

Governance Council
Wednesday, March 29, 2017
2:45 PM
UNH 306

Karin Reinhold, Chair

Minutes

PRESENT: Earle, Keith; Herrmann, Susan; Nowell, Greg; Petry, Greta; Piotrowska, Monika; Poehlmann, Chris; Reinhold, Karin; Sergay, Tim

The meeting convened at approximately 2:47 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Once quorum was reached, the minutes of March 8 were approved, with 3 abstentions.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Karin Reinhold

Mar 13th Maritza Martinez was added to the list of nominees for Open At-Large Senators after a successful petition to add her name with 29 signatures.

Mar 20th Meeting of SEC:

- What should be in the Senate website?
We are proposing that the website should have calendar of Council meetings. It turns out that many councils do not meet regularly.
- SEC endorsed the councils' reporting of agenda and minutes on the website.
- Presidential search: there is still time to forward input to M. Castellana about your concerns or suggestions. For example, you could send names of possible candidates or sample questions to ask candidates. The search committee is working on a common set of questions to ask all candidates. Since there is no contingent faculty in the search committee, J. Collins suggested adding 2 questions about part time faculty.
- There was a question about the role of the Senate on assessment of part time faculty. SIRF scores are the only tool used for evaluation of part time teaching faculty. Best practice in our own guidelines for hiring: peer review of teaching every 3 semesters.
- CPCA is considering changing its structure for more efficient review of cases and reducing work overload of members. This will be discussed during their meeting of April 6.

Gov's procedures to be included in policies and procedures document:

- Online procedure to add nominees for senators at-large. <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions>
- Orientation meeting of Councils and standing committees' chairs at the beginning of the academic year to inform about reporting procedures, and general guidelines of council chairs responsibilities.
- Meeting with SA and GSA presidents at the beginning of each semester to update student senator rosters. There is a high turn-around of student senators leaving councils and committees without appropriate student representation.

GAC requested information about contribution of immigrants: number, countries of origin, financial and intellectual contribution of international students, faculty and staff to UAlbany. GSA's chair suggested that the President should consider making a statement regarding our support and acknowledging their contributions.

Mar 20th Announcement of Faculty Bylaws amendments.

Mar 21st Streamlining requests for volunteers for shared governance: google form.

Mar 21st: forum on contingent concerns: J. Collins, *Professor of Anthropology & Chair of the University Senate*, was the moderator. William Hedberg, *Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Chair of Implementation Team of Provost's Blue Ribbon Panel on Contingent Concerns*, talked about the gains achieved with the work of the Blue Ribbon Panels, Bret Benjamin, *Associate Professor of English, President of Albany Chapter of United University Professions*, talked about the work UUP has done advancing the cause of UUP most vulnerable members, the contingent faculty; Holly McKenna, *Lecturer, Department of Communication, Member of University Senate and Contingent Concerns Committee of Albany Chapter of United University Professions (UUP)*, talked about the plea of contingent faculty, Caitlin Janiszewski added the graduate students' perspective and Karin Reinhold, *Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Chair of Governance Council of the University Senate*, talked about the work the Governance Council towards voting privileges of part time faculty. Provost Darrell asked the audience what can be done to change the culture within departments to have more participation of contingent faculty and more recognition of their work. Answers included: inviting more engagement of contingent faculty, having intentional dialogs that address this issue, bringing the dialog outside the circle of already committed individuals, bring the dialog to Deans and Department Chairs and heads of Units. Keep improving the remuneration and path to permanency. Encourage research and access to resources for research.

Mar 22nd Assessment of administrative units. The Senate will have 1 or 2 representatives in the Assessment Advisory Committee. It is advised that those representatives have knowledge of the Senate, program reviews and assessment. Prior Senate leaders, UPPC, GOV and CAA are appropriate choices.

Mar 22nd Leadership meeting.

Decanal 360 review is in the process of discussing parameters of evaluations. This review is internal to UAlbany, whereas the assessment of administrative units is involved with Middle States Accreditation. Minnesota has a pilot program in place. Consultation with the legal department is underway because of fear of FOIL requests of the reviews. Rules of items that are foilable are governed by NY State law, and are different than Minnesota's.

Plans for the Spring Faculty Meeting are underway. It will have a conversational format with the President, the Provost and past Immediate Chair of Senate, moderated by Chair of the Senate. Questions from the audience will be welcomed.

Proposal to videotape senate meetings may have unintended consequences. Procedures to communicate the content of the Senate meetings should be re-addressed. Consultation with the legal department is recommended.

The question of quorum was revised and promoted the question of efficacy of student participation in the Senate. A question to consider is whether the composition of the Senate is appropriate.

Next meeting of website working group: March 30th.

Chair Reinhold added the following to her written report:

Representative for Assessment Advisory Committee

It was proposed that past Senate/UPPC Chair Joette Stefl-Mabry would represent governance on the Assessment Advisory Committee (AAC), and that she would continue on UPPC in order to report on the AAC. GOV members agreed with the recommendations that Chair Reinhold had shared via e-mail regarding qualifications for service on AAC.

Committee on Council Nominations

The CCN would meet after the elections were complete in order to assign volunteers to committees and councils. GOV Chair Reinhold and GOV Elections and Liaisons Chair Poehlmann would serve. The GOV Chair solicited another GOV member to serve, per the required membership, and Senator Keith Earle volunteered.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Liaison and Elections Committee (LEC) – Christian Poehlmann, Chair

Chris Poehlmann reported that the slate was entered into PeopleSoft, he had tested the system, and elections were ready to run from April 3-7.

Assessment of Governance and Consultation Committee (AGCC) – Greta Petry, Chair

Nothing to Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Representation of Contingent Faculty

GOV discussed the potential expansion of voting rights and representation for contingent faculty, and a related AAUP (American Association of University Professors) model. Members endorsed enfranchising part time faculty provided that the process for amending the bylaws is changed. A possible amendment to the bylaws would be revisited at the next meeting 1) regarding quorum and 2) with the goal of expanding voting rights of part time faculty.

Senate Webpage

GOV further considered revisions to the Senate website and made the following recommendations.

- Front Senate page should have a) News, b) top issues/cases/stories the Senate is considering, and if appropriate c) information about a particular issue.
- More frequent updating of legislation.
- In the membership area, each individual Senator should be able to post articles on Senate issues (blog).
- Support for the webpages. Elisa may get overwhelmed.
- Easy access to updates on the status of programs, resolutions, etc. that have been submitted to the Senate for review.
- Each council should have a brief description “about this body”.
- UPPC should have a link to information about the university’s budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Charter Amendment

A motion was made and unanimously approved in support of a proposed Charter Amendment to bring the Charter in alignment with the Bylaws, contingent on the approval of Charter Amendment 1617-xxx AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER Section IX.

Question on the composition of the Senate.

GOV discussed how the lack of student attendance at Senate and council meetings had been affecting quorum, and questioned the level of student representation in the Senate if they were not participating.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder