

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Senate Executive Committee Meeting, February 22nd, 2010

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. Michael Range, Chair

Gen Ed Task Force. As stipulated in Senate Resolution 0910-01 approved on February 8, 2010, GOV Chair Lifshin and the Senate Chair, in consultation with Provost Phillips and CAS Dean Wulfert, recommended a slate of members for the Task Force to the SEC. The SEC approved the proposed membership in an electronic mail ballot. All members have agreed to serve, and Distinguished Teaching Professor S. North has agreed to chair the TF. The TF has received its charge as approved in the senate resolution, and the first meeting is being scheduled.

SUNY UFS Senators. In response to a request by the Chair, UFS President Ken O'Brien has confirmed that UAlbany is eligible to be represented by *three* senators rather than two. Two new UAlbany senators will be chosen in April by university-wide election. Dan White will continue serving his first 3-year term on the UFS.

Review and Evaluation of Administrators. (Repeated from the 1/25/10 Chair's report – discussion of this item was postponed to today's meeting.) Discussions with other campus governance leaders at the UFS Plenary meeting at SUNY IT in Utica, and communications with colleagues at Binghamton and Stony Brook led the chair to consider whether UAlbany should join other SUNY campuses in setting up procedures to regularly review and evaluate administrators. The relevant chapter of the Governance Handbook of the SUNY Faculty Senate and a resolution by the UFS concerning such evaluations has been sent to SEC members together with the agenda. Discussion of this matter is on today's agenda.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford & Daniel D. White, SUNY Senators

Nothing to report..

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkopf, 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.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

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

The Council on Academic Assessment met on February 11, 2010. The chairs of the Program Review and the General Education Assessment Committee provided updates; the potential impact of the new SUNY General Education requirements for the work of each committee was discussed. We also discussed the need for the Graduate Academic Council to review assessment reports from the CAA pertaining to graduate programs. We revisited an earlier discussion of ways to create incentives to engage faculty in constructive assessment and voted to allow programs with extraordinarily effective assessment plans to move to an alternate year reporting schedule. Finally, we continued our review of the Graduate Student Support report and edited a draft response to the Provost.

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

Two members of CAFFECOR conducted an "in service" training session for the Res Life professional staff on Wednesday, February 10th. The topic was free speech in the residence halls: what defines it, how to handle borderline situations, and ways to engage the student body in meaningful dialogue that promotes both free speech and diversity. A follow-up session will take place next month with the student staff.

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

The Joint CERS-GOV committee of Carolyn MacDonald, Edward Cupoli, and myself completed a draft of a revised CERS policy text in December. There have since been conversations with John H. Reilly, the University's Counsel. CERS itself has started to meet concerning the text. When it has finished its deliberations, the text will be sent to GOV and COR for their reaction. We hope to be able to bring the revised CERS policy text to the Senate floor in April.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

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

GOV has nothing to report.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

Report from Dean of Libraries, Mary Casserly: The Libraries are working with Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, an architectural firm chosen last year, to develop a plan for renovating the University Library. A steering committee and working group have been appointed and are meeting today. It will be Important to work in close collaboration with those planning the Campus Center renovations in order to assure that services and functions that are needed by the University Community are available in the appropriate places but are not duplicated unnecessarily.

The Library Advisory Committee reported that this committee is looking at issues related to open access journals. OA journals are freely available online. They do not charge subscription fees to libraries or individuals but they cover their publication costs through author fees, endowments, institutional subsidies, sponsorships, etc. The committee is particularly interested in those that charge author fees. Some journals charge lower fees to institutions that have “memberships” to their parent organizations/associations. Some of our faculty have had questions about these memberships and about whether there is funding to support OA journal author fees.

Report from the CIO, Christine Haile: Chris presented the ITS Operating Plan for the July to June fiscal year. Chris distributed the *Office of the CIO Priority Areas 2009-2010* handout to the committee, which highlights ITS priorities for the fiscal year, explained some of the priorities spearheaded for this year, and answered questions from the committee. She stated that most things are on schedule and within budget.

She also reported on UDID (University Digital Database). The software package, known as LUNA, is up and running. Brian Keogh was appointed project manager and is ready to unveil. So far, 2500 objects from the museum archives have been loaded into the system. The next step is to identify areas around the University for departmental or personal content.

Report from IT Committee, Larry Raffalovich: The IT Committee plans to look at the ITS “Draft Strategic Plan.” As a result of the meeting on November 23, it was concluded that the University does have the authority to monitor content and usage of one’s University-owned machine if it is warranted.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC approved catalog copy today for rules about when students need to go the the Dean's office for absence excuses, when to the health center, when profs can/should make their own determinations. The bill was been distributed this morning to SEC members for consideration at this afternoon’s meeting..

UAC is close to bringing in a bill to make minors optional, and another bill about rules for departments who want to restrict entry into their minors. Are there other councils that we need to be working with on these, or should we wait until there is final language in our proposal?

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC met on February 8th. Smoking Policy; We are at a point where we can schedule campus *fora* later this to gain feedback on the proposed policy; we will also be contacting Institutional Research about a survey this coming fall of employees. This year was heavy with surveys due to Middle States and other initiatives so it is impossible to get another survey done.

We are also having a yearly discussion with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics, about the NCAA academic scores, annually published in spring. One of our items is to discuss divisional, campus, system and NCAA controls for eliminating violations.

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

The two previously scheduled meetings on February 12 and February 26 were cancelled due to (a) key-individuals for agenda items being unable to attend, and (b) scheduling conflict with Strategic Planning Retreat on Feb. 25-26, respectively. Six (6) UPPC members are on the Strategic Planning Committee. Efforts to schedule a UPPC meeting on Friday, Feb. 19, were again not successful due to key-individuals for the agenda being unable to attend. The next UPPC meeting is scheduled for March 12.