

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, November 16, 2015
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Cynthia Fox

I. Informational

1. Chair Fox attended the fall plenary of the SUNY Senate at Buffalo State College on October 22 and 23. Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs) attend these meetings as observers, but are also afforded the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with the Chancellor. Noting that the deadlines for the Performance Investment Plan and SUNY Excels did not allow for sufficient Governance involvement, the first CGL question was whether, if in the future funding is to be available through legislative budget, anything can be done that would move the cycle of requests to allow for more Campus Governance involvement. A second question concerned the impact of the SUNY EXCELS metrics and whether the metrics will be used in aggregate as a metric for the SUNY System to lobby for additional funding as a system, or specifically for a single campus creating competition between all campuses. If the latter, i.e., funding only for a specific campus, what will happen to those campuses who set aspirational goals and then are unable to meet them? A third question asked who is reviewing the Performance Investment Plans and what criteria they are using to review the proposals.

2. The SEC met on November 2. Agenda items included a presentation by UUP Albany Chapter President Bret Benjamin on the proposal to establish an Ombudsperson for Academic Renewal, Review, Tenure, and Promotion Cases; an Update on plans for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) by Dean Kim Boyer; discussion of several items from the SUNY Senator's report from the Buffalo Plenary; and a presentation of a draft Policy on Institutional Policy Development by Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula.

3. 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, November 10.

4. The SEC has received an invitation from Provost Stellar, Vice President Christakis and Undergraduate Dean/ Vice Provost Jeannette Altarriba to attend a briefing about the collaboration with the Education Advisory Board (EAB) on Thursday, November 12.

5. Chair Fox was invited to serve as Co-Chair the Engaged Scholarship Working Group.

II. Actions taken

1. Following the SUNY Senate model, Council Chairs have agreed to include in the agenda of their meetings a discussion of questions they would like to see addressed by the President or Provost at upcoming Senate meetings.
2. The Ombudsperson for Academic Renewal, Review, Tenure, and Promotion Cases proposal has been sent to CPCA and to GOV for review and comment.
3. The “Resolution requesting SUNY-wide modification of policies pertaining to Family Medical Leave (FML), to give paid FML to retain valuable employees, to be able to stop the tenure clock without change of title or compensation, including modifying the Board of Trustee policies under “Title F Other Leaves” passed at the Buffalo Plenary has been sent to ULC for consideration.
4. The “Resolution urging all campus governance bodies to perform a comprehensive review of all campus documents to determine that any statements on academic freedom are consonant with precepts of academic freedom and consistent with actions arising from the campus-wide discussions of academic freedom” has been forwarded to CAFFECOR for consideration.
5. Senate Bill 1516-01 : PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) PROGRAM IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY AND SENATE BILL 1516-02 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A B.A. ENGLISH / M.A. LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM were approved to be placed on the agenda of the next Senate meeting.
6. Chair Fox reluctantly declined the invitation to serve as Co-Chair the Engaged Scholarship Working Group and has asked the Governance Council to identify an individual who could serve as the Senate designee in her place.

III. Recommendations for actions

N/A

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

Report from the Fall Plenary University Faculty Senate at Buffalo State

Submitted by John Schmidt, UFS Senator-- jschmidt@albany.edu.

The theme of the Plenary was Diversity. There was a workshop on Thursday before the actual meeting and an address by Carlos Medina, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He noted that although NY is probably the most diverse state, it is by many measures also the most segregated. This is background to the challenge for SUNY. Diversity is about numbers, but inclusion is about the experience of students, faculty and staff, making all feel welcome. He also noted that while black/latino females are doing well in graduation rates at SUNY, black/latino

males are not doing so well, presenting a challenge. Another topic raised was that a Supreme Court decision in 2003 set a 25 year sunset for Affirmative Action laws, which might mean that they would disappear in 2025. This might present a problem in keeping minority percentages up, as the recent changes of this sort in the University of California system resulted in a drop of minorities to 2% of students.

One topic was the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty:

Putting resources into posting openings

Restart searches if necessary

Surveying campus climate may be useful

Identify things that work and where they work or don't work.

How to train better mentors for new faculty hires

How faculty can talk comfortably about diversity issues and get students to participate.

Diversity of sexual orientation is perhaps the thorniest issue for SUNY to tackle. Some campuses have considered a questionnaire to be attached to admission materials, but these would require an opt-out, as many would prefer not to declare and would feel uncomfortable or unsure or the confidentiality of the data.

SUNY Advocacy and the Budget Process. The Chancellor reviewed the history of her attempts to get resources for SUNY. In 2010, she initially asked for something for SUNY units in every region of NY (Empowerment and Innovation Act) which failed in the legislature seemingly because it offered opponents too many targets to attack. Later there was the successful SUNY 2020, which included rational yearly tuition increases, an agreement by the state for maintenance of effort (MOE) and some capital funds. Later the Governor wanted public-private partnerships, so she added StartUpNY. Then she promoted a campaign of "Access + Completion = Success", which with the addition of "Inquiry and Engagement" became SUNY Excels; and also put forth the goal of increasing the number of degrees and certificates from 93,000 to 150,000. She noted that last year she asked for \$50M in new innovation funding, and got only a slice of that-- \$18M appropriated. The UFS President then pointed out that since the MOE by the state was interpreted in the current budget as constant dollars, there was a deficit of about \$70M due to increased costs (2% UUP contract increase, other union increases, and increases of physical plant operating costs). Thus, the \$18M did not begin to cover this hole and SUNY actually experienced a cut. There was a \$300/yr tuition increase (which amounts to around \$70M extra) but fully 25% of this had to go to closing the "TAP gap" (TAP funds per student are capped at levels below tuition, and SUNY is committed to making up the difference for TAP students). Thus, more of our costs were shifted onto the backs of students, whose tuition now covers

approximately 70% of costs to the state's 30%. Note that this ratio has reversed in the last decade.

The outlook for the coming budget is mixed. In June, the legislature passed a bill (with only one vote against) stating that MOE means the state would cover SUNY's cost increases, not just furnish constant dollars. This bill will be sent to the Governor by Dec. 31, but he is widely expected to veto it. If he does so, the legislature is unlikely to move to override the veto. The chancellor intends to ask for a comprehensive investment package for SUNY this coming year ("STAND with SUNY" campaign, amount unstated), and also to ask for the state to relinquish the setting of tuition levels to the SUNY Board of Trustees. Since it is a state legislature election year, they may be hesitant to raise tuition again this year, and the Chancellor feels that the chance for them to move away from the political burden of having to vote to raise tuition each year might be attractive to the legislators. The legislators seem to be more favorably disposed to fund SUNY, since the new Assembly Speaker is a Stony Brook (and EOP) alumnus, and one western NY legislator has called for 2016 to be designated the Year of Higher Education.

Provost's report on SUNY goals. Provost Alex Cartright listed a number of goals:

- *Diversity is now included in all of the SUNY Excels performance categories.
- *To increase research funding from approximately \$900M now to \$1.5B by 2025.
- * Expand workforce development, especially to serve high needs areas.
- *Increase of 50% in Public Service Partnerships.
- *Expansion of cultural and artistic scholarship.
- *Now searching for two positions: Research Foundation President, Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development.
- *Increase the number of degrees and certificates per year SUNYwide from 93,000 to 150,000 by 2025.

He expanded on this last goal. First he compared the percentage of the US population with post secondary education (44%) to that of the other countries of the world. The US is 12th, well behind the leaders, Korea (66%) and Japan (58%) and many European countries. So there is room to improve, and SUNY could help fill the need. Next, he listed things that SUNY can do to increase the number of degrees and certificates by perfectly optimizing our processes. If there were no changes, the figures predict a slight drop in the number, since 23% of students per year get degrees or certificates.

93,000 now per year

21,000 more from increasing retention

12,000 more from adding new certificates or degrees

11,000 more from increasing enrollments to historical maximums

13,000 more from increasing degrees from online courses and programs.

150,000 new total

Since most online students take one or two courses at a time, the total number of online students at any one time would have to increase by 80,000. The problem is how to achieve these increases without having decreased quality, and while giving the students a sense of belonging and community and a connection to the faculty for student validation (especially online students).

Several questions arose in response to this presentation. First, would some of the increases in students in categories actually cannibalize students from other categories (eg online from traditional students)? How can we do this without reforming K-12 education, so that students arrive prepared? (SUNY spends some \$70M/year on remedial courses, and students perhaps \$90M in extra tuition). How can SUNY do all this without more resources? Shouldn't resources come first? A major driver of students feeling connected to their classes is small classes, and higher numbers of students mean larger classes, and higher student-faculty ratios.

Experiential Learning. As you may recall, the budget originally contained a mandate that all SUNY graduates have a course in experiential learning (internship, coop, service learning, laboratory work, etc), but after lobbying by the UFS President the final language was softened to give all students the opportunity, but let each campus decide what is appropriate for themselves. Local campuses would examine what courses already exist, what was feasible, and what they would require in this area. The following timeline covers these activities.

In Jan 2016, the list of existing courses is assembled and furnished to SUNY central.

In April 2016, each campus submits a plan for experiential learning.

By April 2017, each campus reports on feasibility and decides whether it will require experiential learning. Feasibility includes the impact on the Campus (faculty and students as well as resources and support staff necessary to carry out the requirement). Feasibility also includes the impact on the community—whether there are enough private sector companies and public organizations to furnish the positions, and whether there might be an impact in terms of displacing workers in the economy. These plans require consultation with Campus Governance, so I would ask that the SEC assign this task to UAC or an associated ad hoc committee to report on.

The UFS also had a report on **Service Learning** as one type of experiential learning. It involves giving course credit for volunteer work at different places in the community. For example,

premeds often get SSW credit for their volunteer work at hospitals. More than 2/3 of SUNY campuses offer such service-learning opportunities already. The report offered four recommendations:

- 1) Individual campuses should take time to define service-learning for their campus and set criteria under which courses can be designed to include service-learning.
- 2) Disseminate information effectively on campus. The report yields a number of ways that faculty and students learn about this opportunity.
- 3) Assess the outcomes of service-learning, including have students write essays reflecting on the value of their service learning.
- 4) Provide incentives for service learning to increase the number of participating faculty and students (e.g. through tenure and promotion criteria, small grants and recognition awards. A lengthy report on how these recommendations can be implemented is available.

Faculty Consultation and Shared Governance. The process of consultation with campus governance on input for such programs as SUNY EXCELS and the Performance Investment Fund has not always been followed in practice. The chancellor was asked “What will you do ensure that the campus presidents actively consult with faculty governance on these matters, which will define the future trajectories of our campuses and of SUNY?” Chancellor Zimpher stated that we have to get this right. She has repeatedly told the Presidents to include governance in these decisions. What more can she do? She asked us what she can do to encourage campus presidents to comply. It was suggested to her that SUNY forms be modified to require a sign off by the CGL prior to submission, or perhaps that they must be accompanied by a letter from the CGL outlining what the consultation process entailed.

SUNY Med Centers and Hospitals. The nightmare over LICH is now over with the sale of LICH. Henry Flax, the Medical Center representative asked the Chancellor what were the plans for the teaching hospitals and for their administration. The chancellor responded that SUNY’s number one commitment is to retain the essential clinical positions for the medical school. It had not yet been decided whether this would always take the form of SUNY operating teaching hospitals (situation at Stony Brook, Upstate and Downstate) or contracting with separate area hospitals for clinical positions (situation at UBuffalo). The problem of SUNY oversight of hospitals is likewise still undecided. The lack of expertise in this area on the SUNY Board of Trustees was a part of the problem with the LICH debacle.

The following resolutions were passed by the UFS:

*Resolution requesting SUNYwide modification of policies pertaining to Family Medical Leave (FML), to give paid FML to retain valuable employees, to be able to stop the tenure clock without change of title or compensation, including modifying the Board of Trustee policies under “Title F Other Leaves”.

*Resolution urging all campus governance bodies to perform a comprehensive review of all campus documents to determine that any statements on academic freedom are consonant with precepts of academic freedom and consistent with actions arising from the campus-wide discussions of academic freedom.

*Resolution that the Board of Trustees change its policies so that the Vice-Pres/Sec of UFS will upon election no longer represent his/her own campus, but serve solely in this SUNY-wide position, since there are now many more duties associated with the position (similar to language now covering the President of UFS).

Announcements of Meetings and Events:

Chancellor's Draft report on Social Media Responsibility—comments are due by 28 Oct, to be sent to Rosalind Rufer.

Service Learning course guidelines are available from UFS senators

Nov. 13 & 14 at Syracuse—a conference on Fostering Collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Professionals. Information available at <https://fs9.formsite.com/zetadon>

Feb 24, 2016 Undergrad Research Poster session at the Legislative Office Building in Albany to showcase UG Research at SUNY for legislators.

April 24, 2016 at Cobleskill—SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference featuring a wide scope of research and scholarship.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Robert Beach, GSA President
Message Congress Days October 14th, Upcoming Call Congress Days in November.**

We held the annual message congress days about student debt on October 14th and our new guerilla listserv worked well in this regard. We are now planning our call congress days where we assemble graduate students to make calls to congressional representatives about student debt issues.

Orientation w/ University Involvement

During our orientations, one of the big discussion points was the lack of information sharing on the part of the University to its graduate students. The GSA has done Fall and Spring orientation programs and provides printing services for our students for years. But due to our tight and shrinking budget, we feel like they would be even more effective if backed by the University. I've had discussions with several administrators, scratching the surface of these issues and would like to continue to learn how the University can better provide for our graduate students.

5-Year Strategic Plan meeting

The GSA is embarking on a huge overhaul of its internal mechanisms. We find ourselves lacking important institutional structures that would make us a viable organization long after its current members have moved on. I have ambitious plans to create a comprehensive Policy and

Procedures manual for our association and we have started the process of long-term strategic planning after our Assembly created a five-year master plan committee.

Campus Center Expansion – GSA seeking new office space

One of those long-term goals is securing new office space as part of the campus center expansion project. I ask that members of the senate and present administrators come visit our offices some time. Sometimes it is rather quiet, but on peak time, the office is literally overflowing with people using our printing services, asking questions of our E-Board and office staff, and trying to conduct GSA meetings in space technically reserved as a graduate student lounge. This is not a sustainable model. It is also very hard to find us, in part this is because we are sequestered away on the top floor of the Campus Center in a side-hallway. But more crucially, and despite frequent requests to correct this, the signage for the GSA offices reflects our office space from over 18 months ago.

We are looking for more space, and something more accessible to our students when the Campus Center finally determines its office assignments in the next year or two. We are calling on members of the Senate and faculty, Administration, and other campus departments, to support the GSA's proposal for prime office space in the new Campus Center arrangement.

NAGPS National Conference

Four GSA representatives have returned from the NAGPS national conference in Los Angeles and at the time of submitting my written report are still working on theirs. I will update the Senate on these important proceedings by the time of the Senate meeting.

Board of Trustees Testimony

I recently made public testimony at the SUNY Board of Trustees hearing on the implications of the new 20-hour rule for student assistants. I was told that this was an HR decision from the State, but that we might have some recourse to change the policy by going through the labor board. One of the board members questioned the logic of cutting hours to avoid insuring student assistants but still requiring that all enrolled students carry insurance coverage. The contradiction is something that we will be studying and coming up with our next steps.

We know that the University relies on student assistants to get important work done at the University at Albany. We ask for your support in our efforts to change it. We believe that rather than cutting costs, or protecting students, the new rule will pull more students out of SA positions

and into non-campus jobs which will have an impact on their own academic achievement, but also the pool of labor on campus. The least we can due as an institution is offer reasonable compensation to all of the students who provide their labor to the University. If we claim to be concerned about the quality of life for our students, we should really put our money where our mouths are.

SUNY SA in November

Three GSA representatives are preparing to leave for the SUNY SA Fall conference in Rochester. We will return the day before the Senate meeting. I will try to have an overview in time for the meeting and a more comprehensive report for December.

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

- SA is committed to join EOP in the fight to revive the Perkins Loan Program.
- SA will be fundraising alongside UPD for Toys for Tots.
- Website is under construction, but will be available before the end of the semester.
- We have started weekly "SA Fireside Chats" where we discuss weekly news for students. We are also in the process of releasing our first newsletter.
- SA Town Hall - Sunday, November 15th at 5pm in LC 18. Student groups will meet SA employees and learn how to use us as resources.
- President's Council Opening - Thursday, November 19th from 5pm - 7pm in the University Art Museum. This is an opportunity for all student presidents to network and learn more about what the council can offer.

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

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

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

CERS has 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

On Oct 26, CPCA reviewed 2 cases (1 promotion and 1 continuing appointment and promotion).

On Nov 10, CPCA will review 1 promotion case.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair

At our meeting on 10/19/2015 we voted on two proposals from Counseling Psychology; one to amend the PhD program, and the other to establish a new MS program in Counseling Psychology. Both proposals were approved unanimously by GAC.

We also voted and approved unanimously a report from the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing on a student grievance.

The GAC also appointed chairs for the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, and the Committee on Education Policy and Procedure. There are now chairs for all three standing committees of the Council.

GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair

Old business

In the past 2 ½ months, the Governance Council has met twice. It has established membership for the two primary committees, which have met, selected chairs, and begun to organize for their major responsibilities for the year. These are:

- Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation: Conducting a biennial survey of Senate constituencies on the functioning and performance of the Senate
- Committee on Liaison & Election: Conducting the annual election of Senators and facilitating communication between the Senate and its constituencies in a range of formats

In the past two meetings, the Council has circled around proposed Charter Amendments for the CAA and UAC, sought more information, and will address them on 11/9 as part of ‘old business’. The Council has resolved questions about the obligation to post Senate information on the Senate website. It has reviewed and approved lists of nominees to two university bodies, the Honors College Governing Board and the Selection Committee for the Chancellors Excellence Award in Adjunct Teaching.

Most significantly, the Council has engaged in close study of the history of Administrative Review and Evaluation in the SUNY System and at UAlbany and will discuss concrete actions to take at its meeting on 11/9/15. Here are two relevant dates and governance actions:

- In 2005, the Governance Committee of the SUNY University Faculty Senate issued a report *Faculty Evaluation of Administrators*, which outlined the grounds for such evaluation in Chancellor’s Reports, in Middle States Periodic Reviews, in the existing practices at individual campuses (i.e., Binghamton, Stony Brook, New Paltz, and Fredonia).
- In 2011-12, the Governance Council of the University Senate at Albany undertook several actions and inquiries, including:
 - Establishing a Committee on Administrative Evaluations
 - Drafting a proposed Charter Amendment to Create a Council on Administrative Review and Evaluation in 2012
 - After threat of a veto of such Amendments by then-President George Philips, Council members engaged in further discussions with the Office of Institutional Research, and compiled a record of those discussions, in preparation for a later phase of negotiation.

This forms the background context to the current phase of Governance study and discussion, including that by Senate leadership this summer, in light of language in the 2015 Middle States Periodic Review of the University, calling for efforts to involve faculty governance more directly in review of Administration.

I offer this brief account of prior SUNY and UA University Senate actions to encourage discussion of this issue before Governance brings a formal amendment on Administrative review to the Senate.

New business:

At its meeting on 11/9, the Council will consider a proposal from UUP for a University Ombudsperson. Considering this position will involve discussions between Governance, CPCA, and the University, as well as between the Senate, UUP, and the Administration

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

Rebecca L. Mugridge

University Libraries

Dean and Director's Report to LISC

October 26, 2015

Acquisitions budget. The Libraries had requested additional funding to our base to cover the increased cost of our electronic journal and database subscriptions. We will be given some additional funds to cover part of the inflation cost and continue the discussion with the Provost. Additional concerns are new degree programs and disciplines that will require new resources to support them.

Status of vacant positions. The Libraries are in the process of filling two professional positions in Access Services: a Lending and Access Services Associate and a Resource Sharing and Reserves Associate. There are also two librarian and several clerical positions that we are looking to hire in the near future.

Group study rooms. We held an event on October 9 to promote the nine new group study rooms and the Mac lab on the first floor. ITS supported the event by providing the refreshments. We had a number of visitors, primarily library staff and students who were studying in the vicinity.

Open Access Program. The Libraries celebrated Open Access Week with a program on October 20, with 36 in attendance. Presentations included "Academia and Open Education" by UAlbany Professor P.D. Magnus, and "Open Sesame: Negotiating Access to Your Research and Publications." Lindsay Van Berkomp, Scholars Archive Administrator, gave a demonstration for the University's institutional repository, Scholars Archive, available at:
<http://scholarsarchive.library.albany.edu/>

Student Advisory Board (SAB). The first SAB meeting was held October 19, with 20 in attendance. A second meeting is scheduled for mid-November. They reported being very happy with the additional outlets installed over that past year (600), but were still disappointed with the wireless service. In spite of additional wireless hubs, they found that the service was spotty and that they got dropped frequently. They also do not like the consolidated printing area and find the lines are too long at the quick print stations. We will investigate these issues more thoroughly in future SAB meetings.

SUNY Council of Library Directors (SCLD). I attended the SCLD Fall meeting in Fairport, NY, October 14-16. The hot topic at the meeting was the need to migrate to another integrated library system. The SUNY Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) put out a Request for Information in the spring and received information from six firms: Ex Libris, Innovative Interfaces Inc., SirsiDynix, OCLC, ProQuest, and EBSCO. (Since that time, ProQuest has

purchased Ex Libris, further consolidating the field.) OLIS will put together another group to gather information with the goal of putting out an RFP no later than June 30, 2016.

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

The UAC held its third meeting of the year on October 27.

1. *College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC)*

a. Interim Dean David Rousseau and Assistant to the Dean Elizabeth Gray of The College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) addressed UAC. While the proposal for the CEHC major has not been finalized or circulated to UAC for review, based on timing concerns, they were invited to present an overview of the noncredit training component of the proposal and how it fits into the general structure of the major. This component will be somewhat novel to the UAlbany community as it consists of a requirement that students accumulate 100 hours of experiential learning to prepare students for field work and employment. Examples include FEMA or Red Cross training. Lists of acceptable training experiences are being compiled. Some are free, others involve fees, but students will have choice.

b. CEHC recently proposed a new simulation course, “Simulation: Building Security and Preparedness.” This “marquee” course, designed to stimulate interest in the major for undergraduates, will initially be offered during winter session and will give students the opportunity to earn 3 credits as well as accumulate some training hours. This four week course will not be required for the major. Committee members asked questions about logistics and funding for the program since it involves out of town travel. Since an updated syllabus was not provided until a few hours before the meeting and most committee members did not have the opportunity to read the proposal, UAC will formally consider the proposal at a subsequent meeting.

2. *General Education Competencies Plans*

UAC reviewed the Competencies Plan resubmitted by the Department of Economics. The revisions addressed ensuring that all students in the B.A. program would cover courses designated to meet advanced competencies. Requirements for the degree will change to include one course specifically designated with a competencies suffix. The revision also include syllabi changes regarding information literacy and advanced writing. The plan was approved.

3. The General Education Committee met on October 16th to review two proposals for the course RPAD/CEHC101 Introduction to Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity. Both proposals were approved to satisfy the Social Sciences and Challenges for the 21st Century general education categories.

4. The next meeting will be held on 11/13/2015. Revised competency plans for the Geography and Planning BA program will be reviewed.

ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair

Last meeting on October 13th.

Tobacco Free SUNY – Our council continues to discuss the status of the campuses' efforts per the 2009 ULC Resolution adopted by the Senate regarding becoming a Tobacco Free Campus. It was noted that in the [Tobacco-Free 2015 New York State's Dean's List](#) report we received a "D" grade.

Dialogue in Action series - A kick-off session for the DIA Series will be held on October 28, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Ballroom of the Campus Center

"The Office of the Provost, in partnership with the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion and the University Life Council of the Senate will once again be hosting the "Dialogue in Action" series throughout the 2015-2016 academic year. These dialogues are designed to heighten awareness and foster an environment that broadens perspectives and explore ways that individuals from diverse backgrounds and societal contexts, can effectively communicate.

The "DIA" Series is intended to assist tenured and tenure track faculty with identifying and sharing strategies for achieving greater inclusion in the classroom. We will take a two pronged approach. First, several task forces will be convened to gather "Best Practices" and make recommendations for addressing issues identified by last year's working groups. Secondly, we will continue the DIA small group discussions. Recognizing your enthusiasm for and interest in UAAlbany's commitment to Inclusive Excellence we would like to extend to you a personal invitation to join the small group discussions. This year, the DIA small group discussions will adopt a more reflexive approach. Specifically, we will focus on how instructor and student identities shape the classroom environment, and work with DIA participants to devise ways to engage in genuine dialogues around diversity. We are happy to report that Professors Karyn Loscocco and Walter Little have agreed to continue as facilitators ensuring that we can effectively and efficiently build on the foundation established by past year's DIA Series. Professors Rabi Musah, Department of Chemistry and Alex Pieterse, School of Education will join Walter and Karyn as facilitators. Not only do we support participation in the DIA program as a part of university-wide service, but it also contributes to creating an environment that will allow us to progress toward Inclusive Excellence.

We hope you will join us as we work with DIA faculty participants to identify and share strategies for making our classrooms more inclusive. If you would like to participate in the 2015-2016 DIA Series, please click on [this link](#) to register.

A kick-off session for the DIA Series will be held on October 28, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Ballroom of the Campus Center, where breakfast will be provided. At that time, we

will share the meeting schedule for the dialogue sessions as well as introduce you to the facilitators. Please email DIAEvents@albany.edu to RSVP for the kick-off by Wednesday, October 14, 2015."

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

I. Informational

- UPPC met on October 21st.
- Kim Bessette, Associate Vice President of Financial Management and Budget, provided a presentation on the Compact Process for the 2016-17 FY Budget
- UPPC's next meeting will be on November 21

II. Reports of Actions

- UPPC voted to approve a proposal to establish a BA English/MA Liberal Studies
- UPPC amended the conditional approval of the School of Education's embedded MS program within its PHD program in Counseling Psychology to "approved" after receiving the following items as requested at the September 24th, 2015 UPPC meeting:
- A letter of support for the proposal from the Dean of CAS and/or the Dean of the SOE.
- Indication of whether there *will* or *will not be* a fiscal impact of the proposal on the proposed service agency, along with letters of support from ITS, University Libraries and others as appropriate.
- An explanation of what the *capstone scientist practitioner project* would entail.
- Documentation that faculty within the department had been consulted and have provided support for the creation of the new program
- UPPC is working on clarifying the Campus Impact Statement form.

III. Recommended Actions

N/A