

University at Albany  
State University of New York

University Council  
Minutes  
October 11, 2013

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on October 11, 2013 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana, Chair; Pierre Alric; Robert Balachandran (by phone); Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; John Fallon (by phone); Abner JeanPierre; James Jackson; Michael Stein; Joette Stefl-Mabry (Faculty Representative); Timothy Murphy (Alumni Representative); and Gary Roth (Graduate Student Representative, by phone). Also present were Pres. Robert Jones; Vice Presidents Christine Bouchard, James Dias, Fardin Sanai and Stephen Beditz; Janet Thayer, Counsel's Office; and Vincent Delio, Chief of Staff. Mr. Beditz confirmed that the members present and participating by phone constituted a quorum.

Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. He took a moment to recognize the hard work of staff, and congratulate President Jones on the recently concluded inaugural week activities. He remarked upon the generous gift that President Jones and Mrs. Lynn Hassan Jones committed to the Presidential Inaugural Scholarship fund and asked the Council members for their individual support and participation as well. Member Alric agreed and suggested that one hundred percent support from the Council is needed. Mr. Castellana then welcomed new Faculty Representative Joette Stefl-Mabry.

A motion to approve the May 10, 2013 and August 29, 2013 minutes was made and seconded (Caldwell, Alric). The minutes were approved with two amendments. Chairman Castellana then gave the floor to President Jones for his report.

Dr. Jones thanked the Council for its support during inauguration week. He commented upon several of the special events that occurred, and noted that the week was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both our University's past as well as look to its future. President Jones took the inauguration as an opportunity to put four "stakes" in the ground in areas, describing opportunities for the University to grow and improve over the next decade. First is to expand our portfolio of degree-granting programs in areas in need of qualified graduates. Second we must recruit more out-of-state and international students, in part to offset the declining cohort of in-state high school graduates. Third we will expand our role as a university engaged in its surrounding community. Fourth we must grow our resources to fulfill our ambitions. In doing the last we will increase both our external research funding and our endowment. The President noted that this is an ambitious agenda, but one that will clearly move the University to the next level of excellence.

President Jones moved on to acknowledge a \$1.5 million gift from Spencer and Patricia Standish to the School of Business. The gift will be used to support three new tenure-track professorships specializing in entrepreneurship. This will go far in moving the ranking of our School of Business into the top fifty business schools in the United States. The President went on to note the recent opening of our new Athletics Sports Complex. Eleven thousand students, faculty, staff and guests attended the opening home football game and it was a particularly high-energy and positive campus community event. The multi-sport complex promises to become a premier venue for the University and the community at large. He noted that our legendary Head Football Coach Bob Ford is retiring, and a search is under way to identify his successor. The President went on to note that we anticipate promulgation of the rules and regulations governing the Start-Up NY program, which will provide a tax free environment for companies to locate on a SUNY campus. However, we are not awaiting rules promulgation to make progress. In the meantime we are developing our strategy and have identified potential partners. The President will keep the Council apprised of progress in this area.

President Jones then updated the Council regarding the separation of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. He noted that the Chancellor held a meeting within the last week to determine next steps in developing a new relationship between UAlbany and CNSE. An implementation team has been established and will be meeting in the near future to identify the level of support we will be asked to provide to CNSE and to determine the cost of these services. We will also provide an opportunity for faculty, professional staff and students to be involved in an advisory capacity in that process. President Jones has asked Professor James Acker of the School of Criminal Justice to serve as chair of the advisory group. He expects the group will have its first meeting soon after the first meeting of the implementation team.

President Jones took a moment to congratulate several of our colleagues. Peter Bloniarz, Dean of the College of Computing and Information, has been named Executive Director and Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Cuomo's Cyber Security Advisory Board. Theresa Pardo, Director of the Center for Technology in Government, was appointed Policy Advisor of New York's Open Data Initiative. Provost Susan Phillips appeared before Congress to offer expert testimony on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

A discussion followed on how the Council might be able to support the President and these important initiatives. (Jackson, Caldwell, Stein, JeanPierre, Jones, Castellana). Chairman Castellana suggested that an item be placed on an upcoming Council meeting agenda in order to set time aside to discuss the role of the Council and specific actions the Council might take to support the University.

At the conclusion of the President's report, Chairman Castellana turned to updates. Faculty Representative Stefl-Mabry noted that the University Senate has put forward nominees for excellence awards. With respect to the CNSE transition, the Senate has named three members to the advisory group.

Graduate Student Representative Roth noted that the Graduate Student Organization has a new executive board. GSO finances are doing well this year, reserves have been established and long-term costs are being identified.

Alumni Association Representative Murphy reported that 800 people have reserved for the Homecoming Weekend pre-game festivities, twice the expected number. He went on to note the University at Albany has over 160,000 living alumni and alumnae, living in virtually every country and on every continent. As an example, our alumni chapter in Cyprus recently hosted a college fair that resulted in fifty UAlbany applicants.

Turning to old business, Vice President Diaz provided a presentation on the University's research expenditures and organized research activities (attached). He noted that although our faculty productivity is high, we do not recover as much administrative overhead as the Centers in Buffalo, Stony Brook and Binghamton. President Jones noted that we are handicapped in this regard due to the lack of a medical or engineering school, which traditionally return much higher indirect cost recovery in their specialized research areas. Our public service research mission, while extremely important and valuable, simply does not provide comparable cost recovery. This is an area in which we will see improvement via the addition of new academic programs. A discussion followed on how the University can make specific advancements in this area and what the Council might do to assist (Caldwell, Jones, Dias). Vice President Diaz noted that Council suggestions and support are welcome, and that Binghamton University integrates community business leaders in their doctoral research and dissertation reviews. Discussion on tactics to grow the University's research portfolio followed (Sanai, Delio, Castellana, Murphy, Stein, Jones, Stefl-Mabry).

Turning to new business, Chairman Castellana asked for and received a motion (Murphy, Jackson) to adopt a resolution confirming the Council discussion of August 29, 2013 regarding marketing the naming rights of various University venues. The Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution with an amendment to include the Performing Arts Center as a potential marketing opportunity.

Insofar as the next item was not transmitted to the Council with a week's advance notice, Chairman Castellana asked for a motion to waive the notice requirement in order to accept a recent naming rights resolution regarding First Niagara. A motion to waive the notice requirement was made (Alric, Murphy) and approved unanimously. A motion to accept the naming rights resolution (Murphy Caldwell) was then unanimously approved. Vice President Sanai addressed the matter and noted that the First Niagara Corporation recently submitted a payment for the right to name the seating berm at the

north end of the football venue. The total gift for this right is \$125,000, which meets the requirements for such naming opportunities. Member Fallon asked what might happen if the University were to eventually build bleachers on the berm, which is an option the original site plan holds open. After discussion (Fallon, Sanai, Jones) it was agreed to amend the resolution to include the language "subject to the conditions associated with the build out of the stadium." With that amendment, the resolution passed unanimously.

Chairman Castellana introduced a new item, not on the agenda. SEFCU has pledged \$100,000 to name a luxury suite at the football stadium. In addition, SEFCU will also purchase exclusive occupancy rights to the suite for five years, at the end of which the agreement must be renewed. Insofar as this item was not on the published agenda, Chairman Castellana asked for a motion to waive the notice requirement. A motion was made (Stein, Caldwell) and approved unanimously. A motion was then made (Murphy, Caldwell) to adopt a resolution to approve the naming of a SEFCU luxury suite for \$100,000. At this point Chairman Castellana recused himself from the vote and left the room. Vice Chairman Alric conducted the vote, and the motion was unanimously approved with the Chairman abstaining.

Chairman Castellana returned and asked if there was any additional business to consider. Member Alric reminded the Council of the ACT conference to be held in Saratoga October 18 - 20, and suggested that Council members could attend some of the conference activities without conflicting with Homecoming Weekend activities on campus.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Beditz  
University Liaison to the Council