

**University at Albany
State University of New York**

University Council

Minutes

May 6, 2011

A regular meeting of the University Council of the State University of New York at Albany was held on Friday, May 6, 2011 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Daniel Tomson (Presiding Officer/Vice Chair), Pierre Alric, Robert Balachandran, Patricia Caldwell (by teleconference), James Clancy, John Fallon, James Jackson, Abner JeanPierre, and Michael Stein; also, Nicholas Fahrenkopf (Graduate Student Representative), Professor Susanna Fessler (Faculty Representative), and Kay Hotaling (new Alumni Representative).

Also present were: President George Philip, Provost/Vice President Susan Phillips, Vice Presidents Stephen Beditz, James Dias, Lee McElroy, and Fardin Sanai; Vincent Delio (Chief of Staff), Dean Donald Siegel (School of Business), John Reilly (Associate Counsel, SUNY), John Giarrusso (Assistant Vice President, Physical Facilities), Robert Andrea (Director of Admissions & Enrollment), William McCann (former Alumni Association Representative), and Vincent Porfirio (Visitor).

Mr. Tomson called the meeting to order at 3pm. Before moving to the formal meeting agenda, he read three Resolutions expressing appreciation to Stephen Guarneri, Jr. for his service as the Student Member for 2010-11, Professor Susanna Fessler for her service as the Faculty Representative, and to William McCann for his service as the Alumni Representative. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Alric/JeanPierre), the Resolutions were unanimously approved.

Mr. Tomson welcomed Canon Kay Hotaling as the new Alumni Representative for 2011-12, in her capacity as the new President of the Alumni Association. Upon motion duly made a seconded (Fallon/Balachandran) the minutes of the February 18, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

Moving to the President's Report, Mr. Philip recognized Dr. Jackson on his recent appointment to the State Board of Regents and Council members added their congratulations. President Philip commented on the original UB2020 Plan and noted that growing concern has been expressed that the four University Centers should be sustained in the same category given the commonality of their purpose as research and educational centers. He said that he has had numerous meetings with community and business leaders as well as government officials to advocate for equal treatment of the four institutions. He noted that a broader NYSUNY2020 Plan had been put forth with a commitment of \$140 million for the four University Centers and that each was invited to submit proposals for funding projects from this resource pool.

He described two major projects - one for a new Biomedical and Information Innovation Research Plaza and another for the Alumni Quad/Midtown Revitalization Initiative. Mr. Balachandran and Mr. Stein offered comment. Mr. Philip spoke about the continuing decline of state support noting another cut in our allocation of approximately \$10 million although he emphasized that the overall situation at this stage was uncertain.

Continuing with his report, Mr. Philip said that there had been major improvements in our campus IT systems and, as he had reported earlier, there will be an independent review of our administrative structure to see what steps might be taken to streamline the organization and generate savings. He spoke briefly about our enrollment management efforts and highlighted a new \$57 million grant to the

College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering for a solar study initiative. In closing his report, he briefly noted the positive responses from the campus visit by former President Clinton and the contributions by our students in volunteering throughout the year with numerous community groups and activities, including substantial fund-raising programs for these non-profit organizations.

Mr. Philip noted the recent death of former President Vincent O'Leary and pointed to several important accomplishments during his tenure, including the establishment of the School of Public Health. He invited the members of the Council to next week's graduation ceremonies on the May 14 and 15. Additional comments and questions were offered by Mr. Stein, Mr. JeanPierre, Mr. Tomson, Mr. Fallon, Dr. Jackson and Mr. Balachandran.

Moving to the next agenda items, Mr. Tomson noted that Mr. Guarneri, the Student Member, had to leave campus early for a family emergency and could not attend the meeting. Professor Fessler thanked the Council for the Resolution and reported that Professor Andi Lyons (Theatre) would be the Faculty Representative next year. She briefly commented on the issue of General Education requirements which has been put forth by SUNY for the various campuses. Reporting for the graduate students, Mr. Fahrenkopf highlighted several activities for graduate students that had taken place this semester and noted that the Graduate Student Organization fee had been approved by vote and will remain mandatory. He said that he had been re-elected as the representative to the Council for the coming year.

Moving to the Alumni Report, Canon Hotaling distributed the 2010-11 Alumni Report and briefly reviewed several highlights and activities which the Alumni Association had undertaken throughout the year. Mr. McCann added comment.

Mr. Tomson referred to the SUNY Trustee Policy re: Major Campus Plans and noted that Mr. Giarrusso, who would be providing a comprehensive report on Capital Construction, including a plan that would require Council endorsement, per the Trustees guidelines.

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Giarrusso described several major campus upgrades, improvements, and new construction. He commented on the planning process involved in each type of project and said that there is \$373 million in the campus capital plan. He spoke about the various stages of construction and the need to arrange projects to minimize the impact on on-going activities on campus, including traffic movement, both people and vehicles. He provided a detailed explanation of the new dorm complex, called Liberty Terrace, which will house some 500 primarily upper class students, in apartment-type units. Comments and questions were offered by Mr. Stein, Mr. Balachandran, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Tomson, and President Philip.

Mr. Giarrusso provided detailed images of the new School of Business building including floor plans for offices and classrooms, location, and special facilities. He reviewed the major renovation and upgrade of the Carillon Tower. He spoke about the new athletic field renovation and improvements including the addition of several thousand seats. He also detailed other major projects including the Downtown Campus, the uptown residence halls, campus academic buildings, and roadways and entrances to the campus. A discussion ensued with Mr. Fallon, President Philip, Ms. Hotaling, Mr. Tomson and Mr. Balachandran commenting.

Slightly adjusting the agenda, School of Business (SOB) Dean Donald Siegel did a Power Point presentation on the SOB, its programs, priorities, engagements, and continuing development. He noted his background as an investment analyst and his career path into academia. He highlighted his interest in fostering entrepreneurship and his interest in intellectual property, which he has brought to the school's mission. He noted that after assuming the position of Dean in 2008, he sought to engage the faculty and alumni in setting strategic goals and in securing external relationships and private funding.

He pointed to a number of major areas of activity within the school and how the academic programs, such as accounting and business management sought to engage successful alumni in participating in joint initiatives. He noted that many SOB majors had unique opportunities to gain experience in these initiatives. A discussion ensued with Mr. JeanPierre, Mr. Tomson, Ms. Caldwell and President Philip commenting.

Moving to the prior agenda item, Mr. Beditz provided background on the SUNY Trustees Policy and the need to have the Liberty Terrace Project reviewed by the Council for endorsement. Upon motion duly made and seconded (Alric/Fallon), the Resolution on approval of the project was unanimously endorsed.

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Alric provided an update on the activities of the Association of Council Members & Trustees (ACT) and called to the attention of the members the annual conference, to which they will receive invitations.

Moving to the next agenda item, Vice President Sanai provided a summary report on development activities since the last meeting. He noted that the UAlbany Unite Project, intended to bring student groups and organizations into fundraising, and which would benefit the organization had been very successful and that it would be expanded. He highlighted several major gifts that had been received and especially noted a substantial seven-figure estate commitment.

He said that the UAlbany Foundation's investment results had been quite positive this year and as of the third quarter, the investment portfolio had achieved a 20% increase. He noted that UAlbany's results in this regard exceeded the other University Center-related foundations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned (Alric/Fallon) at 5:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sorrell E. Chesin, Ph.D.
Secretary to the University Council