

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

***University Council***

Minutes  
July 17, 2013

A special meeting of the University Council was held on July 17, 2013 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana (Chairman), Pierre Alric (phone/web video), Robert Balachandran (phone/web video), Patricia Caldwell (phone/web video), James Clancy, John Fallon (phone), James Jackson, Michael Stein (phone/web video) and Student Member, Klara Botvinnik; also Gary Roth (Graduate Student Representative), and Timothy Murphy (Alumni Representative).

Also present were: President Robert Jones, Vice Presidents Susan Phillips, James Dias and Catherine Herman; John Reilly (SUNY Counsel), Vincent Delio (Chief of Staff). Guests: Caitlin Janiszewski (President, Graduate Student Organization) and Peter Whohl (SEFCU).

Chairman Castellana asked if a quorum was present and Dr. Chesin identified the four Statutory members who were in attendance, the four who were participating by phone and web video, and the one who was participating by phone alone. He confirmed a quorum.

Mr. Castellana then called the meeting to order at 10:15am. Noting that this special meeting was called with less than the seven day notice required in view of the SUNY Trustees meeting and action taken on July 16 affecting the University, he asked for approval of a waiver of the notice requirement given the urgency of Council review and action. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Clancy/Jackson), the waiver was unanimously approved. He then invited President Jones to report on the Trustees action on their resolution – *Roadmap to a New Structure for the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE)*.

Dr. Jones provided background to the consideration by SUNY to propose a new structure for CNSE that, while allowing it to separate from UAlbany, would facilitate collaboration between both entities in a host of educational and institutional endeavors. He referred to the Trustees resolution and its outline of how CSNE would be able to build relationships with other SUNY campuses and for UAlbany to capitalize and expand its numerous research initiatives in the health sciences, information technology, climate and environmental science and through numerous existing research centers and institutes.

In view of the Trustees action and the need for similar consideration by the University Council, Chairman Castellana called for a motion to consider the following – *Empowering Resolution to Implement the Separation of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and the State University of New York at Albany*. Moved and seconded (Clancy/Botvinnik), the resolution was open for discussion.

Mr. Castellana reported that he had served on the SUNY Committee that had considered this proposal and recommended to the Trustees the action that resulted in the proposed separation. He acknowledged the challenge that this separation would have on UAlbany but felt that it also offered an opportunity for the campus to focus on major areas of research that have achieved high degrees of success and which offer significant potential. President Jones added comment by pointing to academic and research areas which we have not fully explored and which offer appealing opportunities for seeking additional funding. The separation of a major unit from the institution, he noted, prompts us to define our future and maintain our profile as a public research university.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Clancy, Mr. Stein and Mr. Balachandran endorsing the path of capitalizing on UAlbany's notable assets and moving quickly ahead in a "big and bold" manner. Mr. Castellana reflected that the hard work will be the discussions between CNSE and UAlbany to define the roles and the areas of collaboration.

Mr. Castellana asked if there were any additional comments to be offered. Hearing none, he asked the members to vote on the resolution. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Alric suggested that the members might wish to view the video of the Trustees meeting on July 16 to hear their discussion and noted that it could be found on the SUNY website. He asked that the Council be engaged as the discussions are undertaken between the two entities over the coming year. Ms. Botvinnik reported that comments she has heard from others within her community suggested the view that the "loss" of CNSE would diminish UAlbany's reputation. Mr. Castellana said that how and what we do and say to our stakeholders should address that concern.

The discussion continued with Dr. Jackson, Ms. Botvinnik, Mr. Roth, Mr. Murphy and Vice President Herman commenting on next steps. President Jones said that he and Dr. Kaloyeros will continue to meet and that he is optimistic that the outcome will be favorable to both entities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Beditz  
Liaison to the University Council