

2009-2010 University Senate

**Monday, February 8, 2010
3:30 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall**

Michael Range, Chair

Minutes

Present: Heide Andrade, Hassaram Bakhru, Henryk Baran, Jeffrey Berman, Tom Bessette, Lance Bosart, Daryl Bullis, Brian Butcher, Andrew Byon, JoAnne Carson, James Castracane, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, John Delano, Jane Domaracki, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Patrick Ferlo, Susanna Fessler, Robert Gibson, Eric Hardiman, Allen Israel, Richard Johnson, Donald Keenan, John Kimball, Ryan King, Laurence Kranich, Winifred Kutchukian, Kajal Lahiri, William Lanford, Dustin Lanterman, Fernando Leiva, Cristian Lenart, John Monfasani, Gwendolyn Moore, Robert Nakamura, Nancy Newman, Julie Novkov, Susan Phillips, John Pipkin, R. Michael Range, Carlos Rodriguez, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, Benjamin Shaw, Hany Shawky, Daniel Smith, Kabel Nathan Stanwicks, Daniel White, Gary Yukl

Guests: Elise Bouhet, Gabriel V. Guadalupe, Stephen L. Guaman, Jr., Janna Harton, Alice Krause, Linda Krzykowski, Frederic Méni, Carmen Nieves, Alejandra Olarte, Greg Pogarsky, Amy Savage, Tim Sergay, Christine Wagner, Michael Youssef

The meeting convened at 3:37 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 14, 2009 were approved as written.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT & PROVOST'S REPORT – SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips delivered President Philip's report in his absence.

Budget:

The innovation and empowerment act would provide SUNY and CUNY with the autonomy in procurement and construction, as well as setting tuition and land use. If the legislation passes UAlbany could save substantial money and have funds to hire more faculty which would reduce the faculty student ratio. A potential downside of the legislation is there is no guarantee that state tax support would remain the same. The overall state budget proposal is about \$31 million less for SUNY this year than last year.

UAlbany Day:

Many faculty and staff have been at the state capitol today with our student legislators advocating for the University. Everyone was encouraged to attend the rally later this afternoon.

UAlbany's response to the relief fund for the victims of Haiti's earthquake has raised \$20,000. This amount has been matched by UAS for a total of \$40,000 in donations. A fund has also been established for supporting students on campus from Haiti.

President Philip's report extended congratulations to Provost Phillips on her appointment by the U.S. Secretary of Education to the newly constituted National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT:

Provost Phillips informed Senate members there would be three town hall meetings to discuss strategic planning. The meetings are intended to assist the Strategic Planning Task Force gather information. The task force will hold a retreat at the end of February to process what it has learned. She encouraged everyone to send their suggestions to the Strategic Planning web site or add them to the wiki.

The Provost announced that in addition to changes in the general education requirements, the assessment process is undergoing changes as required by SUNY. The SUNY Strategic Planning Committee has held all but two of its campus tours. Themes are beginning to emerge from the process which include diversity in the world, globalization, energy and sustainability and health affairs. It is expected that Chancellor Zimpher will announce the plan and its implementation by April.

The Provost made a call for nominations for the Dean of Graduate Studies. She would appreciate all input and suggestions. Searches will soon be under way for the positions of Vice President for Research and Vice President for Finance and Business.

Notes from campus:

- Enrollment Management--There are over 16,800 students registered for the spring semester. Many recruitment activities are scheduled to take place during the spring semester and the Provost asked for faculty participation in these events.
- The Art Museum will display the prints of Carroll Dunham through April 3.
- The Provost congratulated the Office of International Education on leading a successful trip to China for the winter session. She thanked them for their effort
- In Biological Sciences, Katy Gonder recently returned from Africa where workshops were conducted to identify the origins of chimpanzees rescued from being smuggled.
- The School of Business will be part of a NYSERDA grant to establish a New York Energy Policy Institute
- The College of Computing and Information hosted the annual Junior First Lego League expo this past weekend.
- In the School of Criminal Justice, two of its undergraduate teams will be in the national tournament.
- The School of Education is the recipient of a grant for teaching students with autism.
- Timothy Hoff in the School of Public Health spoke about his new book on a recent segment of NPR's The Health Show.
- The Center for Excellence in Aging Services was featured in the AARP Bulletin for an article on obesity.
- The University's energy reduction program reduced energy costs by \$319,000 during the fall semester and winter session.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – MICHAEL RANGE

Definition of Diversity. At its 1/25/2010 meeting, the SEC met with Tamra Minor, Assistant VP and Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action, for a discussion of the draft document on a new definition and vision for diversity that was distributed to the university community in December with an invitation to submit comments. As part of her opening remarks, Director Minor submitted a revised draft to the SEC which reflected comments received from individuals across campus in response to the first draft. She received much feedback during the intensive discussion. In particular, it was suggested to either substantially revise the latest version of the definition of diversity, or to delete it altogether. Questions regarding the purpose and final use of the document received no clear answer. It was emphasized that before any statement on diversity could be interpreted as a university statement, it would have to be approved by the University Senate.

Amendments to the SUNY Gen Ed Requirements. A few days after the December senate meeting, SUNY Senator Lanford forwarded to the SEC a draft of a resolution he had received from Ken O'Brien, President of the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS). The proposed amendment to the Gen Ed requirements was going to be presented by SUNY officials to the BOT at their January 19 meeting. President O'Brien was soliciting comments to inform the response of the UFS Executive Committee, scheduled to meet in early January. The SEC discussed the matter via e-mail and met on Dec. 22, 2009 to finalize a response for the UFS. The SEC agreed on a resolution that expressed support for the original draft, which required courses in 7 out of 10 areas, versus the final draft, which explicitly requires courses in mathematics, communication, and in 5 out of the remaining 8 areas. The Chair forwarded the SEC's resolution to UFS President O'Brien in late December. The expanded UFS executive committee met in early January, discussed the input received from many campuses, and decided to endorse the *final* version of the amendment as proposed by SUNY Interim Provost Lavallee. The SUNY BOT approved the amendment at the 1/19/2010 meeting, and consequently the new Gen Ed regulations are effective beginning in Fall 2010. Relevant documents have been distributed to senators together with the agenda of the 2/8 senate meeting. At its 1/25 meeting the SEC agreed to form a General Education Task Force and charged GOV to propose specific charges for the Gen Ed TF and make recommendations about its membership. SEC members and UAC provided further input to GOV. GOV met on Friday, 2/5/10 and forwarded a summary of its deliberations to the Senate Chair late that day. SEC members have been in communication over the weekend, and it is expected that a resolution regarding the Gen Ed TF will be presented to the Senate for discussion and vote at the 2/8 meeting. The Chair hopes to distribute the text of the resolution to senators by midday 2/8. The Chair apologizes for the short notice in such an important matter, but the timing of the BOT resolution and the need to provide specific guidance for incoming students by the end of this semester leave little time.

Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. At a special meeting on Monday, 2/1, SEC members received a detailed briefing by UA Chief of Staff Vince Delio about this legislation recently introduced by Governor Paterson with the support of SUNY and CUNY officials. The legislation is an outgrowth of UBuffalo 2020 (a proposal which was introduced about a year ago without receiving any final action in the NYS Assembly), basically extending its key provisions to all of SUNY and CUNY. While the legislation, if approved, may bring substantial benefits to SUNY and CUNY (and hopefully to UAlbany as well), colleagues across SUNY have many questions about the complex details. This legislation was intensively discussed by the UFS at its January 28 – 30, 2010 winter plenary at SUNY Cobleskill (partly attended by the Chair in his capacity as Campus Governance Leader), and the UFS decided not to introduce – at this time - any resolution expressing a UFS position on the matter.

Third UFS Senator for UAlbany. Information distributed by the UFS Governance Committee at the Cobleskill meeting prompted the chair to investigate whether UAlbany is eligible to be represented by **three** senators in the UFS. The Interim Vice President for Finance and Business confirmed that UAlbany has over 1,400 “professional staff” as defined by BOT policies, that number being well above the 1,100 threshold specified in said policies to make a campus eligible for a third senator. The chair will shortly write to UFS President O'Brien notifying him that UAlbany should have 3 senators beginning July 1, 2010. It is therefore expected that at the university-wide election UAlbany will hold in April 2010, two new UFS senators will be elected: one to replace Bill Lanford, whose *second* 3-year term ends June 30, 2010 (and thus he is not eligible to run again at this time), and the other one to fill the new slot. Dan White will continue with the second year of his first 3-year term. The Chair encourages senators to consider standing for election and to encourage colleagues across the university to consider representing UAlbany on the SUNY senate. An invitation will be sent out in due time to all faculty and staff.

Chair Range was part of a team led by President Philip who lobbied at the Capitol today as part of UAlbany Day activities. Part of their effort was to obtain legislative support for the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. It appears that the State Assembly is not ready to support the proposed legislation. Chair Range encouraged Senate members to attend the rally at the Empire State Plaza at the end of the day. UPPC Chair Delano asked for a wording change in the Chair's report concerning the HEEIA; the change was accepted and has been entered in the Chair's report as recorded in the minutes.

OTHER REPORTS

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) - William Lanford & Daniel D. White, SUNY Senators

Attached at the end of this document.

Senator Lanford encouraged Senate members to look at the SUNY Strategic Planning web site.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) - Melanie Breganza, GSO President

Nothing to report.

SA (Student Association) - Josh Sussman, SA President

The spring speaker series will be a debate between a republican and a democrat in April.

MSCHE Steering Committee Report - Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

Nothing to report.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Heidi Andrade, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on February 3. The chairs of the Program Review and the General Education Assessment Committee updated us on their work. We discussed the pending changes to Gen Ed assessment and its implications for our work on the Council and for the GEAC. We reviewed the recent Graduate Student Support report, compiled our comments on it, and determined that the PRC should consider implications of the GSS metrics for program review.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) - Susanna Fessler, Chair

We continue to work on changes to the "Community Rights and Responsibilities" document. We are also waiting on whether Senate bill 0304-25, which was passed by the Senate but never signed by the president in 2004, then resuscitated by CAFFECOR this year, will be signed by the president. Some CAFFECOR members will be conducting an "in service" session for Res Life staff in the dorms on Wednesday, February 10 on the subject of Freedom of Speech in the dorms.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) - John Monfasani, Chair

The Joint CERS-GOV committee of Carolyn MacDonald, Edward Cupoli, and myself completed a draft of a revised CERS policy text in December. There have since been conversations with John H. Reilly, the University's Counsel. CERS itself has started to meet concerning the text. When it has finished its deliberations, the text will be sent to GOV and COR for their reaction. We hope to be able to bring the revised CERS policy text to the Senate floor in April.

COR (Council on Research) - James Castracane, Chair

The Council on Research met on February 3rd and discussed several topics including:

- 1). Presentation of the FRAP A proposal evaluation review. The Subcommittee Chair, Professor Kirsten Davison, presented the results and rankings. 33 proposals were submitted and 18 funded. Outside of some details concerning borderline situations (which have since been resolved), the Council believes that the rankings are now set and a recommendation will be sent to the IVP for Research for approval and candidate notification.
- 2). The Excellence in Research Review subcommittee, chaired by Professor Dale Morse, presented the status of the nominee pool. At this point, 13 candidates are under consideration both at the UAlbany level and as a subset to be forwarded to the SUNY-wide Chancellor's Award level. The subcommittee which consists of a broad spectrum of disciplines will gather the required documents, review the applicants and make recommendations at the next COR meeting.

The Frap A evaluation committee reports that the number of applications are down 30% from previous years. Of the 33 applications that were submitted, 18 were approved. This is an opportunity for junior faculty to apply for grants.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) - Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

CPCA has nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) - Laurence Kranich, Chair

At its meeting on February 2, GAC began a discussion of the GSS review. Prior to the meeting, the Chair had distributed the summary report of the GSS Review Panel as well as the recommendation by the Governance Council that in order to fulfill its obligations under the University Senate Charter GAC should review the individual program assessments upon pledging that such materials are to remain confidential. Dean Pryse reviewed the GSS final report and asked for recommendations on how to proceed. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. The Chair also informed the Council that, contrary to the Charter, GAC had not been reviewing CAA program assessments. The Council agreed that in order to comply with the Charter it would be sufficient if CAA were to provide its summary recommendations rather than to provide full access to all supporting documents and data.

GOV (Governance Council) - Eric Lifshin, Chair

As requested by the Senate Executive Committee, GOV met on February 5th and approved the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee of the General Education of UAC and designated appropriate membership. The committee is charged with developing a response defining what the University's definitions will be in response to the SUNY Board of Trustees' recent revision of the SUNY-wide General Education requirements for freshmen entering in fall 2010. The council also thought that

the UAC itself should begin a longer range consideration of what the University might want its "local" requirements to be. This information has been transmitted to Senate Chair Range.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) - Gwen Moore, Chair

Nothing to report.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC discussed the newly passed system-wide Gen Ed changes which take effect with the Fall, 2010 semester. The minimum Gen Eds are now one writing course and one mathematics course and then 5 more courses in the remaining 7 mandated areas, coupled with a minimum of 30 credits earned in Gen Ed coursework. UA is not obligated to modify our own Gen Eds as they already meet those standards. UAC submitted a list of concerns to the SEC for transmission to the Task Force which will further study this matter. UAC members cautioned that too rapid an implementation of changes would deprive UA of the opportunity to think through all the possible changes which could be made to our Gen Ed program under these new rules.

UAC discussed the SUNY system Provost's proposed changes in assessment of majors and gen eds, noting that significant responsibility for assessment would be returned to the campus if these proposals are passed. UAC endorses this concept. UAC also notes the need for better meshing of the Assessment Council's work with UAC's to ensure that any new proposed curricular changes include workable assessment protocols.

Before the semester break, UAC formed a small working group to further UAC's study of the possibility of making minors optional. That group will be reporting out shortly. As of this writing, there are no changes being proposed.

Since it was agreed at the start of 09-10 that there would not be a standing Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing unless needed, the Chair requested that the council form an ad hoc group of three members of the Council to review a grievance that had come to the committee. The grievance was reviewed and a report was made to UAC on the results.

UAC expects to have a policy for "sick notes" for prolonged absences sometime this spring.

UAC brings a bill to the floor for changes to the Honors Program in French.

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

Nothing to report.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) - John Delano, Chair

UPPC meetings during the Spring 2010 semester will occur in UNH 306 at 3:30-5:00 PM on the following Fridays: 12 February; 26 February; 12 March (UNH 105); 26 March; 9 April; 23 April; and possibly 7 May. The upcoming UPPC meeting on 12 February will consider the possible resource implications at UAlbany of the following two initiatives: (i) changes approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees to the SUNY-wide General Education requirements; and (ii) proposed legislation from Governor Patterson that may lead to greater autonomy for SUNY campuses, such as setting tuition-rates and retaining that tuition revenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to the Honors Program in French Studies:

UAC Chair Savitt informed the Senate that the French Studies department has made some modifications to its honors program. These currently appear in the bulletin but have not been voted on. She asked for a vote that would put the rules in conformity with wording in the course descriptions. Chair Savitt responded that the minimum of 40 credits in an honor's program is below the maximum permitted. A vote was taken in favor of the bill and it was approved.

SUNY Amendment of General Education Requirements:

Chair Range referred to his report in which he provided the background of the resolution passed by the SUNY Board of Trustees on January 19, 2010. At the last meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, members voted in favor of establishing a Gen Ed Task Force to deal with issues related to the resolution. Governance Council was asked to develop recommendations for the task force. GOV met on February 5th and submitted their report to Chair Range. That information was shared with SEC with a request for further input. A draft of a resolution was

circulated to SEC members over the weekend soliciting their responses. Chair Range sent the resulting resolution to the entire Senate for consideration. He informed the Senate that according to the Senate Bylaws, the Senate establishes ad hoc committees to address specific questions. The resolution presented today is being submitted for discussion and amendment, as well as a vote. Chair Range believes it is in the best interest of the faculty to deal with this issue and to obtain Senate approval. He opened the floor for discussion.

GOV Chair Lifshin provided clarification on the actions taken by the Governance Council at its February 5th meeting. GOV members discussed the issue which was followed by a vote in which the majority of members agreed to the development of the task force which would function under UAC. GOV provided a list of names to the Senate Chair. The recommendations reflected significant representation from CAS as well as representatives from CNSE, C&I, CRJ, ED, Public Health, ROC, SSW and the CAA, UPPC and UAC. GOV's goal was not to undertake a total revision of the general education requirements at this time but to consider short term solutions on how to implement the new SUNY regulations for fall 2010. UAC Chair Savitt informed the Senate that UAC was not shying away from its task but looking to the Senate for guidance in bringing forth legislation that will be approved.

There was a discussion concerning the implications of changing the local requirements versus not changing anything at this point. Registrar Robert Gibson informed the Senate that he did not see anything from the Registrar's Association that required us to make any changes. Concerns were expressed that not changing could create complications for students transferring to the University. Local requirements need to be carefully defined to avoid problems.

The discussion turned to the resolution to establish the general education task force. The representation on the task force was discussed, specifically the call for six or seven faculty members. Senator John Pipkin stated it would be useful to distinguish that the enumerated faculty are in addition to the representation listed in the first four items of the composition. Additional suggestions for changes in language were made including a clause that the full membership is selected so as to represent primarily and "evenly" the faculty involved in general education. A motion was made to approve these changes as friendly amendments. The motion was approved.

The discussion of the composition of the task force continued in an effort to identify specific criteria for selection of task force members. UPPC Chair Delano stated that this represents an important task and asked members of the Senate to consider what characteristics should be sought to serve in this role. Chair Range indicated that while the larger group would be teaching faculty, professional faculty should not be excluded. Chair Delano indicated he was not arguing against professional faculty, but he believed that specific criteria were essential to provide credibility, and to ensure that faculty members have characteristics that would make them appear valuable, such as having participated in general education. He asked the Senate to consider what characteristics task force members need in order to avoid having their work questioned. Senate Secretary Collier stated that we should avoid selection of those who would have the intent of supporting their own turf, excluding other areas in the process. Senator Pipkin recommended including faculty who have substantial experience in teaching general education as well as a demonstrated commitment to teaching. CAFFECOR Chair Fessler recommended including the broad aims to the general education program. In response to the latter, Senator Henryk Baran added that the broad aims of the University as a whole should be included, that it would be important for those serving to keep in mind the changes the University is experiencing. Senator Baran's recommendation was introduced as a secondary amendment. CERS Chair Monfasani spoke in opposition, stating that it opens up the task force to the ideology of any group or constituency and he expressed the need for clarity in the goals of the task force. A motion was made to vote on the secondary amendment. The motion was seconded, the vote was taken and the amendment was defeated. Senate members then voted in approval of the two amendments to include language calling for 1.) experience in teaching general education courses, and 2.) a commitment to the evolving aims of general education.

CAA Chair Andrade suggested that the ten academic gen ed categories each have faculty representation. ULC Chair Daniel Smith stated this would not be necessary since some of the categories are infused and do not need to be separated. Chair Delano stated the importance of having all major rubrics represented. Doing so provides

credibility and he supported Chair Andrade's suggestion. Chair Andrade suggested adding language that would indicate these categories are represented instead of adding one faculty member per category to avoid lack of credibility. Chair Lifshin added that even though the resolution states the Senate Chair and GOV Chair will propose the slate of members, a system of checks and balances is built in by providing the Senate Executive Committee the opportunity to deny the slate. Chair Range clarified that the slate would not come from only two people but both chairs will consult with other individuals, including the Provost. Chair Delano requested changing that part of the resolution by adding that it would be in consultation with the Provost and the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Chair Range asked for any objections to changing that part of the resolution. A vote was taken, approving the amended change. Chair Andrade's suggestion to include representation of the general education rubrics was proposed as an amendment. Chair Fessler indicated that this was her intent when she suggested adding the wording to represent faculty "evenly", meaning representation is spread across the general education categories. SUNY Senator William Lanford made a motion to close the debate. The motion was seconded and approved by the Senate.

A motion was made to extend the meeting for a final vote on the resolution as amended by the Senate. Extension of the meeting was approved. A motion to approve the amended resolution was seconded, and the resolution was passed. Chair Range informed Senate members that the revised resolution with the amended language would be circulated and he encouraged members to submit their recommendations regarding individuals to serve on the task force to the Chair and/or Vice Chair over the next two days.

A student attendee was recognized to speak about general education requirements and asked that academic opportunities for students not be compromised.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder