

**University at Albany
State University of New York**

University Council

Minutes

October 13, 2011

A regular meeting of the University Council of the State University of New York at Albany was held on October 13, 2011 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Daniel Tomson (Presiding Officer/Vice Chair), Pierre Alric, Patricia Caldwell, James Clancy, John Fallon, James Jackson, Abner JeanPierre, Michael Stein and Student Member, Tremayne Price; also, Nicholas Fahrenkopf (Graduate Student Representative), Andi Lyons (Faculty Representative), and Canon Kay Hotaling (Alumni Representative).

Also present were: President George Philip, Provost/Vice President Susan Phillips, Vice Presidents Stephen Beditz, Christine Bouchard, James Dias, Fardin Sanai; Vincent Delio (Chief of Staff), Wayne Locust (Vice Provost, Enrollment Mgt.), John Reilly (Associate Counsel, SUNY), Robert Andrea (Director of Admissions & Enrollment) and visitors Donald Reeb and Laura Berry.

Mr. Tomson called the meeting to order at 2:10pm. He welcomed Andi Lyons as the new faculty Representative and Tremayne Price as the new Student Member.

Upon motion duly made and seconded (Caldwell/Alric) the minutes of the May 6, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved, as submitted.

Moving to the President's Report, President Philip first addressed five questions/issues raised by members of the Council in advance of the October 13th meeting. First, the President commented on the NYSUNY2020 Act noting that it was a major piece of legislation that would affect all SUNY campuses. He noted that the 5-year rational tuition plan included a tuition increase of \$300 per year for undergraduate students. He added that graduate student tuition would increase up to 6% per year and out-of-state student tuition would increase up to 10% per year. He said that UAlbany's NYSUNY 2020 plan anticipated the student body growing by 1,350 students. The President underscored that the plan ensured that access and affordability would be protected through a TAP credit program and additional funding directed toward merit-based scholarships.

Second, the President detailed SUNY's "shared services" initiative across the System. There was some discussion with members of the Council about the concerns raised at a few campuses over the "shared presidencies" initiative. President Philip explained that SUNY was requesting community and regional feedback about the concept prior to the Board of Trustees taking action. He noted that this topic was on our meeting agenda and would be presented by Mr. Alric.

Third, President Philip noted that a study of our institutional organizational structure is well underway by an independent consultant and that meetings with various campus officers have taken place. Vice President Beditz added that the process was moving toward conclusion. Fourth, President Philip noted that the planned new Athletic fields upgrades are in the design stage. The President explained that the athletics project has three components including: 1) the improvement of the running track, 2) a new football field, which will be located near the current Bubble, and 3) a student-recreation field near the current tennis courts adjacent to the Dutch Quad.

Fifth, President Philip addressed the status of an 8-acre property adjacent to the campus off Western Avenue that is up for sale. He said that the University was interested in any property available that was adjacent to the campus but that the asking price of \$1.6 million was well beyond what the property is worth. He noted that a much lower offer had been made but was rejected. As for the possible use of such property, he said that no specific purpose has been developed or is being developed.

Continuing with his report, President Philip said that the Summer Session was very successful and that overall student enrollment profile for the fall semester was strong. In this regard, he noted that Wayne Locust, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, would be leaving to take a position as Vice President at the University of Connecticut. He acknowledged Mr. Locust's leadership over the years in building a diverse student body and in building the academic quality of the student body.

President Philip reported that the new Dormitory complex under construction should be complete and available in the fall of 2012. With regard to other construction and rehabilitation projects, he said that the new School of Business building should be on-line in 2013 and he said that the Mohawk Tower will be completely rehabilitated. He added that the Campus Center expansion project was also on target.

As the President concluded his report, Ms. Caldwell asked about the SUNY "shared presidencies" initiative. President Philip explained that six SUNY campuses are being considered for this plan and that there have been some questions raised during the process at several campuses. He summarized what appeared to be the intent of the plan and noted that Mr. Alric would touch on this issue during his agenda report. As he concluded, he said that the University had reinstated a policy that would require second year students to live on campus and he commented on the concerns that led to that decision.

Moving to the Student Report, Mr. Price said that he was pleased to be the Student Member for this year and shared a bit about himself noting that he was from Elmira, New York and that he was a senior with a major in Public Policy and had been active in student government. He highlighted several programs sponsored by the Student Association including "Block Party," which he said was very well attended. He also reported that many students had participated in an array of community projects including those who volunteered their time at towns and villages that had been hit by the flooding. He invited the Council members to the annual Speaker Series Program coming up on Saturday, October 15 featuring "Magic" Johnson, and noted other student sponsored events.

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Tomson introduced Andi Lyons, Chair of the Theatre Department. Lyons briefly commented on the department's programs. In view of her leadership role with the campus Senate, she commented on the General Education (GenEd) requirements, an issue that has been pending from last year which has prompted some concerns with the faculty body.

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Fahrenkopf briefly noted several activities underway with the Graduate Student Organization.

Canon Hotaling distributed several items to the Council members relating to the Alumni Association and its programs, including the Homecoming Weekend program to begin October 14, and T-shirts that are part of the "Danger Zone" program sponsored by the Association. She also highlighted activities by the Association to build relationships with current students in advance of them becoming alumni and also with recent graduates to strengthen their affiliation with their alma mater.

There being no Old Business items, Mr. Tomson called on Mr. Locust for his Enrollment Update. Referring to a previously distributed information sheet highlighting enrollment data, he said that this had been a very successful year in maintaining both quality and diversity in incoming high school and transfer student admissions. He praised Robert Andrea, Director of Admissions, and his staff for their assertiveness in attracting qualified students to the University. A discussion ensued on this issue with Dr. Jackson, Mr. Stein, Ms. Caldwell, Mr. JeanPierre, Mr. Alric and President Philip commenting. As this agenda item concluded, Mr. Tomson congratulated Mr. Locust for his dedicated work over the years in building a strong student body.

Mr. Tomson called on Vice President Bouchard to present the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct (copies previously distributed). Referring to the document, Ms. Bouchard commented on each of the proposed changes and explained the basis of each proposal. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Stein/Caldwell) the proposed changes were unanimously approved.

In Vice President Sanai's temporary absence, President Philip submitted a proposal to name the Physical Education building in recognition of the volunteer leadership service provided together with a very generous major gift commitment by a donor who has been involved with the University for many years. Upon motion duly made a seconded (Caldwell/Clancy) the proposal was unanimously approved. Mr. Philip said that he was pleased to report that we had received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. State Department for international students to continue their education.

Moving to the last agenda item, Mr. Alric reported that the issue of "shared services" discussed earlier had been a major item of discussion and concern within the Association of Council Members and Trustees (ACT). One of the critical issues in this regard, he said, related to the role each campus Council would play if two campuses were to be led by one president. He elaborated further. In concluding his report, he noted that annual ACT Conference to be held in Cooperstown on October 14-15.

Mr. Alric noted that that a UAlbany student, Sam Chernikoff Frumkin, a senior, had been selected to receive an ACT scholarship this year. He said that this award is presented annually based on submissions from the various SUNY campuses.

As the meeting came to conclusion, President Philip noted that Mr. JeanPierre would be serving on the search committee for a new Dean of Rockefeller College. And, he reported that a Memorial Service would be held for former University President Vincent O'Leary on Sunday, October 16 at 11am in the Recital Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Tomson called to the attention of the Council several forthcoming events highlighted on the agenda page including Winter Commencement on December 4 and the next Council meeting on December 9.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded (Stein/Alric) the meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sorrell E. Chesin, Ph.D.
Secretary to the University Council