

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, December 12, 2011
As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna, Chair

The initial stages of a Presidential Search are underway to replace President Philip, who has announced his retirement. Per UFS guidelines, the Senate Chair has been in contact with the University Council about the process. The Senate Chair has asked the University Council for a general timeline of the search in anticipation of needing to provide 6 teaching faculty members to the search committee, per SUNY Board of Trustees' "Presidential Search, Guidelines for Conducting" (http://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=573). As with recent past presidential searches, the SEC will solicit nominations for the search committee from the voting faculty. The next steps are described in the BOT guidelines: "Taking care to assure that faculty representation on the search committee speaks for a broad spectrum of faculty opinion, the faculty shall elect its representatives to the search committee by secret ballot at an open session of the faculty governance group, at which a quorum of the teaching faculty are present." Whether this vote will happen at our 2/6/12 meeting or at a special session depends on the University Council's timeline. The responsibility for making sure that the ballot is representative of the broad spectrum of faculty lies with the SEC, which will compose the ballot from all nominations.

The composition of a presidential search committee is delineated by the BOT as follows: "Unless otherwise agreed upon in advance by the chancellor and the council chair, the search committee shall consist of four members of the council (including the chair), six members of the full-time teaching faculty of the campus, one student, one alumni representative, one campus-related foundation representative, one academic dean, and one professional or support staff member." The Senate Chair is currently in discussions with the University Council about the process whereby the one Professional or support staff member will be chosen. In the last presidential search, that member was elected by the University Senate, not the University Council.

The University Council will be setting up a webpage with Presidential Search updates in the near future.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Daniel D. White, J. Philippe Abraham & Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, SUNY Senators

The SUNY Senators have proposed a resolution to endorse the two resolutions regarding shared services that the University Faculty Senate passed at the October Plenary. The SEC has moved the resolution to the senate for consideration.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative Report Pending.

SA (Student Association) – Bryant Barksdale, Student Association President Designee

On November 12th the Student Association held the annual FallFest concert featuring LMFAO and The Far East Movement. There were around 3,300 students in attendance making this event the highest attended concert in recent years.

We are looking to keep our community involvement going by hosting a midnight mission in December. We are working with local businesses to get donations to give out. We will have student volunteers on hand to give out what has been donated to the homeless to help lessen the burden and hardships that the winter may cause them. The date and location are still being worked out.

A local ninth grader whose brother is a junior here at the university, has requested help in getting gifts for local children living in southern Albany. We are reaching out to our student groups to try and have them sponsor

some of the children on the list and we are organizing a dinner event where the gifts will be given to children by Santa.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Adrian Masters, Chair

The CAA has completed its program review report on Women’s Studies.

The PRC and the GEAC are progressing with reports on reviews conducted in the 2010-11 academic year.

I am working with the PRC from last year to produce reports on reviews conducted in the 2009-10 academic year.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Aran Mull, Chair

The committee met last on November 14th. A bill to remove the “Principles for a Just Community” statement from all University documentation was completed and forwarded for the consideration of the SEC. The University Counsel has offered the opinion that they may not act in an advisory capacity and we are reviewing our options regarding the current complaint as well as enacting complaint management guidelines for the committee going forward.

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

CERS is awaiting response from the University Council's office for a meeting to discuss continuing issues with the policy.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on November 30th and considered multiple agenda items:

Associate VPR Bob Webster and Associate VPF&B Kevin Wilcox discussed the recent DHHS audit and outlined new guidelines for administrative expenses on grants and contracts and exception policies on direct charging to federal projects for non-personnel expenses pursuant to OMB A-21.

Assistant VPR Theresa Walker presented university guidelines for faculty start-up companies. This included the Federal, State SUNY, RF and UAlbany layers of laws and policies to manage, reduce or eliminate conflicts of interest.

The FRAP-A sub-committee received the 15 applications (down from ~40 two years ago) for review. The Excellence in Research and Creative Activities is reviewing the 8 nominations it received. In addition, the Conference/Journal Review and Benevolent Award Review sub-committees are processing their applications.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair

CPCA has completed the review of twelve cases to date. Review of three additional cases will occur at the meeting on December 12th. Provost Phillips will attend the December 12th meeting of CPCA to hear from members about issues that arise in the process of case evaluation.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

GAC met on November 16.

The Committee on Curriculum and Instruction has reviewed three proposals as follows: (1) Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. credit reduction (from present 66 credits to 60 credits), (2) Masters in Public Health EHS Concentration changes, (3) Special Education and Literacy II track changes. CC&I recommended GAC support

for all three proposals. GAC discussed and voted to approve all three proposals. Since these only involved changes to a small number of course offerings, and no major program changes, Senate approval will not be needed. Senate members can obtain any or all of these three reports from Chair Tim Groves on request. A fourth proposal for a Nonprofit Management Certificate remains in discussion.

The Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing has resolved and communicated findings for all four pending appeals cases. CAAS/GAC currently has no pending appeals cases.

Graduate Dean Kevin Williams solicited input from the graduate schools and departments on topics needing attention by the Dean's office. Chair Tim Groves agreed to work with Dean Williams to prepare the GAC discussion as appropriate.

GAC presently has no bills pending Senate approval.

GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair

No response received.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair

Most of LISC's November 21 meeting was devoted to a presentation by Chris Moore of IT Client Support Service regarding the new version of Blackboard. The percentage of faculty already using Bb9, which was launched last summer, is very high. Bb8 will no longer be available as of Spring 2012. However, an archive of courses that had used Bb8 will be accessible for at least two years for administrative and other purposes. As requested by the SEC, Steve Worona's Ppt "Privacy Policies" (which was presented at UFS) has been distributed in anticipation of future discussion regarding revision of UAlbany's "Responsible Use of IT" Policy. The Library Committee reported that it had reviewed the results of the survey completed last spring. A summary will be presented by Dean Casserly at LISC's next meeting, Dec. 12.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

UAC approved changes to the University Wide Internship requirements and will draft a bill to bring to the Senate. Additionally, UAC approved changes to the requirements for cross-counting courses between double majors and minors. We are drafting a bill which reflects these changes and should be presenting to SEC soon. The General Education Committee continues to meet and is expected to present a proposal to UAC in the very near future.

ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

ULC met on November 15th. We continued our discussion on the Smoking Policy. Ms. Christine Bouchard met with the Student Senate to inform them about our discussions on the Smoking Policy. We decided to start organizing open forums for students, staff and faculty in order to openly and thoughtfully discuss smoking on campus and a tobacco free policy. We're planning on hosting the forums on November 29th and 30th

On November 29th and 30th the Forums on a Tobacco-Free campus were held. Students, faculty and staff were invited to attend. The forum was a platform where the university community could voice opinions and concerns about smoking on campus. The forum was facilitated by Michael Seserman from the American Cancer Society and Dr. Peter Vellis, Director of Student Health Services. Also Philip Nasca and Mary Applegate from the School of Public Health and Brian Freidenberg from the Counseling Center contributed their expertise.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

UPPC met Friday Dec 2. GOV has approved the council's request to be considered as a 'committee of the whole'. An electronic vote taken between meetings re: Biology Revision of Lab Courses (CAS Proposal 11-078) has been approved and sent to the Senate. Tony Alfieri and Sarah Freidel, architects with Perkins + Will, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Facilities Master Plan. The guiding principle of the process is that the FMP will guide campus development in alignment with our Strategic Plan and UAlbany Impact. The plan deliverable is a matrix of near, intermediate and long term strategies between 2013-2023, accompanied by a recommendation to the State University Construction Fund on how much capital and operational funding UAlbany needs and where to spend it. Projected program growth through this period calls for very aggressive renovation and construction programs. Mr. Alfieri and Ms. Freidel went through a number of planning scenarios to show how UA can achieve our goals. Proposed plans include the following possibilities: a renovation plan running three concurrent renovation projects in order to completely renovate the academic podium by 2043, and an aggressive development plan on the Downtown campus that will decompress the Uptown Campus and revitalize Downtown as a destination for our changing student demographic. After discussion, questions and answers, Chair Lifshin thanked Mr. Alfieri and Ms. Freidel for their very informative presentation. A discussion of a campus impact statement to accompany bills was tabled until January.