

UNIVERSITY SENATE

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

December 3, 1990  
Meeting of

W. P. P. P.	JOHN LEVATO	
Michael F. F. F.	CARLSON LARR	
Richard F. F. F.	Carson Can	
Robert J. MOONEY	Peter Blain	
Keith A. Galt	Frank Lee	
Bruce Marsh	Gerardine Walker	
USA Rust	John R. Jenkins	
Cindy Goldberg	John E. J.	
Gillian R. R.	Scott R. Lyman	
Andrew S. Weinberg	Dance S. Koppel	
Michael J. J.	M. KAZUMI AUST	
Denny Mendelsohn		
Malcolm Sherman		
Bill Hammond		
John D. D.		
John J. J.		
Robert Gibson		
Michael S. S.		
W. W. W.		
W. W. W.		
John J. J.		
Frank T. T.		
Ronald W. Wallace		
Alvin D. D.		
Ed Kelly		
R. R. R.		
TIM LANCE		
J. S. UPPAL		
D. REEB		
Ed Town		
Sung Bok Kim		
Thomas G. G.		
Paul G. G.		
Alberto J. L. MARIANO		
Jeff L. L. (for Steve R. R.)		
Steve Messner		

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
Monday, December 3, 1990  
3:30 p.m. — Campus Center Assembly Hall

Administration 259  
Albany, New York  
12222

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes: University Senate, November 5, 1990
2. President's Report
3. SUNY-wide Senate Report
4. Chair's Report
5. Council Reports
  - a. Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics – Paul Leonard
  - b. Council on Educational Policy – Bruce Marsh
  - c. Graduate Academic Council – Graeme Newman
  - d. Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing – Peter Bloniarz *Bloniarz*
  - e. Council on Promotion and Continuing Appointment – Jogindar Uppal
  - f. Council on Research – Frank Hauser
  - g. Student Affairs Council – Michael Sattinger
  - h. Undergraduate Academic Council – John Levato
  - i. University Community Council – ~~Shirley Jones~~ *Michael Kree*
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - a. Senate Bill No. 9091-01: Commencement
8. Adjournment

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
December 3, 1990

Administration 259  
Albany, New York  
12222

PRESENT: V. Aceto, M. Ali, L. Austin, P. Bloniarz, J. Boenheim, R. Bosco, C. Carr, G. DeSole, E. Fagan, M. Frinta, R. Gibson, C. Goldberg, J. Gullahorn, W. Hammond, F. Hauser, J. Jenkins, J. Kiepper, S. Kim, M. Knee, T. Lance, W. Lanford, J. Levato, J. Luks, S. Lyman, Al Macario, B. Marsh, H. Mendelsohn, S. Messner, G. Newman, K. Ratcliff, D. Reeb, E. Reilly, J. Risberg, Y. Reynolds, M. Sattinger, M. Sherman, H. Swygert, E. Turner, J. Uppal, P. Wallace, G. Walker, A. Weinberg

GUESTS: L. Fox, L. Hidercin, F. Lees, S. Mahan, K. Mooney, P. Siamond

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lanford at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that L. Austin attended the November 5, 1990, Senate meeting. The minutes were then approved as corrected.

2. President's Report

The President reported on several searches that have been completed or are in progress:

- a. Dr. Richard Hughs has accepted the position as Dean for the School of Business and will be joining the University in January.
- b. The Search Committee for the Vice President for Academic Affairs has been established and will hold its organizational meeting next week. Dr. Frank Thompson is Chair of this Search Committee.
- c. Dean Webb has announced his resignation as Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Search Committee for his successor has been established. Vice President Steven DeLong will Chair.
- d. Vice President Hartigan is overseeing the reopened search for an Internal Auditor.
- e. Vice President Gullahorn will be contacting the Deans to begin a limited number of faculty searches.

A proposed program of reduced University activities for the period December 21, 1990-January 6, 1991 has been circulated to the University community, the President reported. If everyone cooperates with the reduction of activities, the University will realize a significant savings. President Swygert reported he had spoken to the presidents of the collective bargaining units on campus about the proposal and they are supportive.

The President's Advisory Committee on Campus Priorities has submitted the first part of a two part report, President Swygert said. He will share this report with the Senate Executive Committee. The report will be circulated throughout the University community. President Swygert commented on the outstanding job done by the Co-Chairs, Shirley Brown and Joe Jenkins.

President Swygert stated that the Governor's latest proposed budget reduction is for increased revenues or a SUNY expenditure reduction of \$61 million. He predicted that we will see a mix of three major factors: 1) a general freeze on expenditure items that will continue through the next semester; 2) a recommendation made to the Board of Trustees for an increase in tuition; and 3) an attempt to effect certain other economies. The State Legislature needs to define furlough.

The University at Albany is trying to effect a cut in economies already by proposing the two-week energy savings, said the President. We are not risk free; this is a very serious time. We do not want to see our initiatives being held against us. There is no fat in the budget at the University at Albany, he said. This challenge gives us an opportunity to focus on the principles that are important to us: the enhancement of undergraduate programs, recruitment and the graduate initiatives. The University is positioned not only to survive but also thrive.

Senator Luks asked if the University has plans to grant waivers or loans to students because of a possible tuition increase and reduction in TAP. President Swygert stated that a grace period would be instituted. It should be noted that the Governor has not said whether he would accept a tuition increase. The tuition increase is not the entire answer to the budget problem, said President Swygert. He added that the faculty and students are our resource and strength.

Senator Boenheim asked what percentage of the \$61 million would be allocated to the University. President Swygert stated that he did not know but would prefer an amount to manage. Then we would be able to retain our independence and could control our destiny. The President stated that faculty retrenchment is not an option and the core academic program has to be protected.

3. SUNY-wide Senate Report

Senators Aceto and Wallace had nothing to report.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Lanford reported that Emily Bliss and Norbert Zahm have been added as members to the University Community Council.

5. Council Reports

a. Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics: Senator Leonard had nothing to report.

b. Council on Educational Policy: Senator Marsh stated that the committees are at work. Legislation on the academic calendar will be introduced next semester. The Commencement legislation will be discussed under New Business, he said.

c. Graduate Academic Council: Senator Newman stated he had nothing to add to the written report available at the information table.

d. Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing: Senator Bloniarz stated that the advisory committees are meeting. No vote has been taken on the Library Strategic Plan, but there was a general consensus that the plan was a good one. Senator Newman asked about the new library facility. Senator Bloniarz and President Swygert stated that there has been no new information on this.

e. Council on Promotion and Continuing Appointment: Senator Uppal stated the Council has been able to clear up the backlog from last summer and will proceed with the cases for this year.

f. Council on Research: Senator Hauser had nothing to report.

g. Student Affairs Council: Senator Sattinger had nothing to report.

h. Undergraduate Academic Council: Senator Levato stated that the committees are meeting. UAC will meet on December 17. A final report from the General Education Task Force will be available in February, he said.

i. University Community Council: Senator Knee, reporting for Senator Jones, had nothing to report.

The Council reports were approved.

6. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

7. New Business

a. Senate bill No. 9091-01: Commencement. Chair Lanford reminded the Senators that this bill comes to the Senate floor moved and seconded by the Executive Committee.

Senator Marsh stated that this bill will give the responsibility of administration of Commencement to the President, who will report to the Senate. It will also return Commencement to a centralized ceremony.

Senator Hammond offered the friendly amendment: "This bill shall expire following Commencement in the Spring of 1993, and, absent subsequent action by the University Senate, the prior Senate bill on Commencement, passed in the Fall of 1989, shall be reinstated." Senator Marsh accepted the friendly amendment.

Senator Aceto expressed his concern of this bill. He moved IV. to read "That the general plan be submitted as a bill to the University Senate at the first or second meeting of the academic year." The motion was seconded.

The Senators expressed the following concerns: this amendment would continue past practice; graduation procedures; ceremonies held in past years; and ceremonies are for everyone, not just the students. Senator Sherman called the

question on the amendment. Chair Lanford read the amendment and took a voice vote. Senator Levato called for a show of hands. The Aceto amendment was defeated by the vote of 13 in favor and 24 against the amendment.

Discussion on the main motion with the friendly amendment centered on the problems with the students at past Commencements. Ms. Fox, President of the Senior Class, stated that if the Commencement ceremony was special, the students would not cause problems. Ms. Mahan reported on her discussions with Patrick Lynch, manager of the Knickerbocker Arena. The management of the Knickerbocker Arena has considerable experience in handling Commencements. Also, the Arena would be able to accommodate all spectators, said Ms. Mahan. President Swygert stated that the University will gain a considerable savings by using the Arena as compared to conducting six separate Commencement ceremonies on campus.

Senate Bill 9091-01 passed with one abstention.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria DeSole  
Secretary

## GRADUATE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE SENATE 12/3/90

1. The committee on Curriculum and Instruction recommended to the Council a number of specific instructors for approval in teaching graduate courses. These were approved by the Council. These cases referred largely to the Teacher Center and Teaching Supervision. The committee also recommended approval of a request from the philosophy department to require M.A. students to demonstrate a competence in logic, to be achieved through course work and/or examination. The Council approved this request.

2. The Committee on Admissions and academic standing presented a number of individual student cases requesting waivers of various kinds. These were seen as non-controversial cases and were unanimously approved by the council.

3. The Program Review Committees (Committee on review of Graduate Programs and Special Committee on SED reviews) have been constituted and will meet shortly. However, their work will be hampered this year because of the budget freeze. Travel expenditures for site visitors have been suspended indefinitely.

**Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing (LISC)**  
**Report to the University Senate**  
**December 3, 1990**

The Council has held meetings on November 5 and November 19, 1990.

**Advisory Committees**

The Office of Information Systems and Technology has appointed members to two of the advisory committees that correspond to the standing committees of the Council. Appointees still need to be made to the Library Collection Development Advisory Committee.

**University Libraries Strategic Plan**

Discussion of the University Libraries Strategic Plan for 1990-1995 was the major agenda item at our last two meetings. The Plan lays out the directions, goals, and objectives for the University Libraries during this period. A draft of this Plan was given to LISC last year for comment, and was now being re-examined in its final form. In addition, last year's draft was missing a chapter dealing with the Library Integrated Information System, and we were given a draft of this chapter for review prior to its inclusion in the Plan.

The Plan is consistent and complete, and presents a strong vision for the development of the Libraries in the 1990's. Important facets of this Plan are a continued emphasis on collection development and user services, use of new technologies, and planned construction of a new library facility. Although no formal vote was asked for or taken on the Plan, feedback from members was in general quite positive. The Plan was returned to Meredith Butler, Directory of Libraries and Dean of the Library Faculty, with our comments and with our appreciation for the thorough job of the Strategic Planning committee in preparing the document.

Questions from Council members pertained to the following concerns:

- Will campus information such as departmental calendars, office hours for facilities, student and staff directory information, and registration information be available through the Library's system, and what are the logistical and administrative costs of providing this information?

This information will be provided, but the mechanism for providing this information and exactly what information will be available is yet to be determined. In addition, Computing Services is investigating systems that would provide such information through their computing facilities.

- What is the cost of providing such information electronically versus providing it through more traditional mechanisms?

A cost/benefit analysis has not yet been performed on this service.

- What are the future plans for the Interactive Media Center?

Additional development of the IMC is undergoing review this year and the Instructional Technology Advisory Committee will be an important factor in this planning process.

- When will the upgrade of the current Library Information System begin?

It is unknown when resources will be made available for beginning this upgrade.

We plan to have one additional meeting of LISC during the fall semester after the Advisory Committees have met.

Peter Bloniarz  
Chair



**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

INTRODUCED BY: Council on Educational Policy

DATE: November 8, 1990

**IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:**

- I. That the format of Commencement exercises be developed by the President or his/her designee each year in consultation with the faculty and academic administrators of the colleges, the Council on Educational Policy, and the senior class;
- II. That the plan reflect consideration of the University's academic mission, external relations goals, and fiscal situation;
- III. That the plan represent the involvement of all members of the University community and define the expectations for all participants in a Commencement ceremony;
- IV. That the plan be reported to the University Senate as an information item at the first or second meeting of the academic year;
- V. That this bill be forwarded to the President for approval.

**RATIONALE**

Last year, at the request of the President, the University Senate passed a bill (8990-01) that revised the format of Commencement at the University at Albany. This was the first time the Senate had passed Legislation related to Commencement. In implementing that plan, however, the campus did encounter difficulties, including a higher-than-anticipated commitment of fiscal and human resources and, in some quarters, a sense of loss of a University-wide celebration of academic achievement. In order that the University may address these and other issues, modification to last year's bill is necessary.

This bill proposes that, rather than specify a format for Commencement, which limits the flexibility of the University both fiscally and programmatically, the Senate identify a process of consultation that the University administration may follow each year in developing a plan.

**DRAFT**

**1991 COMMENCEMENT PROPOSAL**

Proposed for May 26, 1991, is a return to the tradition of a single University Commencement Ceremony to be held at the Knickerbocker Arena. The ceremony would include the conferral of all degrees, including honorary degrees, as well as brief addresses by a faculty member and graduating student and a Commencement Address. The ceremony would be followed by College/School events on the two campuses.

A tentative schedule for Commencement weekend follows:

**Saturday, May 25**

1:30 p.m.

Honors Convocation

9:00 p.m.

Torch Night ceremony on University Field

**Sunday, May 26**

10:00 a.m.

**Commencement Ceremony Knickerbocker Arena**

Draft program:

Processional

Invocation

President's Welcome

Faculty Welcome

Student Welcome

Presentation of Collins Fellows

Presentation of Honorary Degrees

Commencement Address

Introduction of Honors Graduates

Conferral of Degrees:

    Doctorates (including presentation of diplomas)

    Master's

    Bachelor's

Alma Mater

Recessional (Platform Party only)

noon

Travel time to campuses

1 p.m.

School/College celebrations

**Social and Behavioral Science** (University Field)

**Humanities and Fine Arts** (Library Garden)

**Science and Math** (Azalea Garden)

**Rockefeller** (Downtown -- Page Hall or Page Hall Steps)

**Business** (Grand Entrance to Podium)

**Education** (Campus Center Garden)

## **RATIONALE FOR SINGLE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT**

### **History of Commencement at the University at Albany**

Before 1988, the University at Albany conducted a single Commencement exercise each year, at which all degrees -- bachelor's, master's, and doctoral -- were conferred by the President of the University. In recent years, the size of the ceremony and, especially, the need to conduct it at an outdoor location had led the University to seek ways to modify Commencement. In 1988 and 1989, therefore, the University divided Commencement into two ceremonies, one for undergraduates and one for graduate students. The latter ceremony included the individual introduction of approximately 300 master's degree recipients as well as about 75 doctoral candidates. The undergraduate ceremony remained virtually unchanged in size and format. In 1989, however, weather conditions affected the undergraduate proceedings quite negatively, including contributing to unacceptable behavior by some graduates.

As a result, in 1990, the University further decentralized Commencement to School/College-based baccalaureate ceremonies of 250-900 students that allowed weather protection and permitted the individual introduction of all degree recipients. Degrees were conferred by the vice presidents. With the exception of one ceremony, the 1990 format created acceptable ceremonies. Yet in the minds of some, it represented some loss of tradition and the sense of a University community.

### **A Return to University Tradition**

With the opening of the Knickerbocker Arena in downtown Albany, the University is now able to consider a return to a single University ceremony, but one that will not be affected by weather conditions; and to follow that ceremony with School/College-based events that will permit recognition of students.

A single Commencement ceremony reflects the status and mission the University at Albany as an institution that confers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Such a ceremony demonstrates in scale the extent to which the campus fulfills that mission. It further provides all students with exposure to this multifaceted mission of the University at Albany as a center for both undergraduate and graduate education. Finally, it reminds families and other guests that an undergraduate degree at a University represents a special educational experience at a graduate and research center.

The return to a single ceremony also addresses the concern expressed last year and again this year by the senior class that they graduate as a class. Such a sense of identity with one's graduating class is a crucial part of the decision of an alumna/us to remain active in support of the institution. Finally, the Knickerbocker Arena provides to graduates and their families an attractive and accessible facility that affords a virtually unlimited number of guests for each graduate.

Commencement is a time of celebration for students, their families and the faculty. In an effort to promote decorum and dignity, the University professional staff has always participated with the senior class in ensuring that alcohol and other inappropriate actions are discouraged. That effort will continue and be enhanced in this return to the unified Commencement ceremony.

**Improved University/Community Relations**

A University at Albany Commencement in downtown Albany can become an important symbol of the University's presence in this community. The image of a University procession, for example, along State Street can suggest the intellectual presence of a University, in a way that complements the economic impact so often discussed.

On the latter point, however, it should be noted that a University Commencement will bring 15,000 people into downtown Albany on a Sunday morning. By working with the City of Albany and downtown businesses, the University will be able to contribute to a very special day of activity in the downtown Albany area. In light of the actively negative publicity of recent weeks, such a softening of the barrier between town and gown can help restore relations.

**School/College Events**

The proposal also contemplates a return to the Schools and Colleges of control over the events that they will conduct. The committees established at the Colleges can determine the nature of the event they would like to conduct for their graduates. Sites on campus will be identified for each college and modest supplement in private funds will be made to the annual allocation to the Colleges for Commencement.

Proposed Amendment to  
University Senate Bill 9091-01 on Commencement

This bill shall expire following Commencement in the Spring of 1993, and, absent subsequent action by the University Senate, the prior Senate bill on Commencement, passed in the Fall of 1989, shall be re-instated.