

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

Meeting of the University Senate, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair (authored by Christine Wagner)**

Senate Bill 1314-04: Proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in International Health and Human Rights was approved by the Senate on 4/7/14 and approved by the President on 4/23/14.

Senate Bill 1314-06: Proposal to Establish a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Major in Bio-Instrumentation was approved by the President on 4/18/2014.

Senate Bill 1314-05: Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Teaching Composition was approved by the President on 4/18/14.

A letter of intent from the College of Computer Science and Information for a new major in Computer Engineering has been received and is being reviewed in UPPC.

A letter of intent from the School of Education for a new major in Human Development has been received and is being reviewed in UPPC.

### **UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) –Danielle Leonard, J. Philippe Abraham & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators**

We are looking forward to the Fall Plenary Session of the UFS at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse on October 23-25th, and will have more to report about the issues to be considered later.

We are also pleased to announce that the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the University Faculty Senate will be hosting a conference entitled "Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access and Impact" on November 12-13, 2014 at the Albany Marriott Hotel, located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. This conference will leverage SUNY investments in student success and diversity while exploring best practices in recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff within the domain of higher education.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Kerry Ann Rockquemore, President and CEO of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, and Dr. Daryl G. Smith, Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emerita of Education and Psychology at the Claremont Graduate University, join us as our two keynote speakers at this conference. For more information on this event and to register to attend, please visit our website at [www.suny.edu/makingdiversitycount](http://www.suny.edu/makingdiversitycount).

We hope you will be able to join us for this seminal conference as we collaborate and share best practices that will continue to help SUNY grow in this critical dimension.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President**

The GSA Executive Board has developed a strategic plan for the year which addresses our advocacy and professional development goals. Our advocacy vision statement emphasizes completing our internal structural reforms and raising awareness regarding the critical positions we hold within this institution such as the University Senate, our role in the SUNY Student Assembly, and within the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. Our professional development vision emphasizes the formation of a hybrid academic and non-academic professional development model for graduate students. We intend to capture the resources on campus to empower students for both the academic and non-academic job markets.

We have a surplus this year to help us work towards these goals and we are also developing solid fiscal policies and procedures to make sure we can sustain the pursuit of these objectives.

We have also moved locations due to the Campus Center Expansion project. It was a brutal process but we are mostly settled now.

Our Senate team (both Senators and council reps) plays a critical role in achieving our vision. We hope that you find graduate student participation meaningful and helpful on your councils this year.

**SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative**  
**University Senate Student Association Updates (September)**

**Dippikill**

Completed

- Planning and Tabling for the Great Danetopia

In process

- I have been working with James to place an order for new Dippikill merchandise
- I am finalizing my office hours
- I am planning my Block Party Tabling Event

Upcoming

- I plan on contacting several student group E-boards about the prospect of having a Dippikill Retreat
- I plan to follow up with the International Affairs Director about planning a student welcoming event for this semester and potentially the beginning of next semester
- I will be planning out dates for my tabling events for the rest of the semester

## **Community Engagement and Outreach**

### Mississippi Day

- September 13, 2014
- Finding 25 UAlbany student volunteers
- Two shifts (10:00am - 1:00pm / 1:00pm - 5:00pm)
- Currently coordinating with Panama, Co-Community Service Chair for Alpha Phi Omega- should have list by the end of this week

### September Service Day

- Date and Time are TBD- will be finalized by tonight
- Contacting 4-6 local external organization (Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, etc) for the purposed of solidifying a common date where UAlbany students can go and serve the community collectively.
- Creating a flyer for the event to distribute at the SA Block Party
- Consider renting UAlbany Shuttles for Transportation
- Consider paying for Breakfast

## **Gender and Sexuality Concerns**

### National Coming Out Reception and Festivities

- Reception on October 23rd at 8:00pm
- Performance artist Lady Dane has been booked
- Plan to have other people share their coming out stories
- Will have food, refreshments, activities and giveaways

### National Diversity Month/LGBTQ History Month (October)

- Working with Multicultural Affairs on planning events
- More details to follow

### Luncheon with Sue Rankin (November)

- Speaker Sue Rankin- one of the creators of the campus climate index
- Will be discussing diversity on campus and what can be done to uphold our mission in supporting diversity includes our queer students in particular
- More details to follow

## **Communications**

## Press and Medic Contacts

- Department has obtained direct numbers to contact for future press releases and event information
- Contacts include the Times Union and local news stations

## SA Daily

- Establishment of Monthly SA Newsletter
- First edition to be released shortly

## **Academic Affairs**

### Albany Police Appreciation Night

- Saturday October 4th at 6:00pm at the Football stadium
- Please come out to the game to show support for the officers of the department.

### DWI awareness Event

- Planning on tying into Alcohol Awareness Week in October
- More details to follow

## **Programming**

### Block Party

- September 7 at 12:00
- Putting together last minutes things

### Fall Concert

- Looking into the possibility of having concert
- Potentially November 22

## **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernnard, Chair**

There is no report from the CAA. We have scheduled our first meeting for Sept. 30.

**CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Carol Jewell, Chair**

CAFFECOR will have its first meeting of the semester on September 24, 2014.

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair**

Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair**

Nothing to report

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair**

The CPCA met on Sept. 3 and 17 and the next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 1. The council has low representation from the Sciences and is working to rectify this imbalance by adding more members from those fields.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair**

We had a planning meeting and an initial/general GAC meeting on Tuesday, 9/9. At the initial GAC meeting, the GAC's three standing committees (Curriculum and Instruction; Admissions and Academic Standing; Educational Policy and Procedure) were formed and their chairs elected. The GAC also has three student members. Each of them will serve on a standing committee.

The GAC and its standing committees will each meet at least once every month during the Fall semester (GAC meeting dates: 10/21, 11/18, & 12/9). We anticipate a fairly full agenda - new/revised graduate programs, student cases (mostly grievances), policy revision, etc.

We need a few more volunteers to serve as members of the standing committees: two more from the teaching faculty for the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure, preferably not from Biology or Criminal Justice. We encourage teaching faculty interested in serving on the standing committees to contact Jonathan Bartow ([jbartow@albany.edu](mailto:jbartow@albany.edu)).

**GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair**  
**(authored by Joette Stefl-Mabry)**  
**Governance Council Update: May 13<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup>**

**GOV met on May 13<sup>th</sup>**

Senate Chair Wagner and Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula attended the meeting to discuss the Provost Search Committee. A review of the procedures for formal consultation was conducted referencing the following materials:

**State University of New York Policies of the Board of Trustees, ARTICLE IX: COLLEGE OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS, TITLE B. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, § 2. Appointment.** Appointments of all college administrative officers and professional staff not in a negotiating unit established pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law shall be made by the chief administrative officer of the college; such appointments shall be reported to the Chancellor. Appointment of academic officers such as vice-president for academic affairs, academic deans and others with similar responsibilities shall be made after consultation with the faculty.

**Faculty Bylaws of the University at Albany, Article I. Section 2.5 Faculty Participation in Advisory Groups Outside of Governance Bodies.** Administrators may choose to advance their leadership vision for the University by constituting special committees and task forces, selecting individual faculty members because of their experience or expertise. Ideally, such advisory groups shall be constituted in consultation with the Governance Council of the University Senate and lines of communication with relevant governance bodies shall be enunciated. In any case, such groups do not represent the Faculty as a whole and advice from such groups does not replace approval by or formal consultation with the Faculty. Such groups may freely provide advice; however, for such groups to be considered part of the formal consultative process, a majority of the faculty members must either be appointed by, or their recommended appointment approved by, the Senate Governance Council, as specified in Article 2, Section 5.5, and specific faculty members must be designated to regularly report to the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate shall be consulted in the composition of all major University level search committees and committees to select honorary degree recipients.

Senate Chair Wagner's understanding was that to be considered formal consultation GOV could either approve a majority (51%) of the slate of faculty names A) GOV recommended or B) recommended by the President. In this context, faculty who hold academic rank who are not playing another role, such as a Dean.

Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula clarified that the Provost Search Committee had not been formed but, per the intended message from the President at the last Senate meeting, was on the way to becoming formalized. Candidates had since been notified of their nominations to serve, pending GOV's approval. Responses were due by the close of business that Wednesday. A total of 17 members would include a range of representation from different units: 9 faculty who hold

academic rank, 4 academic leaders (M-C) who also hold tenure, and 4 administrators (M-C) who do not hold academic rank.

An open call for nominations went out to the campus in the February 28<sup>th</sup> announcement regarding the transition. The President also requested the Deans and GOV provide a proposed slate of faculty or staff.

GOV agreed to meet on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to review and vote on the President's proposed membership and to share any concerns. The list would be provided at that time.

**Amendment RE: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.**

A motion was made and unanimously approved to amend the Charter as follows:

**Proposed Revision:**

The following change was proposed:

X.1.3.3. The Committee shall develop and regularly administer assessment instruments, conduct data analysis and report findings to the Council **on a two-year cycle**.

Chair Stefl-Mabry said that she would send out the formal amendment to the GOV committee for a final review via email.

**GOV met on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

The council reviewed the President's proposed membership, and sent its recommendations to the President.

**On May 16<sup>th</sup>**, Chair Stefl-Mabry received an email from Chief of Staff Wirkkula responding to the Governance Council's recommendations and asking GOV to vote on the amended list. Chief of Staff Wirkkula commented that the President had appreciated GOV's insight and constructive feedback. An email vote was conducted and GOV voted unanimously to accept the proposed slate.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula to inform her that the Governance Council had (via email) approved the final slate of the Provost's Search Committee, as proposed by the President, after consultation with the Governance Council.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**: Michael Christakis sent an email to Chair Wagner, informing her that since Candace Merbler had resigned from the UAS Board of Directors right around the end of the semester in May, and pursuant to UAS Bylaws, vacancies from "constituent groups" (in this case the "faculty"/the University Senate) shall be filled by said constituency group until the next such

election takes place (in the spring, in this case), it fell upon the Governance Council to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board until the next election cycle.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> Chair Wagner sent the request to GOV to appoint a replacement for the UAS Board. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with a list of prospective candidates and asked GOV to vote via email. By July 14<sup>th</sup> a quorum had been reached and Chair Stefl-Mabry notified Senate Chair Wagner that by means of an email poll, the Governance Council had voted to accept the nomination of Gary Kleppel to the UAS Board as a replacement for Candance Merbler.

### **August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Chair Stefl-Mabry sent an email to GOV with the rewritten Amendment re: Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation Although the Council had already voted to accept the amendment, Chair Stefl-Mabry asked GOV to review the Amendment and rationale and share their thoughts re: the rationale:

#### **Rationale:**

The Governance Council has concluded it is important to institutionalize systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of governance in representing its constituencies, in addressing issues and concerns, and in affecting institutional decisions. This would support “the development of stable expectations and working relationships” as recommended in the 2009 Middle States Report, Chapter 4, p. 2 (see <https://wiki.albany.edu/display/middlestates/Home>). Although the recommendation put forward in the 2009 Middle States Report was for annual campus surveys of faculty (see quote below) the Governance Council has decided that a two year cycle would more effectively support a process of survey development, implementation, analysis, presentation of results and revision.

“It is strongly recommended that the campus survey of faculty completed for the Middle States self-study be done annually as a way to monitor faculty views and conditions at the University” (Chapter 4: *Leadership, Governance and Administration*, p. 8).

Once again, GOV voted unanimously to accept the Amendment.

#### **Assessment of Governance and Consultation Ad Hoc Committee**

Joel Bloom, Director of Academic Assessment & Survey Research, has been working with GOV on the implementation of the shared governance and consultation surveys. Bloom sent Chair Stefl-Mabry the results of the student and faculty and professional staff survey. GOV is currently



working on analyzing the results of the survey and will share a preliminary report with GOV in the next few weeks.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair**

The Council of LISC is in the process of populating the two standing committee and is preparing for the first council meeting in the first week of October.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair**

The Undergraduate Academic Council held its initial meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, the UAC committees were organized for the academic year, and the chair presented members with an initial agenda of items to be taken up by the Council. The Council also approved a request by the Department of Public Administration and Policy to change the name of its Public Policy and Administration major to Public Policy and Management.

The UAC met again on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to resume work on the General Education competencies plans that was begun by the Council during the 2013-2014 academic year. Under the new General Education curriculum, all programs were to submit by fall semester, 2013 plans for meeting the four general education competencies (advanced writing, critical inquiry, oral discourse, and information literacy). Seventeen such plans were reviewed and approved by UAC before the end of the 2013-2014 academic year; twenty-two plans were reviewed and returned to the appropriate departments for revision and remain to be approved. Three other plans were submitted but remain to be reviewed. On 9/18/2014, the UAC reviewed and approved the competencies plan for the Environmental Sciences major, which was forwarded to the Associate Dean for General Education. The UAC will resume its review of the competencies plans at its next scheduled meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair**

Nothing to report. Currently, we're working on scheduling the meeting times.

**UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Christine Wagner, Chair**

UPPC met on 9/11/14. Interim Provost, Dr. Timothy Mulcahy, introduced himself to the members of UPPC. Sue Phillips provided an update on the transition of CNSE to SUNY IT. UPPC approved an initial proposal for a new undergraduate major in Human Development from

the School of Education and an initial proposal for a new undergraduate major in Computer Engineering from the College of Computing and Information.