

2009-2010 University Senate Executive Committee
January 25, 2010
R. Michael Range, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Heidi Andrade, Richard Collier, John Delano, Susanna Fessler, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Eric Lifshin, John Monfasani, Gwen Moore, Susan Phillips, Michael Range, Carlos Rodriguez, Joan Savitt, Daniel Smith, Daniel White

Guests: Tamra Minor

The meeting convened at 3:31 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 30 were approved with noted changes and additions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (GEORGE PHILIP)

Provost Phillips provided a report from President Philip in his absence. The President sent a "welcome back" to members of the Executive Committee.

The Provost was asked to highlight three issues on behalf of President Philip:

1. The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act--A special session will be arranged for SEC member next week to obtain information on the legislation. The legislation proposed by Governor Patterson would have significant impact for SUNY in terms of land use and tuition. The legislation would provide tuition flexibility, allowing SUNY to set predictable tuition increases and differential tuition. This would not harm students who receive TAP. It does not guarantee that the state would not reduce state allocations if tuition were raised.
2. The Governor's budget and additional to cut to SUNY of \$31 million which could mean an additional \$9 million cut for UAlbany. It is expected that the Chancellor will advocate for both restoration of money and the new legislation.
3. UAlbany Day will be held on Monday, February 8th. This will be a daylong event of advocating and lobbying, and for students to meet with state legislators.

In a response to an inquiry regarding legislative support for the Governor's proposal, Provost Phillips indicated that while there is hope the State Senate will support the move, there is concern that there is little support in the [Sstate](#) [Aassembly](#) in part due to labor concerns.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT (R. MICHAEL RANGE)

Welcome back to a new semester and belated best wishes for a great new year!

Graduate Student Support (GSS) Final Report. The Final Report has been submitted by the GSS Panel to Provost Phillips, who has shared it with the Chairs of CAA, COR, GAC, and UPPC, as well as with the senate chair. The four councils will review the report and communicate their comments to the provost and to the senate chair. The final report and council comments will be discussed at the next meeting of the SEC.

Amendments to the SUNY Gen Ed Requirements. The Chair forwarded the resolution approved by the SEC on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009, to Ken O'Brien, President of the SUNY Faculty Senate. The expanded executive committee of the UFS met in early January, discussed the input received from many campuses, and decided to endorse the modified (2nd) version of the amendment as proposed by SUNY Interim Provost Lavalley. Albany UFS Senator W. Lanford will be able to provide details about that discussion. The amendment has been approved by the SUNY BoT at their 1/19/2010 meeting. The UFS has distributed a detailed FAQ document, and Interim Provost Lavalley has also shared comments about the amended Gen Ed requirements. These documents and any further steps to be taken by UAlbany will be discussed at today's meeting.

Review and Evaluation of Administrators Discussions with other campus governance leaders at the UFS Plenary meeting at SUNY IT in Utica, and communications with colleagues at Binghamton and Stony Brook led the chair to consider whether UAlbany should join other SUNY campuses in setting up procedures to regularly review and evaluate administrators. The relevant chapter of the Governance Handbook of the SUNY Faculty Senate and a resolution by the UFS concerning such evaluations has been sent to SEC members together with the agenda. Discussion of this matter is on today's agenda.

Chair Range extended congratulations to Senate Secretary Collier on his recent promotion.

Chair Range discussed the conflict in timing with the next Senate meeting and the UAlbany Advocacy Day rally. He did not see a problem in being able to bring the meeting to a close before 5:00 and discussed the importance of showing support and attending the rally. The Chair informed SEC members their will be a detailed briefing related to the new legislation introduced by Governor Patterson. A session has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 1 at 4:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for everyone to learn more and ask [any](#) questions they may have.

OTHER REPORTS

PROVOST'S REPORT (SUSAN PHILLIPS)

Provost Phillips reported the SUNY wide strategic plan is moving forward and there are two remaining meetings to take place as part of the statewide conversations. There are specific themes which are emerging and she expects the plans after the last two meetings. She encouraged everyone to add their comments on the SUNY web site. UAlbany's strategic planning committee has formed five teams. Six town hall meetings will be held beginning the week of February 1.

SUNY SENATORS' REPORT (WILLIAM LANFORD; DANIEL WHITE)

The University Faculty Senate will meet later this week.

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT (MELANIE BREGANZA)

No Report

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT (DUSTIN LANTERMAN)

No Report

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

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

Chair Andrade reported that the Council is working on the final draft of the GSS review and the GenEd assessment. She has asked Kristina Bendikas to compile a list of recommendations made over the past few years and will be following up on those.

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

Chair Fessler reported that work continues on the Principles of a Just Community and she has met with Chris Bouchard on the matter. She expects to present a draft of the bill in the near future. There have been some issues with the Community Rights and Responsibilities document and Ms. Bouchard will consult with members of CAFFECOR. They will try to have something in place by next semester.

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

Chair Monfasani discussed progress on the misconduct policy. The work of the subcommittee has been sent to Provost Phillips, Vice President for Research, James Dias, and University Counsel, John Reilly. The Committee was encouraged by its meeting with John Reilly on the subject. An area of concern involves confidentiality and whether or not a complainant is bound to confidentiality after a hearing.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

No report.

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

Chair Rodriguez reported that the Council will be meeting once a week due to the volume of cases being reviewed. They are looking at ways to reduce the amount of paper involved in the process.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) -- Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC is waiting for a response to its requests for the GSS assessments.

GOV (Governance Council) -- Eric Lifshin, Chair

Chair Lifshin is in the process of formalizing the spring agenda and a meeting schedule. At the request of Chair Fessler, he will look into the status of the legislation concerning the campus policy on freedom of expression, Bill No. 0304-25.

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

LISC will hold its first meeting on February 1.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) -- Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC will hold its first meeting on January 27. Chair Savitt reported that the Council will work on revisions to Honors College bill. The Council will also be working on minor and Gen Ed issues and will ask the Senate how to respond.

ULC (University Live Council) -- Dan Smith, Chair

Chair Smith is obtaining schedules from members. The Council will continue work on the smoking bill and work with Athletics on the NCAA report. The Council is communicating with CAFFECOR regarding Community Rights and Responsibilities and judicial structure.

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

Chair Delano reported that all members have submitted their schedules and seven meetings have been scheduled for the spring semester.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft of Vision for and Definition of Diversity:

The Director of the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, Tamra Minor, was present for the discussion. She began by discussing the development of the campus vision of diversity which was aided by hiring the management firm, Plummer and Associates. During the 2008 spring semester, qualitative inquiries were conducted across campus to obtain ideas for diversity at UAlbany. The data was collected, coded and analyzed

during the summer of 2009. The ideas that emerged from the analysis were used to design the draft of the vision and definition. Ms. Minor provided SEC members with a revision of the draft that included a mission statement which she said will be driven by the vision statement. Once the vision statement is realized, a more suitable draft of the mission statement can be written. Media and Marketing will assist in the editing, and input will be obtained from University Legal Counsel.

SEC members offered comments on the definition of diversity, as well as on the vision and mission statements. Ms. Minor explained that terms listed in the definitions came from a series of focus group discussions across campus. Those discussions indicated a need to broaden the definition of diversity. Ms. Minor stated that the climate assessment that was conducted on the state of diversity supports what is in the draft. These assessments will be done on a regular basis and we will continue to modify and assess diversity on campus. A suggestion was made to delete the Definition of Diversity heading since that section is more indicative of a mission.

SEC members inquired as to how the document will be applied and how it becomes operational for the institution. Ms. Minor said it will appear in the college catalogue and wherever diversity needs to be defined. Other questions about how to ensure it would reflect what UAlbany stands for and whether the document would go through governance for final wording were not definitively addressed but Ms. Minor stated her respect for the opinions expressed and encouraged continued feedback. [Chair Range clarified that any statements that are intended to reflect a consensus view of the university community should be discussed and approved by the University Senate before they are reproduced in official university publications.](#)

SUNY Amendment to Gen Ed Requirements:

Chair Range informed SEC members that this first came to his attention last December. He turned the discussion over to SUNY Senator William Lanford for his summary of the SUNY [Senate Executive Committee](#) discussion. Senator Lanford reported that the changes would allow campuses more flexibility than they previously had. The UAlbany campus preferred not to have privileged rubrics included and the new requirements were viewed as an improvement. [The SUNY Board of Trustees approved the changes to the Gen Ed requirements at their January 19, 2010 meeting.](#)

Chair Range referred to the FAQs for the Revised General Education Program which provides answers to many questions about the new requirements. [He emphasized that ~~but it does not force~~ UAlbany is not required to change anything, as the UAlbany requirements exceed the SUNY minimum.](#) [Interim SUNY Provost Dr. Lavallee encourages that this would be a good time to re-examine existing requirements.](#) Senator Lanford believes there will be a re-evaluation of the SUNY wide Gen Ed. Part of the motivation for the change is to [improve performance facilitate the transfer process](#) of students moving from on campus to another.

Senate Secretary Collier stated there are serious problems with how the [current UAlbany Gen Ed](#) requirements were implemented. Responses from teaching faculty participating in the strategic planning see it as a major problem in attracting good freshman and transfers. He further stated that now is the time for the senate to create a committee for change. SEC members discussed the need to form a task force that could look at the Gen Ed issues.

[A motion was made and seconded that a Gen Ed Task Force be established.](#) A discussion ensued concerning the charges and composition of [such](#) a task force. Among the charges were identifying what courses transfer students will be required to take and to define our local requirements for incoming freshmen. A task force would also need to look at resource allocations and identifying a clear academic vision.

UPPC Chair John Delano stressed the importance of [the](#) credibility and real authority [of the task force in order](#) to accomplish [its](#) goals. ~~of the task force.~~ He also stressed that, in order to have an effective task force, hard deadlines will need to be established and a core group [would need to be](#) formed that would frame goals or a

mission statement. He further stated the need for participation of the chief academic officer in order to provide the credibility that will be required of the task force. SEC members agreed that, ideally, the task force should be composed mostly of teaching faculty, with the representation of CAS Dean Wulfert or a designee from the dean's office. Additional representation should come from CAA, UAC and UPPC.

ULC Chair Dan Smith made a motion to close the debate ~~and to form a task force.~~ The motion was seconded and approved with the required 2/3 majority. Chair Range then called for a vote on the main motion to form a task force. The motion was approved with one abstension (GAIL: can you confirm this??) The Governance Council will take the lead on developing recommendations regarding the task force, ~~this~~ and SEC members were instructed to submit their suggestions for the formations of the task force to GOV Chair Eric Lifshin by the end of the week. Chair Lifshin will discuss with GOV at its first meeting. In response to an inquiry on how to inform the full senate, Senator Lanford suggested that a quick review be provided that the policy has changed. It was further suggested the senate ~~they~~ be informed about the creation of the task force. Chair Range added that a mechanism should be available for the full senate to provide input.

Evaluation of Administrators:

Discussion of this topic was postponed until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder