

**UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
2010-11 CHAIR: JAMES FOSSETT**

**MAY 6, 2011  
MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: J. Fossett, E. Lifshin, S. Birge, R. Johnson, S. Phillips, C. Lenart, K. Lahiri, J. Wagner, D. Bangert-Drowns, J. Welch

GUESTS: None

MINUTES: N/A

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

No report was given

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report was given

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UPDATE ON NY SUNY 2020**

Provost Phillips provided an update on the status of the NY SUNY 2020 plan, with a synopsis of what it means for UA and what happens next. She provided research and public communications handouts, along with an abstract of the UAlbany Impact plan, which is our campus component of the overall 2020 plan. At a recent business forum, President Philip presented a sketch of how we would leverage a tuition increase for campus growth. It generated enormous press and support from the business community. The Governor and Chancellor subsequently announced a \$140m plan in a challenge grant format to the four University Centers. \$45m would be provided by the Governor with the balance coming from SUNY capital monies. The University Centers were directed to present plans for how this money might be used to leverage the capacity of the universities to become economic engines for their local regions, with applications due by June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The challenge offers the opportunity to jump start economic impact, and juxtaposes tuition with economic development. This would enable us to leverage the capacity to raise tuition allowing us to take on additional students in order to grow our faculty and our facilities.

The UAlbany Impact Plan best case scenario would double our faculty, allowing us to fill the holes we have now and to address the needs of our additional student population. Strategic initiatives made possible by this growth would generate additional jobs in the community; new hires would also generate additional jobs through their research grants, and the new facilities required to house the increased faculty and staff would generate construction jobs in the community.

The major goal of the UAlbany Impact plan is to strengthen the academic and student experience. Depending on how the funding works out, we could be in a position to dramatically increase the size of the student body. Dr. Lahiri asked about our ability to draw in so many new students. Dr. Phillips responded that we have 10 applicants for every space we have now, so there is some room. Also, the University would pursue out of state and international students, as well as community college graduates. This would change the complexion of our student composition, and would help us to position ourselves for the anticipated demographic shift over the next decade. Ultimately, the goal of

the faculty and student increases would be to move the faculty/student ratio down to 19:1 over the next ten years.

The targeted capital investment piece, much of which is critical maintenance, addresses many needed projects that have been on the shelf for years. Provost Phillips highlighted two of the potential projects: The Alumni Quad / Midtown Revitalization project would renovate the facility, but would also create retail, business and neighborhood revitalization. Also, a prospective Biomedical and Information Research plaza on the Harriman Campus would create a public/private partnership on state land, which would be very desirable.

Dr. Fossett commented that he saw the state appropriation as the main risk to the program. There is maintenance of effort involved in this, and as the legislature has a history of raiding these trusts, he did not see any way to protect the money. Dr. Phillips responded that she expected that the challenge grant would have some controls over it, and that we would have to wait and see what happens next. Anticipated timeline: the UAlbany Impact proposal would be submitted within the next two weeks. Provost Phillips asked the council to review the materials and comment. A website was promised to be up by next week to send e-mails to our delegation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy Stern