

2008-2009 University Senate

Monday, May 4, 2009

3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

John Delano, Chair

Minutes

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Sandra Austin, Hassaram Bakhrui, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Zakhar Berkovich, Tom Bessette, R. Scott Birge, Ray Bromley, Daryl Bullis, Andrew Byon, Sairam Chinnam, Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Kirsten Davison, John Delano, Jane Domaracki, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Susanna Fessler, Richard Fogarty, Sally Friedman, Robert Gibson, Andrew Haas, Eric Hardiman, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, Alain Kaloyeros, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Cristian Lenart, Eric Lifshin, Carolyn MacDonald, Jean McLaughlin, Candace Merbler, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Morton Schoolman, Benjamin Shaw, Malcolm Sherman, Daniel Smith, Edward Waltz, Robert Yagelski

Guests: Robert Bangert-Downs, Jon Bartow, Elizabeth Gaffney, Teresa Harrison, Sheila Mann, Ruth Pagerey, Gregory Stevens, Edelgard Wulfert

The meeting was convened at 3:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 6, 2009 were approved with minor changes. The LISC report will be updated as requested by LISC Chair Raffalovich.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by GEORGE PHILIP

The President announced NIH funding in the amount of \$6.28 million to Professor Lawrence Schell to support the Exploratory Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities in Smaller Cities.

President Philip provided some statistics on the swine flu. While there have been reported cases in New York State, there have not been any reported cases in the Capital Region or at UAlbany. The University is maintaining regular communications with health authorities and will do everything possible to safeguard and protect the UAlbany community.

Budget:

The President reported that SUNY, UAlbany and other campuses have reached out to a NYS Congressional delegation requesting them to urge Governor Paterson to restore funding to SUNY in the amount \$118 million. The money would come from the federal stimulus fund. Twenty-one delegates have signed the letter to the Governor. Stimulus money has been assigned to SUNY medical colleges and community colleges but not to the state operated campuses. UAlbany has met the \$14.2M in cuts for 2008-2009 through one-time elimination of vacancies and through cash. He continued, reporting that the University will realize an additional cut of at least \$4 million in the 2009-10 budget and reiterated that the cuts in state funding are permanent. He said that right sizing the organization will need to be addressed. The President said that although we have not had to make difficult decisions at this point, the worst is yet to come.

With respect to Capital funding, the President reported that the campus has a second year allocation of \$33.9M for critical maintenance, part of a five-year commitment totaling approximately \$168M. In addition the campus received capital funds last year for a new School of Business building, a Campus Center expansion and a new Data Center. Capital funds can not be used for operating expenses.

Campus Projects:

- The new School of Business project is moving forward. An announcement is expected soon naming the architect.
- There are three potential sites being considered for relocation of the Data Center—the former health center, the old commissary and a greenfield site.
- The Campus Center expansion is in the programming stage.

Enrollment:

UAlbany has received over 22,000 new applications, a record number. The incoming class will have a stronger academic profile. Those who have been accepted have higher GPAs and SAT scores. Transfer applications are up 10% and we expected to enroll 1,350 transfer students. The quality of these transfer students is also excellent.

Recent and Upcoming Events:

- The John E. Burton Lecture and Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 28. [Dr. Meryl H. Tisch](#), Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents was the 2009 Burton Lecturer.
- Campus Cleanup Day was well supported by over 450 volunteers. The President thanked all those who participated.
- Fountain Day had over 10,000 students register. This was the largest group ever to attend the event. He thanked the Senators who came out to volunteer and support our students.
- The New York Giants will be back on campus this summer. The University is negotiating with the Giants organization to keep the team at UAlbany.
- President Philip recognized the retirement of Vice President for Finance and Business, Kathy Lowery. He said she has been an invaluable member of the University community.
- The President encouraged participation for Commencement. The guest speaker for the undergraduate ceremony will be Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Assembly Chair for Higher Education.
- The President attended the Alumni Association Awards Ceremony this past weekend. He noted that we should be impressed with the success of our students, and our faculty can take pride in having contributed to their success. He underscored how our alumni appreciate the education they received at UAlbany and the role the University has played in their success.
- President Philip attended the Honors College Dinner. This was a wonderful event recognizing a group of bright, energetic young people.

President Philip discussed an agenda item concerning the CERS Misconduct Policy. He pointed out that an ad hoc committee was created to address specific transactions that were handled. He noted that the federal government has rules for research and he is concerned that we conform to the current rules. He also would like to ensure that faculty who are the subject of investigations are given appropriate due process. He stated the importance of this being a collaborative effort, engaging research faculty, CERS, the Senate and University Counsel. CERS Chair Carolyn MacDonald expressed her concern for this not being completed and having old procedures in place. President Philip reiterated the need for uniform recommendations that are jointly submitted and noted that if the Senate approves recommended changes in policy from CERS that have not yet been approved by University Counsel, he will ask University Counsel to consider and approve the changes before he reviews them.

PROVOST'S REPORT by SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips began by thanking all who provided input on how to proceed should classes and exams need to be suspended due to the swine flu. She viewed this as an opportunity to get emergency plans in place.

The Provost made some brief comments concerning the budget. The reductions for 2008-09 and the additional \$4 million for 2009-10 will be due on July 1. A plan is being put together to address a possible second round of cuts and will involve input from senior staff and UPPC. Efforts will be made to include the unions as well. Provost Phillips also discussed the "phoenix rising" notion of the budget process as the University recovers from the reductions. She would like to begin crafting the process so that it is in place for the 2009-10 year. The Provost would like to engage many groups across campus and begin thinking about a time line.

The Provost has been holding discussions with four Senate councils; CAA, COR, GAC, and UPPC concerning evaluation of graduate student portfolios and assembling a panel for review. She hopes to have a design in place and begin the process in the fall.

The Provost spoke about a process that is underway to have pre-tenured faculty learn more about the tenure process. Discussions will begin this coming Wednesday.

Campus News and Notable Events:

- Provost Phillips thanked faculty members who sponsored undergraduate student research.
- UAlbany received a \$100,000 grant from NYSERDA and NYS Department of Transportation to support its environmental sustainability efforts.
- Rachel Dressler has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend for 2009.
- Anthropology Professor John Justeson has been awarded 10,000,000 Mexican pesos (about \$900,000) by Mexico's National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI)
- Geography and Planning has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for geographic information systems services totaling \$3 million over the next five years.
- Judaic Studies Professor Barry Trachtenberg will be a summer 2009 Research Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Shawn Bushway from the School of Criminal Justice was recently interviewed for an article by the *Washington Post*.
- On May 5 & 6, the School of Public Health will host the 5th Annual GIS and Public Health Conference at the school, featuring 6 nationally and internationally know experts in the field of GIS.
- Academic statistics for UAlbany athletes show they do exceptionally well when compared nationally.
- ITS wireless printing will soon be available. Students, faculty and staff will be able to configure their laptops to send print jobs to any UniPrint printer.
- The Disability Resource Center will hold its 27th annual awards luncheon and celebrate making education accessible for all students.

The Provost was asked about the process for putting together the doctoral program review panel. She responded that she has requested recommendations for participants and received those names last Monday. She has not put together a final list yet and has made a request for consultation. Issues related to the swine flu have played a role in the delay.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT by JOHN DELANO

Doctoral Programs' Review Panel: During the week of April 13, Provost Susan Phillips contacted the Senate Chair requesting Senate assistance in identifying potential members of a review panel for doctoral programs.

The assistance was to be in the form of providing a list of senior faculty actively engaged in doctoral programs that could be considered by the Provost as she contacted individuals for their willingness to serve on this review panel. This message was promptly communicated by the Senate Chair to all members of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), and was placed on the agenda of the April 20th SEC meeting. At that meeting, the Provost and SEC agreed that the list of prospective faculty would be provided by Monday, April 27. It was also agreed at that meeting that the chairs of the Graduate Academic Council, Council on Academic Assessment, University Planning and Policy Council, Governance Council, and Council on Research would take the lead roles in identifying nominees to the proposed review panel, although a few nominations offered by other SEC members were also included on the list that was forwarded to the Provost by the Governance Council on April 27. The work of this review panel is expected to begin shortly, and to have its work completed by Thanksgiving 2009.

Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Task Force: The final report of this group has been completed, and was forwarded to the Provost late last week. The final report incorporated perspectives received from Senate councils (UPPC, CAA, UAC, SEC) that had received briefings from the Co-Chairs of the FYE Task Force (Diane Dewar; Wayne Locust) and the Senate Chair. This report will be available to the entire campus community for comment.

Steering Committee on Community Engagement (SCCE): The final report of the SCCE is nearing completion. The SCCE, which is chaired by Lynn Videka (Vice President for Research) and Miriam Trementozzi (Assoc. Vice President for Community Engagement), began its work on May 6, 2008 following a charge by Interim President Philip and Provost Phillips. At present, 196 colleges and universities in the United States have earned the 'Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement'. Some of the major goals of the SCCE are to understand all of the many activities that the campus is currently involved in, how to streamline those activities, consider ways of incentivizing more activity by the campus, and to investigate additional potential for more campus/community linkages that ultimately could lead to UAlbany applying for the Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement.

SUNY-WIDE SENATE REPORT by WILLIAM LANFORD AND R. MICHAEL RANGE

UFS Senator Michael Range and UFS Alternate Dan Smith attended the University Faculty Senate Plenary Session at UBuffalo on May 1st and 2nd (see attached report below). Among items discussed were transfer issues (termed "student mobility" since it was discovered that students move in larger numbers than thought from four-year to two-year, and not for reasons of failure) and open-source publishing, which appears to be gaining momentum.

Senator Range reported that Carl Wiezalis, President of the Faculty Senate, expressed satisfaction with the selection of Nancy Zimpher as the next Chancellor. There was a panel discussion about shared governance in SUNY. The word most often used in this discussion was "transparency", especially in terms of budget issues. Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business, James VanVoorst, gave a summary of the SUNY financial plan of the past and coming year.



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MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for 28 April has been postponed until 13 May so that the initial drafts of all chapters can be carefully considered. Each subcommittee Chair should receive feedback from the co-chairs by 6 May. Following these responses, Subcommittee Chairs have been requested to submit revised versions by 1 June such that the dissemination of the draft report can be submitted for campus-wide review in September.

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT by NICHOLAS FAHRENKOPF

Mr. Fahrenkopf provided clarification regarding the election for GSO Vice President which is still pending. He closed by thanking Chair Delano for his leadership this past year, and thanked Senate members for listening to graduate student issues.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT by DANIEL TRUCHAN III

Mr. Truchan was unable to attend the Senate meeting and submitted a letter on behalf of the undergraduate student community endorsing Interim President George Philip as the next President of the University, citing President Philips leadership and cooperative efforts in working with faculty and governance to support the endorsement (see attached letter below).



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COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

The Council met on April 29, 2009 and first reviewed and adopted the minutes from its April 1, 2009 meeting. It reviewed and adopted, with minor changes, reports of the Program Review Committee for three departments/programs: English, Religious Studies, and Reading. The Chair updated the Council on the discussion in the Senate Executive Committee concerning the Graduate Student Support (GSS) panel, which will review doctoral programs at the university, and on his forwarding to the Provost, via the SEC, of the names of two previous CAA members, both senior faculty involved with graduate education at the doctoral level, for possible service on this panel. This was followed by a discussion of the upcoming review, the role to be played by the panel, and of possible input from the CAA into the review process. A majority of Council members expressed a concern about sharing Program Review Committee reports directly with the panel, since (1) they were written as formative documents, intended only for the Department Chair of a particular unit and the Dean of the school within which that unit is placed, and (2) some of the PRC's recommendations could have a negative impact on programs. It was proposed that programs/departments could themselves decide whether to include PRC reports in materials they will submit to the review panel. The Council did not reach a formal decision on this issue, and will continue discussion of its possible input into the review process at a special meeting called for May 6.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

CAFFECOR met on Wednesday April 29 to discuss the impact of the forum on freedom of expression and to assess what next steps might be considered (by next year's CAFFECOR). We expect the issues we raised to be on the agenda of the University Council (which must approve any changes to Community Rights and Responsibilities). At the forum Susanna Fessler showed that our harassment standards were very similar to those which a federal appeals court overturned at Temple University. We have reason to believe our attorneys have been asked to look into this matter. *The Committee hopes to have a recorder next year.*

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

Drafts of the revision of the misconduct policy have been distributed to Senators for their consideration.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

COR met on April 22nd and 29th.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

CPCA continues to dig into the backlog of tenure and promotion cases at a rate of about two per week.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on March 30 and approved proposals by the School of Public Health to modify its Doctor of Public Health and its Master of Public Health programs. In addition, the Council acted upon a petition before its Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. Two other measures before the Council's Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, one from the School of Business to create an elective track in Nano Technology and one from the College of Arts and Sciences to revise the MS in Atmospheric Science program, were tabled pending receipt of additional clarifying information. The Council will meet next on April 27.

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

GOV met on April 27, 2009. The Council reviewed recommendations received from the SEC and others for membership on the Doctoral Programs Review Panel that is being formed by the Provost in consultation with governance. GOV members provided additional nominees. In concluding, GOV voted unanimously, with one abstention with cause, to forward the full list of nominations to the Provost, and to request that GOV, via its chair and, if needed, any special meetings, continue to be engaged in the finalizing of the panel. GOV also continued work on the senate handbook. Several additional suggestions were discussed. A subcommittee continues to incorporate the recommendations. It was agreed that GOV should aim to have the handbook ready for distribution by June 15, 2009.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

Nothing to report. LISC meets again on May 8th.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

At its April meetings, UAC passed 3 bills which are on the agenda for the Senate (admissions for students in International Baccalaureate programs; a new Neurobiology minor; and restrictions on admissions into the Education minor) and approved many curricular changes in existing minors which are listed below. Committee chairs also reported that they reviewed many proposals from students and departments and that some overall shortages in courses meeting general education requirements still exist.

Changes approved

(1) Informatics Minor: these changes involve (a) substituting new courses for the Business ITM classes which were previously required (existing students may use either; effective fall, 2009, only the new requirements may be followed; current students will be advised to follow the new requirements whenever possible.); and (b) adding a number of cognate departments (art, computer science, economics, physics, and women's studies).

(2) BS Chemistry/Polymer Emphasis: temporary deactivation of the degree, effective Fall, 2009. Faculty in this area have retired and have not been replaced, and there are no students currently following this track.

(3) Music Minor: changes to allow for greater flexibility for students, effective Fall, 2009.

(4) Linguistics and Cognitive Science minor: changes to allow for greater flexibility for students, effective Fall, 2009.
Changes under consideration:

(1) The Council is reviewing the Department of Chemistry's proposal for changes to its Honors B.S. program, which it expects to approve before the end of the academic year.

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

ULC is delighted the revision to the Smoking Policy passed the Senate.

On Wednesday 4/15/09 ULC met with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics and Prof. Terri Harrison, faculty IAB representative and chair of IAB to review the progress of student-athletes at UAlbany. In what was a fairly simple, yet compelling presentation, statistics of student-athletes progress, summary grades, cum GPA's, majors selected, and graduation rates by team were presented. Finally, a NCAA index was explained as the index defines whether or not a team is meeting the NCAA standard—for the record all UA teams are above the standard...with new data available from the NCAA in a week or so. What was heartening about the report was that Student-athletes are well do as well if not better in the same majors as the rest of the UAlbany population, and there is no "sports major" which student-athletes drift toward as seen at other division I schools. The student-athletes follow the distribution among majors as the rest of the UA undergraduate population.

We also met with Wayne Locust who presented the summary draft of the FYE Taskforce. There were several questions about the proposals, and Council members will forward comments, concerns and questions to VP Locust.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

The UPPC met on Thursday, 19 March and approved the proposal to suspend admission to the MAPAP program. The proposal has already been approved by the GAC. The UPPC discussed the matter of graduate program adjustments occasioned by the current budget crisis as outlined in the Special SEC Meeting of 13 March. Provost Phillips provided extensive material that repeated parts of her presentation to the 13 March SEC meeting but added a large amount of substantial information, which contextualized and expanded upon the data shared in the 13 March SEC meeting. Because of the urgency caused by various deadlines concerning budget allocations and projected expenditures the UPPC will revisit other items on its agenda at its next meeting. *UPPC will meet next week for a special meeting.*

REQUEST FOR NEW AGENDA ITEM

Carolyn MacDonald made a request for a new agenda item regarding a resolution on voluntary contributions of pay raises. Chair Delano called for a vote to add the item. The vote provided the required two-thirds approval, and was added to the agenda under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of the 2009-2010 Vice-Chair:

Chair Delano introduced the two candidates, Professor Susanna Fessler of East Asian Studies and Professor Eric Lifshin of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. Secretary Richard Collier called for any additional nominees. There were none and each candidate was allowed two minutes to address the Senate, as provided by the Senate Charter.

Professor Fessler said she appreciated those who have expressed confidence in her for the position. She gave an overview of her experience and service. She said she believes in equity of process and debate. She pledged to do her best to recognize all voices and to conduct Senate business efficiently.

Professor Lifshin gave an overview of his qualifications and service, including serving on the University Senate. He believes it is important to increase communication in the academic units. He encouraged service participation, especially from senior faculty members. He believes in open communication and leaving personal agendas behind.

The balloting was then conducted. Secretary Collier and Parliamentarian Robert Gibson counted the ballots.

International Baccalaureate Degree (UAC)

The bill was introduced by UAC Chair Joan Savitt. There were no comments or questions regarding the bill. A motion to approve the bill was made and seconded, and the bill passed.

Restrictions to Minor in Education (UAC; UPPC)

The bill was introduced by UAC Chair Savitt who said it would become effective with the class entering in Fall 2009. The bill requires students to have a GPA of 3.0 or better and they must have sophomore status to enter into the minor. UAC endorses the bill, believing it is well reasoned. There was a discussion expressing concern about how this will affect students reentering the program. It was noted that the bill would not prevent students from completing the minor.

In response to a question regarding the intent of restricting the minor, School of Education Acting Dean, Robert Bangert-Drowns responded that the number of students in the minor has grown significantly and SOE is challenged to maintain quality of the program with the increased demand on and reduction of resources.

After further discussion, a motion was made to approve the bill. The motion was seconded and the bill passed.

Motion to Extend Meeting:

A motion to extend the meeting for an additional 30 minutes was made and approved.

Minor in Neurobiology (UAC):

UAC Chair Savitt introduced the bill for the Minor which would be comprised of courses from Biology and Psychology, using existing resources. The bill has the approval of both departments. A motion to approve the bill was made, seconded and the bill passed.

Results of Vice-Chair Election:

A motion was made to suspend the meeting rules for the purpose of announcing the results of the election. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Chair Delano announced that Eric Lifshin will be the Senate Vice-Chair for 2009-10. He thanked both candidates for their participation.

Misconduct Policy (CERS):

CERS Chair Carolyn MacDonald informed the Senate that CERS members have been working hard to make the misconduct policy more about substance than process. She stated that if the bill is passed, it will continue to evolve. She discussed that current changes address areas in need of being streamlined and clarified and further stated it would be irresponsible not to make the recommended changes and is concerned about the timeline. There was a long waiting period for consultation with administration, at which time the President requested a new ad hoc committee.

There was a lengthy discussion, with voices both for and against the policy. Those that did not support the policy voiced concerns about misrepresentation of scholarship and violations of trust, and legal issues. Chair Delano read a statement from Vice President for Research, Lynn Videka, which did not support passing of the policy. She stated that further input is needed from University Counsel, as well as non-CERS members of the ad hoc committee. Senator Range countered that concerns which were raised by the President have already been vetted through legal counsel, and he asked for Senate support of the bill.

At this point, Chair Delano made an additional request to extend the meeting for 25 minutes. The motion was seconded and approved. Senator Daniel Smith made a motion to close the debate. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The voted did not, however, provide the two-thirds approval and the debate remained open.

Further support for the bill was discussed for purposes of keeping the process moving forward. Chair MacDonald expressed the desire to bring forward changes that are consensual. She would like to see CERS form an ad hoc committee to keep things moving forward. A Senator, who suggested that this appeared to be getting nowhere, since the same conflicts among competing groups that had been stalling the process would likely continue, asked if there is some alternative to the dilemma. In response, a motion was made to replace the CERS proposal with the following amendment:

The Senate approves the creation of a CERS ad hoc committee. The current members of CERS and GOV will meet during the summer to work out details of membership, which will be charged with recommending to CERS revisions of the standing committee's policies.

Committee Chair MacDonald accepted this as a friendly amendment. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that CERS, after revising as necessary the recommendations of the ad hoc committee, would present proposed revisions to the SEC for presentation to the Senate and would not consider competing proposals from other sources beforehand. Mindful of the President's comments earlier in the meeting, Senators felt University Counsel needed to be represented on the CERS ad hoc committee or at least regularly consulted. There was also strong sentiment that the group forming the CERS ad hoc committee this summer include some of the Senators who had expressed concerns in the Senate debate and that the ad hoc committee include representatives of those concerns. The proposal as amended was approved with one negative vote and two abstentions.

Resolution to Contribute Pay Raises—Carolyn MacDonald:

The resolution is a call for voluntary contributions of faculty pay raises to the University. It does not propose any change in union agreements and Senator MacDonald stated this would make a powerful statement to legislators that faculty care about the University. She indicated that funds could be directed towards academic programs and the Senate Executive Committee could be charged with regulating an account that would be set up to receive the contributions. There was a discussion of the SEC controlling how funds would be used concerning academic programs, and it was voiced that the President decides which academic programs will or will not continue. A friendly amendment was made to strike the portion of the resolution giving SEC control of a fund and the resolution was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

IRCUAP Amendment (GOV):

GOV Chair Range briefly discussed the amendment that had been introduced at the last Senate meeting and said he would answer any questions. There was no further discussion. A motion to approve the amendment was made and seconded, and the amendment was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder