Center developments presented by CIO Christine Haile. These presentations allowed the Councilors the chance to keep abreast of the latest planning developments around the University that would require significant resource commitments.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Sanjay Goel, Chair

Nothing to report.; the committee is meeting February 22nd.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Zai Liang, Chair

CERS Chair Zai Liang attended a meeting on January 14 with VPR, Adrienne D. Bonilla (Office of Compliance), and John Reilly (University Counsel). Issues related to a recent research misconduct allegation were discussed. On February 8, CERS members met with Interim President, Adrienne D. Bonilla (Office of Compliance), and John Reilly (University Counsel). Agenda items include discussion of a pending investigation case and a beginning discussion of needed policy revisions. VPR and Interim Provost joined the second part of the meeting.