

ATTACHMENT B

University Council Update

Cynthia Fox, Vice Chair of University Senate

These are the major issues the Governance Council (GOV) has taken up since the last meeting of the University Council.

I. Formal Consultation

1. Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula invited GOV to submit nominations for membership of the search committee for a new Chief Information Officer to replace Christine Haile, who plans to transition out of this role by June 30. This search committee did not require the approval of the University Senate, and GOV appreciated that the administration sought our input nonetheless.
2. Senate leadership has been working with Dean David Rousseau and Provost Stellar to assure the role of governance in the formation of the proposed College of Emergency Preparedness. As part of the formal consultation process, GOV reviewed the membership of the Steering Committee and Working Groups and recommended several additional members to both. The Dean and the Provost will attend the May 4 meeting of the Senate Executive Committee to discuss activities that, in order to meet the Governor's timeline for this project, will need to take place over summer when the Senate is normally on hiatus.
3. The Governance Council was also asked to take up the role of governance in the proposed name change for the College of Computing and Information to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The question of whether such a change needs to be put to the full Senate for a vote involves the interpretation of University Senate Bylaws Article I. Section 2.2.2. The examination of the Bylaws in conjunction with Section III of the University Senate Charter and a review of Senate actions of the past 10 years led GOV to the unanimous conclusion that the name change should be put forward in the form of a Bill.
4. At the request of Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Bill Hedberg that we identify a faculty member to serve as the Senate Designee to the START-UP NY Advisory Committee, GOV voted unanimously to select Distinguished Research Professor Kajal Lahiri of the Economics Department as the Senate designee. Learning that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) had concerns about the way graduate students are selected for committees such as this one that are formed outside of normal governance structures, GOV also voted unanimously to endorse the GSA

President's recommendation that the graduate student designee be defined as the GSA Vice President or his/her proxy.

II. Elections

1. The slate of candidates for the positions of University Senate at-Large Senators, SUNY-wide Senators, and University Auxiliary Services Board went out to the Voting Faculty in March. Votes were cast electronically the first week of April.
2. A slate of three candidates for the position of Senate Vice Chair was sent to the University Senate on April 21. At its meeting of April 27, Senators heard from each of the candidates; Professor James Collins of the Department of Anthropology was then elected by majority vote.
3. Senate council and committee membership rosters for 2015-2016 proposed by the Committee on Council Nominations were presented to and approved by the Senate on April 27.

III. Actions on Bills, Amendments and Referendums

1. Senate **Bylaws amendment 1415-01** to remove Senate voting privileges from individuals who are named as *ex officio* Senators by virtue of their administrative position was approved by 2/3 affirmation of the Voting Faculty.
2. Senate **Charter Amendment 14-1502** to remove Council and Committee voting privileges from individuals who are named as *ex officio* members of Councils and Committees by virtue of their administrative position was distributed to the Senate on April 21 to be voted on at the May 11 meeting.
3. **Senate Bill 1415-06: Proposal to Rename the College of Computing and Information to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences** was approved by majority vote of the Senate on April 27.