

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Senate Executive Committee, March 23, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – John Delano, Chair

March 20th meeting with Interim President and Provost: As agreed at the February 23rd meeting of the SEC, a group of SEC members met with Interim President Philip and Provost Phillips on Friday, March 20th, to discuss issues raised by GOV about an apparent pattern of conflict of interest by a member of the administration. The meeting lasted for ~75 minutes.

FYE Task Force: Several members (Diane Dewar, Wayne Locust, John Delano) of the Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Task Force met with the CAA, UAC, and UPPC to describe the basic components of the three FYE models that been developed by the Task Force. Those three models are resource-dependent (limited, intermediate, maximum), as requested by Provost Phillips during her charge to the Task Force. Important perspectives were provided members of those Councils that will be incorporated into the final FYE report, which will be widely distributed upon its completion.

March 13th meeting with Interim Provost Phillips and UUP representatives: On Friday, March 13th, a 2.5-hour meeting occurred to discuss the issue of TA support for graduate students that had been announced by Dean of Graduate Studies, Marjorie Pryse, at a GAC meeting on March 2nd. During the first hour, Provost Phillips provided the group with a 'Tsunami 101' report describing the financial challenges that the campus faces during the current and next fiscal years. The Provost's report was illustrated with a 15-page handout of graphs and tables. Following thereafter, UUP representatives (UA Chapter President Candace Merbler and State UUP Vice President for Academics Frederick Floss) provided their views on faculty workload issues bearing on decreased support for graduate teaching assistants and enrollment thresholds in graduate courses. The subset of SEC members then decided to frame a document over the weekend that would be delivered to the Interim President and Provost providing its views on these issues. After many iterations conducted via e-mail over the weekend, that memo was completed and delivered by the Senate Chair to the offices of the President and Provost on Monday morning, March 16th.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford, R. Michael Range SUNY Senators

Nothing to report.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkop, Lead Senator

Nothing to report. Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to gso@albany.edu. More information on GSO: <http://www.albany.edu/~gso>

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

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

The Council met on March 11, 2009 and first reviewed and adopted the minutes from its February 25, 2009 meeting. It discussed and accepted the Program Review Committee's report on the review of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies. This was followed by a presentation by Senate Chair John Delano and Vice Provost Wayne Locust of a draft report by the First-Year Experience Task Force: the document lays out different models of possible living-learning communities, and the presenters asked Council members for their views. There was considerable discussion of the alternatives, though CAA as a whole did not take a position on the proposals. Finally, there was a discussion, initiated by the CAA Chair, of the mandate of Council, with reference to both the Bylaws and other documents; Prof. Delano contributed his own perspective on these matters.

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

CAFFECoR will be sponsoring a forum on campus freedom of expression policies on **Thursday evening, April 16 at 7PM** in the Campus Center Assembly Hall. Format and panel members have yet to be finalized.

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

Nothing to report.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

The Council on Research met on Wednesday, March 4th. Several guests were present including Kathryn Lowery, Vice President for Finance and Business who was invited to speak on the indirect cost return budget. VP Lowery presented detailed figures describing the use of indirect cost return funds for 2008-09 and discussed questions from the Council.

VP Videka reported on several initiatives that are being considered; leadership change at the Center for Functional Genomics and the Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics; implementation of research activity for College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering; and notification of indirect cost return allocations to units (distribution will be according to the University's policy this year).

The FRAP–A review committee reported that letters of award and refusal had been distributed to applicants along with comments on the proposals.

The subcommittee on centers and institutes will be meeting to consider two applications for new centers.

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 has nothing to report. We will meet next on March 30.

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

GOV met on March 16, 2009. The recently released BAG report was briefly discussed. The Council commends the Interim President, the Provost and the members of the BAG for their hard work under time pressure. The Council also advises the Interim President of the importance to continue to seek advice from various groups and constituencies on more specific actions in support of the general principles contained in the report. In response to questions raised at the 3/09/09 senate meeting, GOV reviewed two bullet items from the last summary report to the SEC (2/23/09) and the Senate (3/09/09). The second bullet in those reports contained incorrect information. The Council decided to replace that item with the following text.

- *A draft of the 2005 MSCHE Periodic Review Report was sent to the UAlbany Senate Executive Committee and to Faculty and Staff by Interim Provost Mumpower on May 05, 2005. As acknowledged in that message, the PRR was due on June 1, 2005. It is difficult to see how this very short time frame at the end of the semester would allow for the level of consultation called for by MSCHE guidelines. (“The preparation of a PRR, just like a self-study, should involve various campus constituencies including faculty, staff, administration, and the board of trustees. Prior to submitting the PRR to the Commission, representatives of these groups should have adequate opportunity to discuss and respond to the draft PRR.”)*

(<http://www.msche.org/publications/PRRhandbook08081114133252.pdf>)

Furthermore, the Council agreed on the following revisions of the last bullet item in said reports.

- *The selection and appointment of the current chair of the MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee was done by the then Officer in Charge without any consultation with University at Albany elected governance bodies. The appointment was later confirmed by the Interim President. A co-chair was added ~~only~~ after Senate Officers had raised the issue, referring to the MSCHE guidelines [which include such co-chairs as an appropriate model, among others, for the Steering Committee.](#)*

The Council finalized the proposed Charter Amendment concerning the creation of the **Initial Review Committee of Undergraduate Academic Proposals (IRCUAP)**, which replaces a proposal first considered in Spring 2008. This amendment is on today's agenda. The Council also reviewed its charge related to nominations and elections and will hold a special meeting on 3/23 to discuss relevant recommendations.

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

Nothing to report.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC met on March 10 and 17.

For information: UAC reviewed and approved all the curricular changes for the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and the related items in the Atmospheric Science major and minor. These changes will take effect in the fall of 2009. Students already in these majors may complete their existing programs. The council noted that the earlier curriculum included coursework in public policy and urged that students continue to be advised to study that field as well.

For information: UAC heard a preliminary report from representatives of the First Year Experience Task Force and made suggestions that will be considered by the full Task Force in the future.

Senate Vote needed: UAC received revised course proposals as necessary for the creation of an honors program in CRJ which had been approved subject to those changes, and will present that program as a bill at the next Senate meeting. UAC has been informed that all the course revisions have been made (600 classes made into 500 level for shared resources, etc.) and approved so everything is in place now other than the actual approval of the degree program.

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

ULC met on Wednesday, March 18. Result of a meeting was a vote by ULC members for a resolution, forwarded to the Executive Committee, recommending that the president assemble a taskforce to move UAlbany toward becoming a smoke-free campus by Fall 2011. ULC also discussed unfounded rumors of a pending closure of the swimming pool.

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.