

**2009-2010 University Senate Executive Committee**  
**March 22, 2010**  
**R. Michael Range, Chair**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Heidi Andrade, James Castracane, Richard Collier, John Delano, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, John Monfasani, Gwen Moore, Susan Phillips, Michael Range, Carlos Rodriguez. Joan Savitt, Daniel Smith, Daniel White

**Guests:** Stephen North, Malcolm Sherman, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of February 22 were approved with minor changes.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT by SUSAN PHILLIPS**

Provost Phillips provided the report for President Philip in his absence.

The State Senate introduced a resolution yesterday that would give SUNY campuses flexibility on rational tuition and procurements. However, only SUNY Buffalo and Stony Brook will be afforded the differential tuition and public-private partnerships. The State Assembly has not yet acted on this. The Executive Budget would mean a \$137 million reduction to the SUNY budget which translates into an additional 5% reduction for UAlbany for this year. Additional reductions are expected for next year as well and could result in a 10% reduction over the next two years. Additional strain will be added to our budget with the loss of stimulus funds. There does not appear to be any restoration of state funds in the future.

Chancellor Zimpher's Strategic Plan will be announced on April 12 in New York City, and then in Albany on April 13. Part of her initiative includes a K-16 pipeline conversation that embraces the educational concept from pre-school through graduate school.

The Middle States team visit concluded with successful results. The team recognized the turbulent times the campus has been through over the past five years and provided positive recognition on many fronts. They gave praise to and recognition of who we are what we have accomplished. A written report is expected in about two weeks.

President Philip's report reiterated his support for a functions and services model as it relates to the evaluation of administrators. The President's report also provided an update on the misconduct policy which stated the policy continues to be reviewed by University Legal Counsel.

Given the forecast for the budget situation, President Philip has been putting together a final budget advisory group and will be contacting Governance Council for swift action to incorporate individuals into the BAG. The group will review the proposed budget reduction plan and provide input on how the University will be able to proceed with downsizing.

SUNY Senator Daniel White inquired as to whether UAlbany was experiencing repercussions for not making a supportive statement on the HEEIA legislation, since Buffalo and Stony Brook seem to be benefiting from their statements. The Provost believed that it could be attributed to the UB2020 legislation that Buffalo enacted and the Buffalo/Stony Brook alliance.

The Provost was asked to talk further about the Chancellor's notion of an educational pipeline. The Chancellor envisions an educational system beginning with early childhood education and extending beyond the years when a student graduates from college. The process identifies the many leaks in the pipeline that contribute to the dropout rate at the high school level. The model the Chancellor envisions being created on SUNY campuses would include a coalition of communities in the pipeline, making sure each child is ready and prepared to go through all of the steps in their educational journey. The plan would be resource neutral.

## **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. MICHAEL RANGE, CHAIR**

**Spring Faculty Meeting.** The meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 3pm, with refreshments and informal conversations beginning at 2:30pm. The main agenda item is President Philip's report to the faculty.

GOV Chair Lifshin and Chair Range met with President Philip on March 8, 2010 to discuss the following items.

**a) Revisions of Misconduct Policy.** CERS has completed its review of revisions proposed by the CERS-GOV working group and plans to introduce the revised policy at the next senate meeting. Much of the current draft has been reviewed by the university counsel, but some items are still pending. The President agreed to urge counsel to complete his review in a timely manner.

**b) Charter Amendments.** The discussion confirmed differences in perspectives regarding the graduate course and IRCUAP amendments. President Philip is not willing to approve them, but he is aware of governance's reading of BOT Policies that stipulations in the bylaws or charter that do NOT involve consultation with the President do not require the President's approval. He has no objections that the relevant amendments approved by the senate be included in the charter, as long as it is understood that the President did NOT approve them. A resolution of the different interpretations of BOT policies will be deferred until the issue comes to the forefront with a specific proposal requiring application of either one of the amendments.

**c) Review and Evaluation of Administrators.** The rationale and merits for such an evaluation process were discussed with President Philip. The President summarized his concerns at the subsequent meeting of the Senate. The Senate's discussion of the resolution on evaluation of administrators was terminated by a call for a quorum. The SEC will review the situation at the 3/22/2010 meeting and will consider possible revisions of the resolution in light of the Senate discussion.

*Chair Range informed SEC members that the order of the agenda had changed due to the number of items that would require substantial discussion. Since the councils have already submitted written reports, they are on record. The new agenda order will not be the standard procedure.*

*Chair Range read a prepared statement in response to that which was given by CNSE Faculty Chair, Tim Groves at the UPPC meeting on Friday, March 12. Chair Grove's statement is included at the end of the UPPC report submitted by Chair Delano and included in these minutes. Chair Range's statement reads as follows:*

*The term "fiscal autonomy" does not appear in the April 20, 2004 Board of Trustees Resolution. The relevant text reads: "Resolved, that the State University of New York hereby establishes the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering as an academic unit within the University at Albany-SUNY headed by a Vice-President....."*

*The December 16, 2004 MOU between Interim President Ryan and Vice President Kaloyeros uses the term "Budgetary Autonomy" in the heading for item III. However, the relevant subsection III.1 does not establish "budgetary autonomy" or "fiscal autonomy" of CNSE separately from UAlbany. The actual text reads: "Establish the budget of CNSE **as a separate and stand alone line item within the UAlbany campus budget** that is not subject to oversight by the University Senate or Senate councils and committees." (Emphasis added)*

*This MOU, and in particular the quoted text, was never discussed or approved by the UAlbany Senate or by any of its councils or committees. Removal of UAlbany Senate oversight appears to be inconsistent with the Bylaws of UAlbany, Article I.2.2.3:*

*"2.2.3. The Faculty shall provide ongoing consultation on institution-wide budget or business initiatives that affect the teaching, research, or service programs of the University. Detailed annual reports shall be provided on actual budget expenditures."*

*The "fiscal autonomy" of CNSE from UAlbany was established by the November 18, 2008 SUNY BOT Resolution.*

## **UFS (UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATOR'S REPORT) – WILLIAM LANFORD & DANIEL D. WHITE, SUNY SENATORS**

The SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) has been considering the “Empowerment Act” which has now taken the acronym PHEEIA (Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act). In mid-March, UFS President Ken O’Brien circulated a grid containing bullet points on the following elements of PHEEIA: Tuition Policy and Financing, Land Use, Public-Private Partnerships, Operating Efficiencies, Hospital Reforms, Procurement Efficiencies. The grid included information from SUNY Administration, UUP, and a general summary by the UFS leadership. This document is available on demand from Senator White.

On March 16, 2010, UFS President O’Brien held a conference call with approximately 30 UFS Senators and Campus Governance Leaders. Chair Range participated. Two resolutions from the Chancellor were circulated before the meeting (RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE TUITION POLICY FOR THE 64 CAMPUS SUNY SYSTEM and RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY). These resolutions and PHEEIA were discussed in detail. The meeting resulted in a letter from the UFS President O’Brien to Chancellor Zimpher and Senior Vice Chancellor Rimai on behalf of the UFS.

In brief, the letter expressed support for SUNY controlling the General Tuition Rate and a strong desire for the State of New York to commit to supporting SUNY financially. The letter also expressed concern for the Special Tuition Rate proposal and the lack of a substantive role for faculty governance in both resolutions. These resolutions were circulated by Chair Range to the UAlbany SEC and the letter from Ken O’Brien to the Chancellor is available on demand from Senator White.

## **GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) – NICHOLAS FAHRENKOPE, GSO REPRESENTATIVE**

Nothing to report.

## **SA (STUDENT ASSOCIATION) – DUSTIN LANTERMAN, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, SA**

The spring 2010 edition of the *World Within Reach Speaker Series* will feature Howard Dean and Karl Rove, discussing the important issues of today’s world. 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8th, 2010 in the SEFCU Arena Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; must be seated by 7:30 p.m. REGISTER at [www.albany.edu/speakerseries](http://www.albany.edu/speakerseries)

## **MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE**

The Middle States Commission Visiting Team met with the Steering Committee and other University officials on Sunday, 15 March. Due to my teaching schedule I was unable to meet with the Steering Committee and the Team on Monday 16 March. The final session with the team took place on Wednesday, 17 March as a wrap-up open to Senior Staff, Deans, University Council, Senate Executive Committee, some Alumni Association representatives, key Student Leaders, and all the people who participated in the preparation of the self-study.

On Sunday the MSCHE Team was introduced, though some of them were unavailable due to travel problems caused by the storm on the East Coast. Dr. Langenberg and others appraised the Self-Study as comprehensive and honest in its assessments of the campus.

The team consisted of the following:

Donald N. Langenberg	(Chair) Chancellor Emeritus and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park
John E. Benhart	Professor and Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Planning Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Harding Faulk, Jr.	Director, Institutional Research, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Charles J. Fey	Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Akron
Nina D. Jemmott	Associate Vice President & Dean, Graduate Studies, William Paterson University of New Jersey
Henry A. Mauermeyer	Senior Vice President for Administration and Treasurer, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Stella Porto	Program Director/Collegiate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park
Linda B. Salamon	Professor of English and Human Sciences, George Washington University
Working with them:	
Elizabeth Bringsjord	Associate Provost, Academic Programs, Planning, and Assessment, State University of New York

On Wednesday the summary statements by Dr. Langenberg and others from the team echoed those assessments and added the following, in no particular order:

- Despite the turnover in administration the campus is doing well.
- Faculty Development is an issue that needs further attention.
- UAlbany is further along than many in its view that students are central to its mission. The Student Success program was favorably regarded.
- The notion of assessment needs further refinement. Are we teaching students what they should learn and how well they are learning it? Offices and services also need to be assessed and some appear not to have been. “Closing the loop” on feedback was stressed so the community can appreciate that assessment efforts are having a positive effect.

- The faculty needs to be aware of technological changes, the most radical since the invention of the printed book. In general the faculty needs to be adaptable, both in terms of utilizing technology (e.g. distance learning) and in the way they think about their disciplines. A question regarding humanities prompted a comment that certain areas should think about forming new groups that would cut across traditional disciplines.
- Research on the campus is strong, as exemplified by the increase in external funding, while acknowledging that some areas will not draw in large amounts of funding. CNSE has progressed far above comparable units in other institutions. A relatively new area of research worth exploring is pedagogy within the discipline.
- Fundraising—everyone needs to be involved in fundraising, including individual faculty in some instances.
- More contact and involvement with alumni should be fostered.
- The role of governance here is quite typical.
- Facilities are actually better here than is the case in many places. (He was not more specific than that.)
- The strategic plan is well underway and is on the right track. The MSCHE report should help in the formulation of the strategic plan. Although the process of identifying aspirational peers is useful and necessary, the university should try to understand better what its identity should be.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair**

The Council on Academic Assessment met on March 10, 2010. The Chair updated the other members on the progress of the GAC's plans to review the CAA assessment reports, and on Dr. Hedberg's response to our request for the addition of assessment-related language to the "Administrative Procedures for the Preparation of Recommendations for Promotions and Continuing Appointment" document. The Chair also introduced Ruth Scipione, a guest at our meetings in place of Dr. Bill Roberson; Dr. Roberson will be available to attend CAA meetings upon request. The chairs of the Program Review and the General Education Assessment Committee provided updates: The PRC will have drafts of its reviews of assessment reports this month, and the GEAC is meeting with faculty and staff from University in the High School this week. The committee revised and approved a memo to the Provost about the Graduate Student Support review (see attached). We also reviewed and revised a draft job description for department assessment coordinators. Finally, we began a review of a list of CAA recommendations made since 2007 in order to determine which recommendations require follow up.

#### **CAA response to Provost Phillips re Final GSS Report (2/22/10):**

Thank you for sharing the final report of the Graduate Student Support Review Panel with this Council. We appreciate the thoughtful work of the panel, and the opportunity to comment. What we valued:

- The attention to rigor was impressive, including the processes of norming and of checking inter-rater reliability and the use of appropriate statistical analyses.
- We agree with the observation noted on page 14 regarding the potentially prescriptive nature of the criteria used to evaluate programs, and the importance of being clear about the standards by which departments are evaluated.
- We appreciate the fact that departments could provide their own barometers of success.
- Some of us saw value in this process and encourage regular such reviews. See caveats, below.

Our concerns and suggestions:

As you know, the effort involved in producing the departmental reports is considerable. If it is conducted again in the future, please consider the following recommendations:

- Regularly engage departments in the review, not only when there is a budget crisis.
- Include a more explicit discussion of the purposes of the review beyond making funding decisions about graduate student support.
- Provide some evidence of validity of the rubric. It has plenty of face validity (it looks like it will measure what it is supposed to measure) but its credibility would be enhanced by a discussion of the evidence of construct validity (it measures what it is intended to measure) and content validity (it measures all of the important aspects of what it is intended to measure).
- Ensure that departments make references to possible improvements and plans for making them.

Our final concern is that the GSS review is somewhat redundant with our regular program review process. We hope any future GSS reviews can avoid such redundancy. At the same time, we intend to examine the GSS metrics with an eye for content and measures with potential usefulness for program review, such as student retention and time-to-degree data.

### **CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair**

CAFFECOR has submitted a draft bill to the SEC about the "Principles of a Just Community" statement.

### **CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair**

Here are the promised CERS documents. There are four: (1) the present policy text with lines numbered, (2) the new proposed CERS text with lines numbered, (3) my comparison of the two, and (4) the beginning of the proposal as a bill written, unbidden (bless her), by Carolyn MacDonald, who at the moment is too occupied with her duties as Physics chair to do more with it this weekend. Carolyn has noted to me that some of what I say in the comparison would be impolitic if presented to the Senate. I take this criticism to heart, but I see no reason not to be frank within the Executive Committee. Furthermore, discussion within the Committee will doubtlessly play a large role in shaping the final form of the bill.

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

COR has nothing to report.

### **CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) - Carlos Rodriguez, Chair**

CPCA has nothing to report.

### **GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - Laurence Kranich, Chair**

GAC has nothing to report.

### **GOV (Governance Council) - Eric Lifshin, Chair**

The Governance Council met on Friday, February 5th and discussed spring elections. A call letter will be sent to all voting faculty asking for nominations for the positions of Senate Vice-Chair and Senate Secretary. GOV members began putting together a slate of nominees for Senator-at-Large positions and those people will be contacted to identify their willingness to serve. In addition, GOV members identified possible candidates for SUNY Senators to fill Senator Lanford's vacancy and for a third SUNY Senator. Call letters will be sent as soon as the volunteer web application is up and running. IT has been contacted to assist with coordination of this effort. Senate Secretary Collier will be contacting the schools and colleges to inform them of pending vacancies in their various departments. GOV's meeting of Thursday, March 18, was cancelled.

### **LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) - Gwen Moore, Chair**

LISC has nothing to report.

### **UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) - Joan Savitt, Chair**

UAC has passed a bill describing an additional path to a UA degree that would not require the completion of a minor. The full bill and its supporting rationale, including results of UAC's research, will be distributed shortly. Not yet ready, but probably coming this year: the Globalization Studies revised major; the revised retention standards for the Honors College; a small change in the S/U policy to keep students who get U grades from enrolling in additional S/U graded courses above the number allowed. Remotely possible that we will have these for the upcoming meeting.

The main point from UAC right now is that we are requesting wide distribution of the new degree plan to all Senators, for DISCUSSION at the upcoming Senate, for VOTE at the May meeting.

### **ULC (University Life Council) - Daniel R. Smith, Chair**

ULC met on March 15<sup>th</sup> and addressed two items of business during its meeting:

A report by John Murphy, Associate Vice President of Student Success on the Cleary Act, the federal statute that covers reporting of crime statistics for all colleges and universities in the United States. Mr. Murphy indicated that the University, through his office, is in the process of preparing for a scheduled State Comptrollers Audit that will evaluate UAlbany's adherence and compliance with Cleary. The audit is to be conducted in later March/April.

ULC also discussed a faculty member's complaint about parking violation policy, referred directly by the Senate Chair Range and copied to Steve Beditz, Interim Vice President of Finance and Business. ULC has some follow-up to complete but will be issuing a written report on the matter.

### **UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair**

The UPPC met on Friday, March 12, at 3:30-5:45 PM to consider three items.

(a) During the first week of March, GAC Chair Kranich sent a proposal, which had been approved by the GAC, to the UPPC Chair, recommending that it be considered by the UPPC. Prior to this notification, the UPPC had not been aware of this proposal, which recommended that admission to the M.A. program in Russian and its Certificate of Advanced Study be suspended. Dean Edelgard Wulfert, who was invited to attend the UPPC meeting, provided additional information on the history of enrollments and rationale for this proposal. Following this discussion, the UPPC voted unanimously in support of the proposal being referred to the Senate Executive Committee at its next meeting. The UPPC is co-sponsoring a Bill with the GAC.

(b) Six questions from Senate Chair Range dating from January 2010 were placed on the agenda. Associate Vice President for Finance and Business, Kim Bessette, attended the meeting at the invitation of the UPPC Chair, and provided information bearing on many of the budget issues. One of the questions was concerned with the history of academic budgeting for graduate programs, especially in the context of the final report from the Graduate Student Survey (GSS) Review Panel issued in December 2009. Two UPPC members, David Wagner and Kajal Lahiri, were members of this review panel and provided insights into the procedures used in assessing nearly

60 graduate programs. Another of the questions raised by Senate Chair Range dealt with NYS funding of the CNSE. In preparation for discussion of that matter at the UPPC meeting, Senate Chair Range sent copies of e-mails between himself and Senior VP Kaloyeros (copied to others) to all UPPC members. The UPPC Chair invited representatives from CNSE to attend the UPPC meeting to participate in this discussion. In addition to UPPC member, Eric Eisenbraun, the following CNSE representatives attended: Senate Secretary Dick Collier, Senate Vice Chair Eric Lifshin, Senator Ed Cupoli, and CNSE Faculty Council Chair Tim Groves, who read the statement copied below on behalf of the CNSE Faculty Council.

(c) The Chief-of-Staff, Vince Delio, was invited to provide an overview of Governor Patterson's proposed 'Empowerment and Innovation Act'. The PowerPoint presentation and the ensuing discussion identified the strengths (e.g., predictable tuition increases tied to HEPI, higher education price index; incentives for entrepreneurial initiatives; additional revenue from tuition that would go directly to the campuses) and potential weaknesses (e.g., no guarantee that increased tuition would result in commensurate cuts in NYS funding to campuses, as in the past) of this proposal.

The next UPPC meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 26.

**Statement read into the UPPC record by CNSE Faculty Council Chair Tim Groves, at the Friday, March 12, UPPC meeting:**

The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering's (CNSE) fiscal autonomy was established in 2004 with the SUNY Board of Trustees (BOT) resolution that created CNSE, and the subsequent 2004 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CNSE Vice President and UAlbany President.

In its 2004 resolution, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York confirmed the appointment of Professor Alain E. Kaloyeros as Vice-President of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and authorized him to "...work with the President and the nanoscience and nanoengineering faculty of the University at Albany and take all necessary and appropriate actions to implement the establishment and operation of said college..."

The subsequent 2004 MOU that included the CNSE fiscal autonomy was developed between the President and the Vice President in accordance with this authority. The MOU clearly states that the CNSE budget is not subject to oversight by the University Senate and its various councils and committees.

The CNSE fiscal autonomy, including the existence of the MOU, was fully and satisfactorily described to University Resources Priorities and Advisory Committee (URPAC) at its April 8, 2005 meeting. URPAC was furnished with a written copy of the supporting document presented at that meeting.

The matter was further clarified in a December 2008 BOT resolution.

Any questions regarding CNSE fiscal and budget matters by any external governance body should be referred to the CNSE Faculty Council, the duly appointed governance body of CNSE.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Principles for a Just Community:**

Chair Range requested approval to change the agenda and begin with the PJC topic. There were no objections in doing so. The discussion was led by Malcolm Sherman, a member of CAFFECOR. He stated that the sentiments of a just community is not a basis for disciplinary action and CAFFECOR members found it confusing to have it as part of the Communities Rights and Responsibilities document. Removing PJC from all UAlbany documents goes beyond the responsibilities of CAFFECOR. The document will still appear in academic information and in the undergraduate bulletin. CAFFECOR would like to introduce a bill at the next Senate meeting that would remove Principles for a Just Community from the Communities Rights and Responsibilities document. A motion for moving this to the Senate was made and seconded, and the motion was approved.

### **Revisions to Misconduct Policy:**

CERS Chair John Monfasani discussed the changes in the revised policy stating there were no radical differences and feels the new version is sounder. Chair Monfasani met with University Legal Counsel, John Reilly in January and Mr. Reilly agreed with much of the work done by the ad hoc committee. Chair Monfasani has forwarded the final version to Mr. Reilly. In discussions they have had so far, there are no major differences from what was discussed in January. Chair Monfasani hoped today's discussion would inform CERS and Legal Counsel about any concerns that might exist.

Chair Range informed SEC members that President Philip has urged Legal Counsel to move quickly on this. The earliest the policy would come to a vote by the full Senate would be in May and he inquired about whether that timeframe should be maintained or should the Senate act only *after* approval comes from Legal Counsel. If we move ahead and put it on the Senate floor in April, this would alert Legal Counsel to finalize its review, and fully inform the Senate well before a vote in May. UPPC Chair Delano stated the context of this favors it going forward. President Philip has indicated he would not be inclined to approve a bill unless it was reviewed by Legal Counsel. Should Legal Counsel have any reservations, it would be desirable for Mr. Reilly or a member of his staff to be at the next Senate meeting. Chair Range noted that we are very close to finalizing the policy and the timeline should allow us to resolve any issues. GOV Chair Lifshin urged further interaction with President Philip to continue to respectfully encourage Legal Counsel to provide feedback with a fast turnaround. It's important to convey that we don't want this to end up on the back burner. Chair Range asked Provost Phillips to convey the importance of today's conversation to President Philip. He then asked for a motion to move the bill to the Senate floor for discussion only. A motion was made and seconded, and approved with the understanding that if Legal Counsel makes recommendations there could be changes to the policy.

### **GAC Bill re: Suspension of Graduate Programs in Russian (GAC):**

CAS Dean Edelgard Wulfert was in attendance to discuss the proposal. She noted that the drop in enrollments and national trends were the most influential factors in suspending the program. The discontinuation of assistantship support was not as influential as the other two factors. UPPC Chair Delano informed SEC that the UPPC voted unanimously to approve this. Dean Wulfert has followed enrollments for language programs over a seven to eight year period. Interest in languages fluctuates and many have suffered a decline as has happened with UAlbany's Russian program. At the undergraduate level, enrollments are doing well but we cannot make the CAS enrollment limits at the graduate level. Dean Wulfert explained that at this point the request is to deactivate the program being requested but not to have it deregistered. CAS is working with the Russian faculty to increase enrollments. Chair Range asked for questions from SEC members. There being none, he asked for a motion to move the bill to the Senate floor. A motion was made, seconded and approved for bringing to the Senate.

### **Interim Recommendation of Gen Ed Task Force:**

Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair of the Gen Ed Task Force, Stephen North, provided a summary of the task force's work and recommendation. He stated the task force is representative of campus units dealing with undergraduates. He cited the conversation that Provost Phillips had with SUNY Interim Provost David Lavallee in which Provost Lavallee indicated that campuses do not need to change their policies but recommended a reaffirmation of our current principles. The task force has met twice and concluded that it would be precipitous to change our general education requirements in a hurried manner. Thus, the task force is recommending that UAlbany not change its current requirements for fall 2010.

The ensuing discussion brought forth concerns that SEC members had with the recommendation. ULC Chair Smith expressed concern about losing students because other campuses are moving ahead on the issue. Those concerns were echoed by SUNY Senator Lanford who stated that part of Provost Lavallee's recommendation was to make transferring easier for students, and Senator Lanford believes that UAlbany could be at a disadvantage if we are not as competitive. Senate Secretary Collier was troubled that we may be making UAlbany less attractive but agreed that we should reaffirm our policies as recommended to Provost Phillips. Chair North indicated that the task force will continue its work to meet its next deadline in May for the second part of its charge. The task force will consider where things go from this point. There are other influences underway such as the forthcoming strategic plan recommendations concerning undergraduate education, and changes that are occurring both locally and statewide. He stated the possibility of dropping the regents exams in language and history; this would have significant impact on our general education requirements. Chair Range reminded SEC members that the second part is more open ended, and the Senate will be providing more

direction and guidance to the task force in May. Right now the task force was charged with dealing with a short term recommendations and they seem to have addressed this.

There continued to be concerns about not taking any action and to clearly convey this to the Senate. Chair North was asked about what we could expect in terms of loss of transfer students. He stated that the University accepts about 1,100 transfers each year but our gen ed requirements are not universally liked and it is possible that we could be at a competitive disadvantage. SEC members continued to urge affirming our local requirements and clearly conveying the actions of the task force to the Senate. Chair Range asked Chair North to formulate a text of the recommendations in the form of a bill to present to the Senate. Chair North stated that would need to come from UAC. Chair Range asked UAC Chair Savitt to work on this and circulate a draft prior to the next Senate meeting. Chair Savitt agreed to discuss this with UAC.

### **Requirement of Minors for Degree Completion (UAC):**

UAC Chair Savitt presented the bill and UAC would like to get the bill distributed well in advance of the April Senate meeting but there would not be a vote until May. The bill does not eliminate minors but allows a student to elect a path to complete 24 credits at the 300 level or above. The bill is friendly towards transfer students in that courses at other institutions at the 300 level could be counted in the 24 credits. UAC has discovered that UAlbany is the only University Center in the SUNY system that requires minors. Chair Savitt stated that UAC sees the proposed bill as a continuation of general education at a higher level. It would allow students to explore another area without claiming a minor. It would also allow students to have some control over how they receive their college degree. Not all minors at UA require credits at the 300 level, and there is great disparity among the rules for minors at UA. UAC is proposing that there be some level of rigor in the 24 credits that would be required in the place of a minor by requiring that a UA degree that did not include a minor include at least 24 credits at the 300 level or above, an amount which exceeds the requirement in some majors and in many current combinations of majors + minors. When asked where these courses would come from, she said they could be additional courses in the major or from other departments. She said the number of credits taken at the 300 level would be consistent with what is required for some combined major/minor degree plans at UA.

Some SEC members felt it would be a good idea, especially if half of the credits were outside the major at the advanced level. UPPC Chair Delano stated that the implication seemed to be that 300 level courses would require prerequisites. He asked if that would be a requirement and if courses would be reviewed for rigor. He stated that identifying 300 level courses as rigorous and challenging is not always the case. Chair Savitt said the courses will be more specialized but the 300 level is the defining characteristic.

Chair Range asked to move the discussion to the Senate. Senate Secretary Collier said it would be beneficial to have the entire UAC attend the Senate meeting. He added that he did not believe the research done was adequate and questioned where the supply of 300 level courses would come from. ULC Chair Smith objected that smaller departments such as art, journalism and theater had not been part of the research and said that students use these courses to go forward in their careers. The policy would deflate the minor and limit career choices. Chair Range agreed that these would be good arguments to raise on the Senate floor.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Senate Resolution on Evaluation of Administrators:**

Chair Range referred to the discussion that took place at the Senate meeting and based on that discussion, asked SEC members if the wording of the resolution should be revised. ULC Chair Smith stated there was a clear message at the Senate meeting supporting both evaluations of administrators and services and functions. GOV Chair Lifshin stated that if we evaluate services and functions, problems with a specific administrator would be



realized through that process. UPPC Chair Delano supported that view. SUNY Senator Lanford stated that evaluation of administrators is what used to be done but was disturbed by President Philip's statement that he would not support this. Senate Secretary Collier referred to the Middle States report submitted by Reed Hoyt. The fourth bullet of the summary statements from the assessment team stressed assessment of offices and services. All assessments are not always confidential so the constituency would be aware if there are problems in any given area. Senator Lanford suggested changing the language from *administrators* to *administrative services and functions* in order to address the President's concerns. Chair Range asked for a motion to that effect. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. The resolution will be presented at the next Senate meeting with the new language for further discussion and vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20

Respectfully submitted by  
Gail Cameron, Recorder