

**University at Albany, State University of New York
University Senate**

Minutes

December 17, 2007

- Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, David Andersen, Sandra Austin, Judith Barlow,
Kristina Bendikas, Scott Birge, Fan Pen Chen, Sairam Chinnam,
Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia, John
Delano, Diane Dewar, Phil Erner, Robert Gibson, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel,
Jon Jacklet, Donald Keenan, Kevin Lahey, Eric Lifshin, Jean McLaughlin,
David Miller,
Anna Politano, Lawrence Raffalovich, R. Michael Range,
Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Junru Ruan, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell,
Karl Schlegel, John Schmidt, Malcolm Sherman, Scott South, Tim Stephen,
Daniel Truchan, ManKit Tse, Lynn Videka, Victoria von Arx, Edward
Waltz, Rose-Marie Weber, Robert Yagelski, Adam Zonder
- Guests:** Jonathan Bartow, George Berg, Peter Bloniarz, Susanna Fessler, Teri Harrison,
Paul Leonard, David Liebschutz, Susan Phillips, Anita Pomerantz, Bruce Szelest
- Minutes:** The Minutes of November 26, 2007 were approved.

Interim President's Report, by Vice President Lynn Videka:

- Commencement: VP Videka commented favorably on the success of the recent Commencement ceremony.
- Governor's Commission on Higher Education: A final report is expected in June, look for it on the UAToday e-news letter. There will be a comment period.
- SUNY Budget Proposal: There is hope for critical maintenance funds.
- Enrollment Management: 2008 freshman numbers are up about 3.6%, and transfer admissions are up 7% compared to last year.

Senate Chair's Report, by Reed Hoyt:

- Governor's Commission on Higher Education: Chair Hoyt reported that University Senate Officers met with members of the Commission and had some input on decisions.
- Presidential Search: The search is at an interesting stage, i.e., "at the end of the beginning." Expect on-campus candidates next semester. Someone asked how many candidates will be invited on campus for interviews, and Chair Hoyt replied that possibly four candidates will be interviewed.
- Interim Provost Search: The nomination submission deadline is tomorrow; the search will move forward.

- Faculty Forum: Chair Hoyt hopes to plan a forum for next semester on undergraduate education.
- Diversity Self-Study Team: Chair Hoyt will be serving on that team.
- SUNY Plenary Session: UAlbany will be hosting the gathering this go-round. It is scheduled for Thursday, January 31 through Saturday, February 2, 2008. Announcements will be out after the holidays.

SUNY-wide Senate: There is nothing new to report.

Council and Committee Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment), William Lanford, Chair. There is nothing new to report.

COR (Council on Research), Lawrence Schell, Chair. COR met on November 28. Reports were heard on the benevolent grants competition to support graduate student research, as well as the FRAP A competition which received some 40 proposals this fall. The Committee on Centers and Institute and Labs has developed a working plan for the review of centers that is designed to reduce assessment paperwork by pairing its own reviews with those already occurring as part of the regular university required reviews. The Research Liaison Committee has identified some issues to work on towards improving the research environment. VPR Videka reported on the provisional status of the new National Center for Security and Preparedness as well as the development of a committee on conflict of interest. A Coeus training update was provided as well.

COR met on December 13th and heard the report of the VPR regarding research accomplishments this year. Also, it received and approved reports from the Conference and Journal Support review committee, the SUNY Benevolent review committee, and the FRAP-A review committee. The results of these competitions are confidential until the VPR notifies applicants and thus this report to Senate does not divulge the identifications of awardees. Four applications were received for conference support and none for journal support. Awardees will be notified by January 4, 2007. Twenty one proposals to the SUNY Benevolent Fund for graduate student support were received and reviewed. A total of \$3,500 was available for funding. The top eight applications were recommended for funding which exhausts the funds available. Awardees will be notified by December 18, 2007.

The FRAP review committee reviewed 40 submissions. Thirteen were recommended for funding based on technical merit, relevance, junior vs. senior rank, and the potential for external funding. Four additional proposals were considered meritorious, but exceeded the total amount available. The VPR will work towards obtaining funds for those awards, although no guaranteed. Awardees will be notified by January 4, 2008, in time for the FRAP B competition near the end of the same month.

The Committee on IRB policy made its report that included a policy statement on the use of data sets available on the internet as follows: “The UA Institutional Review Board may refuse to allow the use of data obtained via the Internet on a case-by-case basis, where the use of such data raises ethical or legal concerns regarding human participants.” and this language was approved by the Council. Finally, one council member raised the issue of infrastructure support for research, for both creating applications for external funding and the administration of research grants after an award is made. This sparked a serious discussion that the Council will return to at its next meeting.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments), Eric Lifshin, Chair. CPCA continues to meet and process cases.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council), Sally Friedman, Chair. The Bill to create a Ph.D. in Communication is on today's Senate Agenda. There is nothing additional to report

GOV (Governance Council), John Delano, Chair. Discussion on the Freshmen Seminar program proposal referred to the Governance Council from the September Senate meeting included Chair Delano's report of two meetings that he had had with Vice Provost Faerman. The existing mechanism needs to be clarified. Trust must be maintained by all stakeholders; Trojan Horses do not contribute to that. The rationale cited by Robert Gibson and Sue Faerman in the Undergraduate Policy Manual was not a legitimate guide for procedures bearing on submission of the UFSP proposal, especially since the sections that were highlighted dealt with faculty- and student-initiated interdisciplinary majors. Refer to X.3.4.1 and X.3.4.3 in the Senate Charter for possible areas for clarification, especially for proposals not originating from either academic departments, or academic units with colleges, or schools.

It was also recommended that specific reference be made in the Senate Bylaws to "Pilot" programs where a clear governance process would be described. During the maximum 3-year trial period for 'Pilot' courses/programs, the Undergraduate Academic Council and Senate Executive Committee would receive assessment data, and provide suggestions for those courses/programs based on those data. This would be analogous to a "clinical trial" where regular review of results would be required. Within the 3-year time-frame, the "Pilot" course/program would be submitted for formal institutionalization with a full-review process through the UAC, SEC, and Senate. It was also recommended that the Governance Council research the processes used at other universities.

The Governance Council met on Monday, December 10. As requested during the Senate meeting of September 24th, GOV members continued with their discussion (begun at the November 19 meeting) dealing with possible changes to the Senate Charter that would deal with review processes for credit-bearing courses and programs neither originating from, nor administered by, degree-granting departments, colleges, or schools, henceforth referred to as NDGU = not degree-granting units. Such courses would include but not be limited to Senate Bill No. 0708-02's First year Experience Program courses and other U-prefix (University-Wide) offerings arising from and/or administered by such units of the campus as ITLAL, Project Renaissance, Undergraduate Education, Undergraduate Admissions, and Graduate Studies.

GOV members proposed that a new layer of review be created for proposed additions or revisions of credit-bearing courses and programs from NDGUs that would precede the required review by the Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC) and/or the Graduate Academic Council (GAC) and, when applicable, the University Planning and Policy Council (UPC). This newly created layer of review would be analogous to the first layer of review that courses and programs receive from degree-granting departments, colleges, and schools that also precede review by Senate Councils. The members of the Governance Council believed that this new layer of review would be equitable, and make it unnecessary to bring *course* proposals from NDGUs to the full Senate.

GOV members proposed that this new layer of review be composed of 9 members: 6 teaching faculty (2 each chosen from UAC, GAC and UPC members); 1 professional faculty (chosen by the Senate Executive Committee); 1 undergraduate student (chosen by the Student Association); and 1 graduate student (chosen by the Graduate Student Organization).

Analogous to courses and programs offered/administered by degree-granting programs that are reviewed on a regular basis (e.g., external reviewers; Middle States Review), once created the courses and programs from NDGUs would be regularly reviewed by the Council on Academic Assessment (Senate Charter Section X.6.6.5)

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing), Larry Raffalovich, Chair. LISC met 11/30. CIO Chris Haile briefed the Council on the Data Center Planning Study. UPC will be briefed on 12/5 and the final report is scheduled for release on 1/8. The Library Committee met earlier in the week and will meet again in January. The Information Technology Usage Policy Committee has been formed. The Council will be considering suggested changes to the committee's charge.

Chris Haile has spoken briefly with Counsel, John Reilly about the bill regarding email as the official means of communication with students. Apparently, there were concerns about the legal implications of some language in the bill. Counsel Reilly will be meeting with the Interim President, and the CIO about this; and LISC will be advised of needed changes to the language.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council), Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair. UAC unanimously approved: a restructuring of the Psychology major that does not allow students to register for the major until they pass their three basic core courses; a restructuring of the Psychology honors program that reflects the changes in the major; an Honors Program in Africana Studies. UAC approved (12 for, 1 abstention) a proposal for a Faculty Initiated Interdisciplinary Major and Minor in Financial Market Regulation with the following amendments: (1) Admission to the minor requires written permission; (2) the internship should be optional. Also, UAC discussed a new program proposal for a minor within Women's Studies called: LGBTQ (lesbian gay bisexual transgender and queer). UAC will bring this proposal forward at the next Senate meeting.

ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair. ULC is working on housing issues. Residential Life representatives suggested more faculty involvement would be great with living/learning communities. There is more to come.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council), Diane Dewar, Chair. Two presentations were included in the UPC meeting. One was concerning the Undergraduate Writing Program proposal presented by Professor Robert Yagelski. The second was regarding the new Data Center developments presented by CIO Christine Haile. These presentations allowed the Councilors the chance to keep abreast of the latest planning developments around the University that would require significant resource commitments.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Sanjay Goel, Chair. In response to the Report of the Provosts' Task force on Academic Integrity, CAFFECOR passed a resolution recommending against the adoption of an "Honor Code" that will be introduced today.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship), Zai Liang, Chair. There is nothing new to report.

New Business:

Bill No. 0708-08: (GAC) Proposal to establish a Ph.D. Program in Communication:
The Bill was introduced by Chair Hoyt, in GAC Chair Friedman's absence. Professor Teresa Harrison, of the Communication Department explained the history of the proposal. There was discussion and the bill was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 0708-04: (CAFFECOR) Resolution on Academic Integrity:

The Resolution was introduced by Professor Sherman. There was discussion and a friendly amendment was made for the Committee to seek results from comparison universities that have instituted an honor code. After more discussion, that amendment was withdrawn because it became unclear if the document was a resolution or a report. Another motion was made to send the document back to the Committee with a charge to review it based upon feedback from the Senate discussion, and for further clarification. Another motion was placed on the floor about including students in future discussions. Parliamentarian Gibson was called upon to organize the process; he cited the rules.

Discussion concluded with a motion to send the proposal back to the committee for review, include students in that review, and to bring back a report or recommendation to the Senate. That motion was approved with one opposition and five abstentions.

Bill No. 0708-11: (UAC) Proposal for a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Major and Minor in Financial Market Regulation: UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson introduced the proposal. Professor McCaffrey and Dean Leonard spoke in support of it. There was discussion, and the bill was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder