

2008-2009 University Senate

Monday, December 15, 2008
3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

John Delano, Chair
Minutes

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Heidi Andrade, Hassaram Bakhru, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Joel Berkowitz, Tom Bessette, R. Scott Birge, Lance Bosart, Ray Bromley, Daryl Bullis, Andrew Byon, Sairam Chinnam, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, Kirsten Davison, John Delano, Jane Domaracki, Virginia Eubanks, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Robert Gibson, Eric Hardiman, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, Sung Bok Kim, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Jean McLaughlin, William Meredith, Susan Phillips, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Alex Rias, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, Benjamin Shaw, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Scott South, Eszter Szalczzer, Daniel Truchan III, Lynn Videka, Edward Waltz

Guests: Jon Bartow, Vince Delio, Wayne Locust, Jason Shepard, Bruce Szelest, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:34 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of November 17, 2008 were approved pending the addition of Joan Savitt being added as having been present.

PRESIDENT'S AND PROVOST'S REPORTS by SUSAN PHILLIPS

Interim Provost Phillips applauded and thanked all those who participated in the success of Winter Commencement. Degrees were received by 535 undergraduates and 380 graduates. There were 80 faculty members in attendance. There was a moving presentation of Richard Bailey's degree which was received by his family. A number of special guests in attendance recognized Richard Bailey. Among them were U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, H. Carl McCall and Francis Allen.

Town Hall Meetings: These events have been taking place across campus with Interim President Philip, Kathryn Lowery, John Giarusso and the Interim Provost to inform faculty and staff what they know about the budget situation. The conversations have also informed the campus community on the energy conservation period from December 20 through January 15. The initiative is expected to save the University approximately \$250,000 and help the University reduce its carbon footprint.

Budget Update:

Governor Patterson will release his budget a month early on Tuesday, December 16. This will give the campus a greater sense of what to expect for the 2009-10 year. The Governor's proposal in November was to increase tuition by \$600/year while reducing state tax support by a similar amount. This form of regressive tax will impact those who are least able to afford it. The SUNY Board of Trustees has proposed an increase of \$620/year that be allocated for salary increases and energy costs. The new tuition rate will take effect for the spring semester but money from the increase cannot be spent until the Legislature approves the measure.

Budget Advisory Group (BAG):

President Philip has selected names from the list provided to him by SEC. It is expected that names will be announced in about a week and the group will start after the new year. At the town hall meeting the President described the serious challenges posed by the current budget cuts. The magnitude of the budget cuts across the SUNY system are equivalent to closing one 4-year college, one of the four research universities, a technical college, and the SUNY Central office. While there is no indication how the budget shortfall will be dealt with, the Provost stated, “The University will look different on the other side (of this budget crisis) than it does now.” She encouraged everyone to participate in advocacy efforts. UUP is scheduling such events to inform legislators of their concerns and UAlbany day will be held in February to bring to the legislator’s attention the important role that SUNY plays in New York.

Notable Events and Achievements:

- The Student Achievement Luncheon was held at the end of the semester to honor the best and brightest students and their faculty mentors.
- A gift in the amount of \$520,000 has been made to the new School of Business by the Deloitte Foundation.
- In Athletics, Bob Ford and Phil Sykes received “Coach of the Year” awards.
- The Office of the Vice President for Research is working on the Misconduct Policy in Research and Scholarship.
- Enrollment Management expects to have an increase in applications. Freshman applications are up over eight percent. Applications for early action indicate and increase in the quality of applicants.
- In the Music Department, Max Lifchitz received a nomination for a Latin Grammy Award.
- The Center for Technology in Government (CTG) and Communications Department faculty received the Best Paper of the Year Award from the American Society for Information Science and Technology.
- Professor Emeritus Roberta Bernstein gave a lecture during the Andy Warhol exhibit.
- Joel Burkowitz has been appointed director of **UAlbany's Center for Jewish Studies**.
- Gary Yukl had three journal articles published in recent months.
- Sanjay Goel was recently asked to serve as the General Chair of the Institute for Computer Sciences, Social-Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering (ICST) Conference on Digital Forensics.
- Paul Morgan, Jr. from the School of Business was recently rated #5 in the nation by the web site <http://ratemyprofessors.com>.
- The Department of Geography and Planning’s Purple Path received mention in a USA Today article.
- Undergraduate student Mike Ferguson wins 1st place in the Autonomous Fire-fighting Robot Competition
- CCI held a study break and Wii competition sponsored by KeyBank
- Melodie Mayberry-Steward, NYS Chief Information Officer was a recent guest speaker at the School of Education. Her talk was entitled, “Transforming Government by Leveraging Technology.”
- Professor Jason Lane from the School of Education will be featured on Channel 13 on December 16th. “Forum 13” is highlighting his work with the Stakeholders Foundation.
- In the School of Public Health, Dr. David Carpenter is the editor of a new book focusing on the shortage of registered nurses in New York State.
- Hillside House in Coeymans has donated \$250,000 towards a scholarship honoring UAlbany alumnus Frank J. Filippone. Eligible recipients will show interest in working with the developmentally disabled and be enrolled in UAlbany’s School of Education, Department of Psychology at the College of Arts and Sciences, or the School of Social Welfare.
- Student Success—Raffle night raised over \$3,000.
- There has been discussion about the design of the Campus Center Renovation.
- The Counseling Center has received grants in the amount of \$600,000 which will support programs in suicide prevention and sexual assault against women.
- CNSE has received a \$300,000 grant for clean technology.

- The School of Social Welfare's Institute for Gerontology was awarded a \$264,000 grant from the NYS Health Foundation.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT BY JOHN DELANO

A lot of work has been accomplished since the previous Senate meeting on November 17, 2008. In addition to the Senate Bills and Resolution that are on the agenda for this current meeting, the following activities represent some high points.

- Budget Advisory Group:** As described in the Senate Chair's Report of November 17, President Philip and Provost Phillips want a Budget Advisory Group (BAG) to be formed. At the request of the Senate Executive Committee, the Governance Council provided the President and Provost with the names of individuals from all major constituencies to be considered as potential members of BAG. Although the SUNY budget for the next fiscal year has not yet been finalized, and therefore the magnitude of challenges are not accurately known, individuals have been contacted by the Provost for their willingness to serve on BAG. It is expected that this group will be heavily active during the months of January and February to provide advice to the President and Provost.
- Senate Resolution:** At their meeting on November 18th, the SUNY Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve Resolution #10R granting business autonomy to the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering without any changes to the current academic relationship between CNSE and the University at Albany. The Senate Resolution to be considered by the Senate at the December 15th meeting endorses this business autonomy while reaffirming the current administrative and governance structure. The Senate Chair expresses his deep appreciation for the tireless and constructive efforts throughout the last four weeks that have been made by many loyal citizens of this institution to achieve the unanimous consensus that was reached at the special meeting of the Senate Executive Committee on December 9.
- At the December 9th SEC meeting, members considered the merit of proposing an amendment to the Faculty Bylaws to add Senior Vice President Alain Kaloyeros as a voting, ex officio member of the University Senate. Since this idea received unanimous approval by the SEC members, work on writing this amendment will shortly begin. Since the process of amending the Faculty Bylaws is stringent and time-consuming, the SEC invoked Article II, Section 2.4 in the Faculty Bylaws dealing with the 'Composition of the Senate':

2.4 At its discretion, the Senate Executive Committee may nominate up to two Senators from the eligible voting faculty for approval by the Senate for one-year terms.

Using this provision, the SEC voted unanimously to name Senior Vice President Alain Kaloyeros as a member of the University Senate for the remainder of the current year. This appointment can be considered annually until an amendment, if approved, to the Faculty Bylaws is ratified.

- Energy Conservation:** The views of all SEC members were solicited regarding the energy conservation strategies that have been developed for the campus during the intersession. Their views were forwarded to the John Giarrusso, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, and Indu Lnu, University Energy Officer, for their consideration.

SUNY-WIDE SENATE REPORT – WILLIAM LANFORD AND R. MICHAEL RANGE

No new business.

GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) REPORT – NICHOLAS FAHRENKOPF, LEAD SENATOR

The Graduate Student Organization continues to organize, fund and promote events and initiatives for graduate students. Last week GSO sponsored the Graduate Student Holiday Gala in conjunction with the Office of Graduate Studies. The GSO is also promoting a letter writing campaign on behalf of School of Public Health Doctoral Student Kamiar Alaei who is being held incognito in Iran. Plans for next semester include a networking event cosponsored by the Alumni Association. Lastly, in cooperation with Student Success, the University Police Department and the Albany Police Department, the GSO is planning a fundraising and awareness walk in downtown Albany to benefit the Richard Bailey Scholarship Fund.

The Graduate Student Organization looks forward to working with units from across campus. <http://www.albany.edu/~gso> (gso@albany.edu)

Mr. Fahrenkopf noted that the student in Iran is not incognito. He asked faculty members for their understanding with students having difficulties due to the lack of power from the ice storm.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – DANIEL TRUCHAN III

Mr. Truchan extended thank yous to faculty for their understanding and working cooperatively with students during the power outage.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on November 19th, 2008, and continued its work from the November 5 meeting – reviewing the language that defines its tasks and relationships with various constituencies. A number of editorial changes in documents on CAA itself were discussed and agreed on; subsequently, we began work on revising some of the language dealing specifically with the Program Review Committee. It was agreed that the chair will recommend to the SEC and the full Senate a review by the Undergraduate Academic Council and the Graduate Academic Council of charter language that deals with their roles in the assessment process. The Council also briefly discussed the question of the status of ex officio members, especially the Director of Program Review and Assessment; it was agreed that changes to the charter will be proposed.

The Council met on December 3, 2008. After approving the minutes from the previous meeting, it turned to the issue of data used in departmental and program self-studies: in particular, whether some of the current data gathering requirements could/should be revised or eliminated. The Council agreed to consider these matters further in the spring. It then turned to the question of how the results of General Education course assessments should be shared to

have a maximum impact on faculty participating in Gen Ed teaching. DPRA Kristina Bendikas informed the Council that the Interim Provost has agreed that executive summaries of such assessments should be posted on the web and discussed with faculty.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

CAFFECOR requested the SEC to support a Faculty Forum next semester on campus freedom of expression policies.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

The committee is circulating a draft of proposed revisions to the “Policy on Misconduct in Research and Scholarship” and is seeking comment from Senators. *Chair MacDonald encouraged Senate members to review the changes in the draft and inform her of any further revisions.*

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The council met on December 10th.

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

CPCA had a meeting with Interim-Provost Phillips to discuss her views of how we were doing, to answer any questions we might have, and to voice our own comments on the tenure and promotion process. Many issues were discussed and it was generally felt that communication could be improved between tenure track faculty and CPCA, department chairs and the administration. These discussions should start as early as possible in an individual’s career and clearly outline performance expectations in research, service and teaching. The discussions should also address how to best summarize results in files that are consistent with the guidelines readily available at the UAlbany website. CPCA recognizes that while cases may be presented in a similar format between academic units, expectations from the units themselves and the fields they represent may be different in such areas as grants, publications, etc. Thus CPCA would benefit more from the reviews by sub-committees and departments if they added sufficient information about their unique requirements and also suggested guidelines to help create more effective evaluation criteria, for example which journals are most significant, what is a good standard for numbers of citations, or other figures of merit relative to peer groups, standards for teaching, etc. Furthermore, it was pointed out that sometimes the multi-levels of review overlook addressing issues surfaced by external reviewers and simply repeat the more favorable points. What CPCA expects is that these points of concern be addressed with some objective analysis that will help us put any concerns in proper perspective.

An expected outcome of this very useful meeting with the Interim-Provost is that more frequent discussions will be held between tenure track faculty and CPCA as well as their department chairs to help in the development of the best possible cases and, more importantly, the best possible careers for the individuals involved. *Chair Lifshin suggested that everyone consider how they or their colleagues could be affected.*

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on November 24. The Council approved a proposal by the Schools of Public Health, Social Welfare and Education for a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Health Disparities, subject to minor revisions. In addition, the Council acted upon an academic grievance before the Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. It also approved a recommendation by the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures against establishing an equivalence scale between undergraduate and graduate credits. Finally, the Council approved two program changes: (1) a proposal by the School of Business to combine and restructure its MS Professional Accountancy and MS Accounting Information Systems (AIS) Programs, and (2) a proposal by the School of Social Welfare to change the name and course structure of the Direct Practice Concentration within its Master of Social Welfare Program.

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

The Governance Council met on November 24 and December 8, 2008.

- The Council reviewed the proposed clarifying amendment on graduate courses in light of the input received from Dean Pryse at its last meeting, and concluded that no changes would be needed. The Council approved to send the amendment to the SEC. This proposed amendment will be introduced at the 12/15/08 senate meeting, with a vote anticipated at the first meeting in 2009.
- GOV completed discussion of a proposed amendment to ensure better consultation between the administration and faculty governance, and unanimously approved forwarding the amendment to the SEC. At its Dec. 1 meeting, the SEC returned the amendment to GOV with several suggestions. GOV reviewed the suggested changes on Dec. 8, revised the amendment in accordance to the changes suggested by the SEC, and unanimously approved to send the revised amendment back to the SEC. At the end of the SEC emergency meeting of Dec. 9, 2008, and in subsequent e-mail discussion, SEC members requested further changes before approval. GOV will consider the matter at its first meeting in 2009.
- GOV reintroduced the IRCAP amendment from spring 2008 with a preliminary discussion. Further action will be considered at the next meeting.
- With previous discussions regarding potential conflict of interest as background (e.g., Senate Chair Delano’s remarks at the 9/22/08 senate meeting, or the amendment on eligibility to chair councils and committees currently before the senate), GOV reviewed a list of items that document the appearance of a substantial conflict of interest by a member of the university community in a governance related matter. GOV will examine at its next meeting whether any further actions should be proposed.

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

At the 11/21 meeting we discussed the impact of recent and anticipated budget cuts to ITS and University Libraries. Both report increased use with decreased resources. Faculty are encouraged to develop and deliver courses on-line as ITS loses support capacity. University Libraries faces increased prices for recurring subscriptions for journals and on-line databases, but will receive no funds to address inflation. University Libraries’ ARL ranking has dropped to 111/113. Contingency plans for ITS and University Libraries include reductions in service to the university community.

LISC expects passage of the Charter amendment regarding eligibility to chair Council committees. The Library Committee is currently active with the DOL as chair, but we anticipate no problems with the transition in the Fall. The CIO and LISC chair are working together to form the ITUPC.

CIO Chris Haile is exploring alternative mechanisms for students to acquire software licenses directly through ITS (currently, these are available for purchase only through an academic department budget).

In the spring, ITLAL will offer training for faculty to help manage student use of laptops, PDAs, cell phones, etc. to surf, text, email, etc. during class. Items to be discussed at future meetings include access to on-line course materials for students with vision problems; and a recently released report by the Digital Youth Project on the use of digital technology by young people, with implications for teaching and learning. LISC meets again on 12/19.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC approved a revision within the Chemistry major, the “Accredited Forensic Emphasis,” which is on today’s agenda. The council continues to examine possible revisions in the 2nd Bachelor’s Degree.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC met on December 3 and 5 to begin finalizing recommendations for modification to the smoking policy. The council also discussed and made recommendations to the UAS Board about the advisability of serving wine or beer during lunch.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

UPC approved the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Health Disparities proposal, which is on today’s agenda.

REPORT ON MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY BY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE – REED HOYT:

The Steering Committee met on 9 December 2008 at 11:00. The following members were present: Sue Faerman, co-chair, Steven Messner, co-chair, Reed Hoyt, Eric Lifshin, Karyn Loscocco, David McCaffrey, Clarence McNeill, Marcia Sutherland, Bruce Szelest, Lisa Trubitt. We can consider the Self-Study Design to be approved by Middle States. Faerman, Messner and Szelest have made the editorial changes, and all should be able to access the plan on the wiki. Surveys have been sent out, and a timeline has been distributed. The timeline calls for a draft of the report to be ready for review by the Steering Committee by 8 September 2009. The Going Forward results were useful in drafting the Self-Study Design. The subcommittees reported; discussion followed. The process is on schedule thus far.

Sue Faerman reported that the Self-Study design has been approved by Middle States and is available on the wiki. Surveys should have been received by everyone and these should prove to be helpful to committees. At the last meeting, a timeline was discussed to make sure that the first draft of the report will be available as early as possible at the beginning of the fall semester. A draft from each committee is desired by early April. She encouraged everyone to keep referring to the wiki for updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Charter Amendment 0809-01: Amendment regarding eligibility to chair Senate councils and committees (GOV)

GOV Chair Michael Range introduced the amendment at the November 17th Senate Meeting. He noted that in Section X.8.5, the name of the committee will be changed to the Information Technology Committee as requested by Chief Information Officer Chris Haile. A key provision of the amendment is to restrict the ability of *ex officio* members of a Senate council from chairing a council, a standing committee or subcommittee of the council. The amendment does not preclude an individual from serving as chair of an ad hoc committee.

Chair Range opened the floor for discussion and questions and the amendment went to a vote. A motion was made to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote.

Senate Resolution 0809-03R: Board of Trustees’ Resolution #10 (SEC)

Senate Chair Delano recognized CNSE Senior Vice President Alain Kaloyeros as a member of the University Senate as approved by the SEC at its meeting on December 9th. Dr. Kaloyeros’ appointment will remain in effect for the remainder of the current year.

Chair Delano introduced the Senate Resolution concerning the recent SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution #10R, granting business autonomy to CNSE, by reading excerpts from the November 17, 2008 memo from Interim President George Philip (Appendix II in Senate Resolution) and remarks by SUNY Trustee Linda Sanford (Appendix V in Senate Resolution). Those excerpted remarks provided Senators with an important overview of the goal of the SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution # 10R.

Following those remarks, Chair Delano opened the floor to discussion. After nearly one minute of silence, which was deliberately intended to underscore that a consensus had been reached, a motion was made from the floor asking that the matter be voted on. The motion was seconded. The Senate resolution was passed unanimously.

Senate Charter Amendment 0809-02: Clarifying amendment on graduate courses (GOV)

GOV Chair Range provided background regarding a proposal made last year for a graduate course that did not originate from either a school or a college. According to current language in the Senate Charter, approval of graduate courses must come from either a school or a college. The course in question from last spring was a UNI course. GAC had proposed that the language be amended stating that GAC should be charged as the final body to approve UNI courses. The matter was referred to SEC, which charged GOV to consider drafting an amendment to the Senate Charter. GOV had discussions that included the Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse and GAC Chair Laurence Kranich. As a result of those discussions, GOV concluded that graduate courses should always originate from either a school or a college that would take responsibility for the course. Interdisciplinary courses would require approval from each participating school or college. The main reason for the rationale was that while undergraduates come to the University not knowing what program they will major in, they have ample latitude to explore other courses. In contrast, graduate students come prepared to pursue a particular program offered by a school or college and may find the need for courses that do not fit into an existing program. GOV felt the language being added in boldface was needed to explicitly indicate where approval was required for such courses.

Chair Delano inquired as to whether the proposed amendment was suggesting the course would go through a review process in a school or college. Chair Range explained that GAC retains the right to review courses but final approval comes from the school or college.

Jonathan Bartow suggested that there could be instances where a school or college that approved a course might be different from the unit that had originally proposed the course. Discussion ensued about this scenario. Since closure was not reached after several minutes, it was agreed that the discussion should continue via e-mail.

Senate Bill 0809-06: Certificate of Graduate Studies in Health Disparities (GAC; UPC)

GAC Chair Laurence Kranich introduced this joint proposal by the Schools of Public Health, Education and Social Welfare to establish a certificate program which would consist of four courses using existing resources. Students would take electives in the three subject areas. A portion of the mandatory course will be expanded to include an economics component in health disparities. There were no questions and the motion was made to approve the bill. The motion was seconded and the bill passed.

Senate Bill 0809- 07: Chemistry Major—Accredited Forensic Emphasis (UAC)

UAC Chair Joan Savitt introduced the bill, noting that the Department of Chemistry had provided the rationale, and that all proper signatures had been obtained. UAC voted in favor of the proposed degree program requiring 82 credits. Although the UAC recognized that this is an ambitious requirement, it was persuaded the requirements for the proposed degree program could be completed within the proposed time frame.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of the word “Accredited” in the title. Chair Savitt indicated they were looking for a particular way to identify the program and would be open to a better name. A motion was made for approval of the bill and to revise the title (i.e., replace the word ‘accredited’) of the proposed degree following consultation between the Chemistry Department and the UAC. The motion was seconded and the bill passed.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Senate Chair Delano closed the meeting by thanking all of those who worked tirelessly to bring to fruition the resolution concerning CNSE. He noted that the manner in which it came about speaks volumes about achieving excellence. He continued by saying, “Today we saw the Senate at its best.”

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder