

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, October 19, 2015
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Cynthia Fox

1. Informational

- SEC met on October 5. The major item on the agenda was a discussion of the 11 proposals submitted for the SUNY Expanded Investment & Performance Fund. Several smaller items of business were referred to the Governance Council for consideration.
- Written feedback on the SUNY Expanded Investment Proposals that was provided by UAC and by CAFFECOR were forwarded to Provost Stellar.
- On October 8, Chair Fox, Vice Chair Collins and Past Chair Stefl-Mabry received a request for Senate comments and feedback on SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) DRAFT documents . Comments are due by October 19.
- The next monthly meeting of Chair Fox, Vice Chair Collins and Past Chair Stefl-Mabry with Provost Stellar and Chief of Staff Wirkkula is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13.

2. Actions Taken

- GOV has been charged with updating the Faculty Handbook so that it reflects current institutional policies and practices. The Handbook has been taken down from the Senate website pending those revisions.
- GOV has been charged with amending the Charter to reflect various organizational and administrative changes at the University (i.e., the loss of CNSE, the addition of CHEC, the renaming of CCI, etc.). GOV will also consider whether it could/should draft an additional amendment by which such “housekeeping” changes to the Charter would not have to go to the full Senate for approval.
- GOV has been asked to consider organizing a workshop or information session on sustainability as principle in UA undergraduate education.
- Chair Fox forwarded the SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) DRAFT documents to the SEC for comment and requested that UPPC Chair Stefl-Mabry circulate them to that Council for comment as well.

3. Recommendations for action.

- Following a discussion of the problem of loss of quorum at Senate meetings, it was recommended that Council Chairs remind their members that leaving Senate meetings before they are over prevents the Senate from completing its business in a timely fashion, and that this also be brought to the attention of the Senate at its next meeting.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – J. Philippe Abraham, Walter Little & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators

The UFS Senators look forward to the Fall Plenary at Buffalo State on October 22-24.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Robert Beach, GSA President

The GSA has been very busy, as it always is. I'd like to update the senate on some of the things we are doing and some of our plans moving forward.

We have increased the number of groups under our purview by one from last year and now have a total of 27 graduate student groups in our Association. We are also working with at least 3 groups that hope to join our ranks in the Spring. We are actively recruiting graduate students to form groups and get involved in our mission.

Part of this recruitment drive was a campaign organized by our Vice President Kat Slye to visit department orientations at the beginning of the term. A number of our officers and other students participated and we visited 23 departments meeting more than 300 new graduate students in face-to-face meetings. We also had even more graduate students walking through our informational orientation organized by our Programming Chair Lisa Cassidy. The GSA would like to express its appreciation to all the University offices that participated.

GSA members have taken seats on a number of University councils and committees and we look forward to the opportunity to bring our skills and experience to the important conversations that occur in these committees. If there are any other committees looking for graduate representation, please contact me and we will find someone. If your committee does not typically include graduate students, consider adding one, we have a lot to offer, most importantly a different perspective.

Our involvement with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students is ongoing. We hosted their annual leadership summit and our great committee put together an excellent program. The theme for the summit was sustainable leadership and we have since shared this model with other schools, most recently Stony Brook. We also recently sent a student to the NAGPS Legislative Action Days in Washington D.C. The report is forthcoming.

Our other committees (Wages and Benefits, Equity and Inclusion, RGSO, Grants, Programming, and a new finance committee), are up and running. Each one has its own business, but is also

working on new and exciting projects that we are looking forward to share with you as they continue to take shape.

We are starting the process of organizing our next forum with President Jones. We've appreciated his participation in the past and look forward to another productive conversation.

The GSA is also rolling out a new initiative to collect data on our student group-sponsored events. We are still figuring out a system, but we plan to use this information to better serve our constituents. First, we want to help groups with very little experience to put on better events that reach more students. Second, we want to improve our day-to-day operations. The Association is growing very quickly and we want to be able to continue to expand our reach despite our tiny budget. And third, we want to get a better sense of what our graduate students need so that we can better direct our advocacy efforts. We will update you on this process.

Our initial effort at data collection was done during our department orientation visits. One of the big messages that we heard loud and clear from new graduate students during these meetings was an perceived lack of University level support, especially for things beyond their academic departments. They don't have any formal orientation beyond what their department provides and there doesn't seem to be any central location where important and useful information can be found. The GSA will be investigating these issues and would like to enter into discussions with various University departments to help us close some of these gaps. Even larger gaps exist for our international colleagues in areas like language support services and academic writing programs. The plan to expand our international student enrollments is great, but it must be coupled with efforts to improve these important services.

On October 14th we will be organizing a national Message Congress Day for GradsHaveDebt2 as part of a national campaign with the NAGPS. We will be getting out the voice, so to speak, on legislation that lightens the debt burden for those pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

We are holding a social permaculture workshop on Sunday October 25th to give GSA members a chance to network and learn about this interesting topic. Social Permaculture is a movement that uses the principles of natural systems and ecological interactions and applies them to human communities. We are using this model to strengthen the interactions among our students and student groups and between our students and other entities on campus. We hope program can foster ties that will benefit the GSA during this year and beyond.

Our immediate project is a reorganization of our website. We hope to have a more informational website and we hope to be able to link from several other University Pages that can direct students to our presence on campus. We appreciate support from senate representatives to urge inclusion of these links on your departmental websites.

We are soon to begin our preparations for the upcoming SUNY SA meeting in November, a more detailed update will follow next month.

We are also trying to put together an advocacy group that will focus on local and state-level advocacy for graduate students.

And finally, we are creating a 5-year master planning committee in the GSA. We hope to place the GSA in a position of sustaining its relevance in the short, medium, and long term.

SA (Student Association) – Jarius Jemmott, Student Association President

No response

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair

CAA met on 10/2 for its organizational meeting and elected chairs for the General Education Assessment Committee (Greg Nowell) and the Academic Programs Review Committee (Johana Londono).

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair

I. Informational

- CAFFECOR met on September 17, 2015. We discussed the proposal that was assigned to us (by Chair Fox) from the SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund, which is “UAlbany Advantage—Enhancing the Student Experience.” Chair Jewell asked Committee members (and subsequently sent an email to absentee members, requesting that they also) [to] send comments/concerns/questions on the proposal to her by October 1, 2015. Chair Jewell will compile responses and forward them to the SEC.

Also, we briefly discussed the policy initiative described here:

<http://system.suny.edu/healthaffairs/tobaccofree/>

And, we talked about other topics which CAFFECOR may discuss this year, in particular, the relationship between the administration and the faculty regarding the former’s tendency to outsource to consultants areas of study about which its own faculty already has expertise, which we (CAFFECOR) believe is a blow to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

- CAFFECOR met on October 1, 2015, and discussed the “UAlbany Advantage” proposal, which we were asked to review.

II. Reports of Actions

- With the assistance of Committee members, Chair Jewell wrote a document expressing the views of CAFFECOR on the “UAlbany Advantage” proposal, and submitted it to the SEC on October 5, 2015.

III. Recommendations for Actions

None.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair

CERS has had no cases of ethics violation to consider.

COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair

Nothing to report

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Lynn Warner, Chair

CPCA met on Sep 28 and reviewed 1 continuing appointment and promotion case, and 1 tenure and promotion case.

CPCA is scheduled to meet on Oct 26 to review 1 continuing appointment and 1 continuing appointment and promotion case.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair

GAC met on September 28, 2015. The membership of the three committees of GAC were established, as was the chair of one of the committees (CA&AS). GAC still needs to find volunteers to chair its two other standing committees (CEP&P and CC&I).

GAC considered two proposals from Counseling Psychology, one to amend the PhD program, and a second to establish a new MS program. Professors Friedlander and Pieterse appeared before GAC to describe the programs and to answer questions. No actions on either proposal were taken at the meeting.

GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair

GOV will meet on October 12. The agenda includes the following:

Old Business:

- Update: Clarification of Responsibilities of CAA
- UAC Concerns
- Honor's College nominees
- Update: Contingent, Student and Emeritus representation in Senate
- Administrative Review & Evaluation

New Business:

- Committee Memberships
 - i. Committee on Assessment
 - ii. Committee on Liaison & Election
- OneDrive account for digital documents for Governance
- Mechanisms for minor Charter changes
- Liaison: What must be posted on Senate website: UAC, CAAS.
- Liaison: Workshop or information session on sustainability as principle in UA undergraduate education

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair

LISC will be getting a tour of the new IT building at our next LISC Meeting on Oct. 26.

The search to replace the CIO is in progress. It is hoped to have a CIO in place by January 1, 2016.

We expect to move staff to the IT building on October 19th and 20th. The office of the CIO, EAS, RIT and ISO will be relocating to the Data Center. More staff will be moved off the podium to MSC over the next year, which will reduce our presence and give back to the campus. Moving to ITB is the first of a series of moves. The HelpDesk, test scanning and faculty support will remain on the podium.

Carole Sweeton will give a recap on the various space available (i.e., Microsoft One-Drive, Office 365) at the next LISC meeting.

The following is the Dean and Director's Report from Rebecca Mugridge of the University Libraries.

Rebecca L. Mugridge

**University Libraries
Dean and Director's Report to LISC
September 21, 2015**

Compact plan proposals. The Libraries submitted two compact plan proposals for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. One was to establish a research data management program and the other was a joint proposal with ITS to create a digital media center. The Provost advanced the first proposal to the final round for consideration. Decisions on which proposals will be funded have been made, but not communicated to us yet.

Acquisitions budget. The Libraries requested additional funding to our base to cover the increased cost of our electronic journal and database subscriptions. Mary Van Ullen (Associate Director for Collections), Brian Doubleday (Accounting and Budget Officer), and I are meeting with staff from the Provost's office to discuss the Libraries' budget and this proposal.

Status of vacant positions. Both the Marketing and Outreach Librarian position and the Head, Information Commons positions are on hold pending review and discussion. Access Services' SL-2 and SL-3 searches are in process, as well as two CSEA positions. To bridge the gap until new staff are hired, we hired 3.0 FTE temporary Clerk 1s for Access Services; they will work through the end of the calendar year.

Anna Radkowski-Lee Graduate Assistantship. Erik Stolarski is our GA for the 2015/2016 academic year. Erik will be working on cataloging some of the collections in Special Collections and Archives.

Albany Law School. Mary Van Ullen attended a meeting in July with Sue Phillips (Vice President for Strategic Partnerships) and staff from Albany Law School Library to begin discussions about potential collaborations. The areas of interest are in collaborative collection development, shared staffing, and shared services, in particular in technical services. I expect these discussions to take some time and deliberation.

Group study rooms. Nine group study rooms have been built on the first floor. Room 137 has also been converted into a Mac lab. We'll be promoting both the group study rooms and the Mac lab with an event on October 9, (Homecoming weekend), 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Open Access Program. The Libraries will be celebrating Open Access Week with a program on October 20. I encourage faculty, staff, and students across the university to attend this timely and relevant program:

http://liblogs.albany.edu/librarynews/2015/09/celebrate_open_access_week.html

Student Advisory Board. Joyce Rambo (Assistant to the Dean) is contacting last year's members to see if they want to participate again this year. She's also recruiting new members by placing flyers in all three libraries. Please encourage your students to volunteer.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs

- The UAC held its second meeting of the year on September 29.
 - i. Rick Fogarty, Associate Dean for General Education, “How to Review Competency Plans”: Fogarty provided some background on embedding competencies in the majors and introduced (5) principles for review. There are (8) new plans expected in 2015/2016, and (12) that are in the process of revision. Economics’ has submitted a revised plan to be reassessed by UAC.
 - ii. The UAC discussed the SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund proposals. Comments were sent to Cynthia Fox on October 2, 2015.
- Most committee appointments have been made. Chairs – Hazel Prelow (General Education), Christy Smith (Council on Admissions and Academic Standing), Jason Cotugno (Curriculum and Honors), and Stacey Zyskowski (Interdisciplinary Studies).
- UAC meets on October 9. There is only one agenda item - Statute of Limitations on late Withdrawals/CAS request.

ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair

We met on September 15th and discussed topics to review in 15-16. These included:

- Following up on the Tobacco-Free initiative
- Continuing support of UACCESS initiatives
- Review faculty/staff quality of life data including the way in which we welcome new staff
- Food pantry initiative
- Communications strategies for faculty/staff

Our next meeting is October 13th.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

The next meeting of the UPPC will be on October 21. Here is the list of new business that will be discussed at that meeting:

New Business:

- Proposal to establish a BA English / MA Liberal Studies

- Clarification of the *Campus Impact Statement* form
- Compact Process for the 2016-17 FY Budget