

# **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

## **Meeting of the University Senate, September 26, 2011**

As submitted to Danielle Leonard, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Susanna, Chair**

The Chair would like to welcome everyone back to campus. All chairs for councils and standing committees have been elected, and we are working with both graduate students and undergraduate students to fill student senate seats as quickly as possible. Meetings this year will be on Mondays 2:45-4:15 to better accommodate teaching schedules and late afternoon family commitments of many senators. An orientation for new council chairs was held on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, and the first meeting of the SEC was held on September 12. Council chairs are asked to schedule regular meeting times for their councils and inform the Secretary of those meeting times as soon as possible. In addition, they are asked to form council sub-committees and have those committees also elect chairs.

This past summer saw a few important developments for UAlbany. One of those developments was the introduction of the NYSUNY2020 bill to the New York State Legislature. The full impact of that bill on our campus is not yet clear, but UPPC will be working over the next couple months with the President and the Provost to hammer out the finer points.

The chair looks forward to a cooperative and productive year in the Senate.

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

SUNY Senate will be meeting at our fall plenary on October 20-22 in Westchester at SUNY Purchase. Please feel free to bring any new or continuing business to the SUNY Senators for discuss at the State level. Topics that we will be discussing will continue to revolve around the state of the budget and the role of the faculty in deciding what changes occur to curriculum. A summer planning meeting occurred in June to prepare committees for their work in the up-coming year.

### **GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Heidi Nicholls, GSO Representative**

The year has started with the President's Welcome Picnic and RGSO training. We had over 500 graduate students turn out for the picnic and more than 30 different groups applying for official GSO recognition and funding. Over the summer a new printer was purchased and the office once again redesigned including more attention the GO Green initiative of the Albany campus including wax ink, composting coffee and tea disposal, and GSO coffee to go mugs and club. We are still looking for a programming chair hoping to confirm the position by the end of the month while welcoming those members new and returning to the office management staff, executive board, and senate seats.

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

The Student Association has been very busy over the summer break planning the block party, speaker series and concert for the undergraduate students. The Student Association is also in the process of filling all positions that are still available and is look forward to a very productive year.

\* Due to Hurricane Irene the Block Party that is put on yearly on Indian Quad has been rescheduled, tentatively, for September 25th.

\* On October 15th Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be coming for the 5th installment of the World Within Reach Speaker Series. Johnson is an entrepreneur, businessman and a philanthropist.

\* FallFest 2011 will take place on November 12th and will feature LMFAO and Far East Movement.

\* SA President Zafir Uddin and Senator Arthur Rushforth, Chair of the Student Senate, have been working closely with the President's Office and Mayor Jennings in helping coordinate the kick off to community service month and launching a "Student to Student" initiative on October 5th.

\* The SA Academic Affairs department has been busy organizing a campaign to get more students involved with the University Senate. The department is also looking to start an Outstanding Faculty Award that will be given out sometime in the spring. The University at Buffalo and Binghamton University currently has a course evaluation system in place that lets student's rate professors and courses at the end of the semester, and the information is uploaded into a system where the whole university can view the results as students fill out the evaluations. This can help students make choices about classes when planning their schedule for the next semester, and faculty can get instant feedback on they were rated along with the course they taught. The Student Association is looking into the possibility making this same type of system available to all students here on campus.

\* Lastly the Student Association Senate has expressed interest in having regular reports given to them from the University Senate and any other university administrators, faculty, and staff in regards to things that affect students.

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

CAA has nothing to report.

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

CAFFE-CoR held its first meeting September 19<sup>th</sup>. Nothing further to report.

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

The policy approved by the senate 3/14 has not yet been signed. There are no ongoing cases, and no meetings have been held yet this semester, but planning will proceed for regular training workshops for CERS members.

#### **COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair**

Our last COR meeting was May 18, 2011. I invited the new members of COR to the meeting to familiarize themselves with the procedure.

At the meeting, three items of note were presented. VPR Dias presented charts on the research activity of the University, AVPR Webster discussed the progress of ongoing audits the Office of Sponsored Funds has been involved with and the Excellence Award for Research & Creative Activities Committee suggested an "early achievement excellence award" to recognize younger faculty on a career trajectory of high merit. The Researcher's Liaison Committee will take this up this year to formulate recommendations to the VPR.

Our first meeting will be Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>...

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

CPCA held its first organizational meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 7 cases pending. Review of the first two cases will begin September 19<sup>th</sup>

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair**

GAC is in process of organizing its committees. Otherwise, there is nothing to report

**GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair**

GOV's first meeting will be September 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Council's first meeting will take place Sept. 26. We will establish subcommittee membership and discuss LISC's involvement with the Strategic Plan. Bruce Dudek has agreed to serve as our liaison to the Provost's working group regarding "Keeping Pace with Emerging Technologies." Chris Haile is planning a presentation on the new email system at the Senate meeting on Sept. 26.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair**

The UAC meet for the first time on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. We started forming committees and will begin reaching out to non-UAC members to complete the committee rosters. There is a roll-over item of business to bring to the SEC regarding a change to the music minor. The proposal from the Music department was approved by UAC last year.

**ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair**

The University Life Council has nothing new to report. The Chair is in the process of organizing for the Fall 2011 semester.

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

Nothing to report at this time.