

2011-2012 University Senate

**Monday, September 26, 2011
2:45 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall**

Susanna Fessler, Chair

Minutes

Present: David Andersen, Hassaram Bakhru, Bryant Barksdale, Steve Beditz, Pedro Caban, James Castracane, Bruce Diffenbach, Diana Dumesnil, Carmen Duncan, Susanna Fessler, Edward Fitzgerald, Cynthia Fox, Jennifer Greiman, Glyne Griffith, Timothy Groves, Yenisel Gulatee, Jean Guyon, Janell Hobson, Michael Jaromin, Janine Jurkowski, Donald Keenan, Daniel Keyser, Alice Krause, Vincent LaBella, Kajal Lahiri, William Lanford, Danielle Leonard, Eric Lifshin, Andi Lyons, JoAnne Malatesta, Adrian Masters, Candace Merbler, Carla Meskill, Bruce Miroff, John Murphy, Toni Naccarato, Nancy Newman, Heidi Nicholls, Patrick Nold, Gregory Nowell, Susan Phillips, Arthur Rushforth, Bruce Saddler, John Schmidt, Charles Scholes, Leonard Slade, Jr., Joette Stefl-Mabry, Tim Stephen, Christine Wagner, Daniel White, Kevin Williams, Alissa Worden

Guests: Jon, Bartow, Elana Gordis, Christine Haile, Bill Hedberg, Aran Mull, Lisa Trubitt, Kathie Winchester, Elga Wulfert

The meeting convened at 2:51 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2011

Senator White provided a clarification on comments he made concerning the section on Changes in the Council Roster. Senate members voted to approve the minutes with those changes.

PROVOST'S REPORT -- SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips welcomed everyone back. She delivered good wishes for the semester on behalf of President Philip.

Update on Summer Activities:

- The NYSUNY202 legislation was passed in June which will allow the four university centers to present proposals and compete for a \$35 million in capital. In May, our proposal was based on an 8.5% tuition increase and increasing the faculty by 500. The tuition that was approved is much lower and the proposal has been downsized. On October 1, UAlbany will present its proposal to the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Governor will need to sign the bill into law. None of the university center plans have been approved at this point.

If approved, undergraduate tuition would increase about \$300 per year and would include a \$75 student access fee. Other features of the plan include increasing enrollment to 1,350 students over 5 years, mostly undergraduates; a new TAP credit program; strengthening of merit based scholarship programs; 740 new

jobs of which 187 would be fulltime faculty; increases in research and support staff; an additional \$7 million for graduate student support over a ten year period; \$150 million for a new biomedical building.

- The campus completed three summer sessions from June through August.
- The class of 2015 was welcomed during orientation in July.

New construction is underway for the new student housing project on Liberty Terrace and is scheduled to open in summer 2012. Construction is underway for the new School of Business building. Renovations continue on campus including a full renovation of Mohawk Tower, the first full renovation of one of the towers. Plans have begun to relocate the data center and the extension to the Campus Center is in the design phase. Additional information is available on the Finance and Business website.

Enrollment Management:

The Provost thanked everyone who participated in opening events to kick off the new semester. There were 2,425 new freshmen admitted from a pool of 21,000 applicants. The entering class includes 159 out of state students, a 36% increase over last year; 871 students of color, an 11.9% increase over last year and 94 international students which is a 29% increase over last year. The Honors College enrolled 126 students compared to 119 last year.

All events went forward as planned in spite of an earthquake and hurricane in the area. UAlbany was well prepared for Hurricane Irene and did not lose any power or functionality. The campus has launched a humanitarian relief effort to support those affected by the hurricane and has raised over \$8,500.

Undergraduate Education:

- The Honors College is experiencing a high retention rate. The college has the largest group of students (415) in the College that it has had during its five years.
- There are nine new active Living-Learning Communities which enroll about 300 incoming freshmen. The communities include the World of Business, the World of Women's Leadership, the World of Military Service, the World of Laws and Justice, the World of Sustainability, the World of Healthy Living, the World of Pre-Health and the World of Career Exploration.
- The University is offering 25 discipline-based freshmen seminars which offer small classes for new students.

Across Campus:

- The campus commemorated 9/11 with an event in the Performing Arts Center. The event highlighted how UAlbany has been transformed as a result of 9/11. A ceremony was held at Chapel House and Five Quad Ambulance completed a ceremonial lap around the campus perimeter. Provost Phillips thanked Student Success for their efforts in organizing events.
- The Provost noted that UAlbany celebrated Constitution Day on September 15. Pocket versions of the Constitution were distributed and voter registration was conducted in front of the Campus Center.

College of Arts and Sciences:

- Photographic portraits done by Professor Phyllis Galembo in the Art Department are part of an exhibit at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibit is titled “Heroic Africans: Legendary Leaders, Iconic Sculptures.”
- Associate Professor Susan Gauss in the History Department has been selected as the 2011-2012 Santander Visiting Scholar to Harvard University. Professor Gauss will research her next project titled “Mexican Beer: A History of Industry and Nation”.
- Professors Phillip Goyal and Kevin Knuth in Physics received a \$350,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation for their project “Quantifying Relations as a Foundation for Physics”.
- Professor Christine Wagner in Psychology received a three year NSG grant of \$495,000. She also received the 2011 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Professor Emeritus Herman Prins Salomon was knighted as Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau by Her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands.

School of Business:

- Professor Gary Yukl received the Eminent Leadership Scholar Award for 2011.

College of Computing and Information:

- Professors S.S. Ravi and Harry B. Hunt III received a grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and will work on “Rigorous Approaches for Validation and Verification of Socio-Technical Networks”.

School of Criminal Justice:

- Professor David McDowall won the American Society of Criminology Teaching Award. The award is a lifetime-achievement which recognizes excellence in teaching over an academic career.

School of Education:

- Associate Professor Gilbert Valverde has been elected president of the Comparative and International Education Society for 2013-2013. Professor Valverde is Chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies.

School of Public Health:

- Assistant Professor Michael Bloom led a research team that has identified a link between exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) and a reduction in the peak estrogen concentrations among women undergoing in-vitro fertilization (IVF).

Rockefeller College:

- The Center for Women in Government and Civil Society held its inaugural session of NEW Leadership New York in June for a six day intensive leadership development program.

School of Social Welfare:

- The Center for Human Service Research received a \$497,095 grant from the US Department of Justice to evaluate a parent engagement intervention incorporated in an established mentoring program.

Research:

- A US Government web site, Recovery.gov has reported that UAlbany has 34 awards totaling \$16,867,374 received under the Recovery Act.
- UAlbany will host a one-day workshop with the National Science Foundation on Wednesday, October 19. US Congressman Paul Tonko will be here for the event.

The Citizens Laureate Awards Dinner will be held on November 16.

Beyond UAlbany Campus:

A shared services initiative has been launched across a few of the SUNY campuses but additional information will be needed before it can be implemented. All services will be outside of academic programs.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT - SUSANNA FESSLER, CHAIR

The Chair would like to welcome everyone back to campus. All chairs for councils and standing committees have been elected, and we are working with both graduate students and undergraduate students to fill student senate seats as quickly as possible. Meetings this year will be on Mondays 2:45-4:15 to better accommodate teaching schedules and late afternoon family commitments of many senators. An orientation for new council chairs was held on Sept. 7th, and the first meeting of the SEC was held on September 12. Council chairs are asked to schedule regular meeting times for their councils and inform the Secretary of those meeting times as soon as possible. In addition, they are asked to form council sub-committees and have those committees also elect chairs.

This past summer saw a few important developments for UAlbany. One of those developments was the introduction of the NYSUNY2020 bill to the New York State Legislature. The full impact of that bill on our campus is not yet clear, but UPPC will be working over the next couple months with the President and the Provost to hammer out the finer points.

The chair looks forward to a cooperative and productive year in the Senate.

OTHER REPORTS

SUNY-WIDE SENATE REPORT – J. PHILIPPE ABRAHAM, SHADI SHAHEDIPOUR-SANDVIK AND DANIEL WHITE:

SUNY Senate will be meeting at our fall plenary on October 20-22 in Westchester at SUNY Purchase. Please feel free to bring any new or continuing business to the SUNY Senators for discuss at the State level. Topics that we will be discussing will continue to revolve around the state of the budget and the role of the faculty in deciding what changes occur to curriculum. A summer planning meeting occurred in June to prepare committees for their work in the up-coming year.

Senator White reported that the undergraduate research symposium will be held in the spring and more details would follow in the future.

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT – HEIDI NICHOLLS:

The year has started with the President's Welcome Picnic and RGSO training. We had over 500 graduate students turn out for the picnic and more than 30 different groups applying for official GSO recognition and funding. Over the summer a new printer was purchased and the office once again redesigned including more attention the GO Green initiative of the Albany campus including wax ink, composting coffee and tea disposal, and GSO coffee to go mugs and club. We are still looking for a programming chair hoping to confirm the position by the end of the month while welcoming those members new and returning to the office management staff, executive board, and senate seats.

Ms. Nicholls reported there had been a problem with the GSO email and apologized for the lack of response to requests. She said that more graduate students are attending university functions and becoming involved in community service. Graduate students are also involved in community engagement. The GSO Office is becoming more involved in the Go Green effort. The office recently purchased a new printer.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – BRYANT BARKSDALE:

The Student Association has been very busy over the summer break planning the block party, speaker series and concert for the undergraduate students. The Student Association is also in the process of filling all positions that are still available and is look forward to a very productive year.

* Due to Hurricane Irene the Block Party that is put on yearly on Indian Quad has been rescheduled, tentatively, for September 25th.

* On October 15th Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be coming for the 5th installment of the World Within Reach Speaker Series. Johnson is an entrepreneur, businessman and a philanthropist.

* FallFest 2011 will take place on November 12th and will feature LMFAO and Far East Movement.

* SA President Zafir Uddin and Senator Arthur Rushforth, Chair of the Student Senate, have been working closely with the President's Office and Mayor Jennings in helping coordinate the kick off to community service month and launching a "Student to Student" initiative on October 5th.

* The SA Academic Affairs department has been busy organizing a campaign to get more students involved with the University Senate. The department is also looking to start an Outstanding Faculty Award that will be given out sometime in the spring. The University at Buffalo and Binghamton University currently has a course evaluation system in place that lets student's rate professors and courses at the end of the semester, and the information is uploaded into a system where the whole university can view the results as students fill out the evaluations. This can help students make choices about classes when planning their schedule for the next semester, and faculty can get instant feedback on they were rated along with the course they taught. The Student Association is looking into the possibility making this same type of system available to all students here on campus.

* Lastly the Student Association Senate has expressed interest in having regular reports given to them from the University Senate and any other university administrators, faculty, and staff in regards to things that affect students.

Mr. Barksdale reported that the turnout for the block party was very good. The SA is planning a cleanup effort in Binghamton the weekend of October 29. SA seeks both students and faculty to help with clean up of the damage left after the recent tropical storms. The SA is planning a backpack drive for Albany district schools to assist students in need. Pre-registration to reserve tickets for the Speaker Series event begins this Wednesday. Magic Johnson will be this semester's speaker on October 15.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) - Adrian Masters, Chair

CAA has nothing to report.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) - Aran Mull, Chair

CAFFE-CoR held its first meeting September 19th. *Chair Mull reported the Committee received a complaint this week and will develop policy and procedure for moving a solution forward.*

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) - Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

The policy approved by the Senate 3/14 has not yet been signed by the President. There are no ongoing cases, and no meetings have been held yet this semester, but planning will proceed for regular training workshops for CERS members.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

Our last COR meeting was May 18, 2011. I invited the new members of COR to the meeting to familiarize themselves with the procedure.

At the meeting, three items of note were presented. VPR Dias presented charts on the research activity of the University, AVPR Webster discussed the progress of ongoing audits the Office of Sponsored Funds has been involved with and the Excellence Award for Research & Creative Activities Committee suggested an "early achievement excellence award" to recognize younger faculty on a career trajectory of high merit. The Researcher's Liaison Committee will take this up this year to formulate recommendations to the VPR.

Chair Castracane reported that the first meeting was held on September 19 and the subcommittees were populated at that time.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Christine Wagner, Chair

CPCA held its first organizational meeting on September 7th. There are currently 7 cases pending. Review of the first two cases began September 19th.

Chair Wagner reported that the council completed its review of two cases.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Tim Groves, Chair

GAC is in process of organizing its committees. *Chair Groves needs four teaching faculty to round out the committees.* Otherwise, there is nothing to report

GOV (Governance Council) – Andi Lyons, Chair

GOV's first meeting will be September 27th.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Nancy Newman, Chair

The Council's first meeting will take place Sept. 26. We will establish subcommittee membership and discuss LISC's involvement with the Strategic Plan. Bruce Dudek has agreed to serve as our liaison to the Provost's working group regarding "Keeping Pace with Emerging Technologies." Chris Haile is planning a presentation on the new email system at the Senate meeting on Sept. 26.

Chief Information Officer Chris Haile provided a report on the new UAlbany mail system. The campus has been running multiple email systems over the past 25 years. The goal is to have everyone on a common system which will provide a rich set of features and abilities. Migration to the new system begins on Tuesday, September 27. She encouraged everyone to

initialize their accounts if they have not already done so. Staff at the ITS Help Desk have attended workshops and will be able to provide support if needed. The office will be fully staffed throughout the week even though classes are suspended.

Senator White asked if graduating students will still be able to maintain their account for a period of time after they leave campus. Ms. Haile said that policy would not change and student accounts are open for a year from the end date of the last term for which students registered.

SA Representative Arthur Rushforth inquired about how long the old Blackboard will be used. He said students are finding it confusing since some professors are using the old version and some are using the new version. Ms. Haile said this would be the last semester when both will be in use.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – JoAnne Malatesta, Chair

The UAC met for the first time on Thursday, September 1st. We started forming committees and will begin reaching out to non-UAC members to complete the committee rosters. There is a roll-over item of business to bring to the SEC regarding a change to the music minor. The proposal from the Music department was approved by UAC last year.

Chair Malatesta reported that three of the four committees are fully constituted. She is looking for a few members of the teaching faculty for the General Education Committee.

ULC (University Life Council) – Yenisel Gulatee, Chair

The University Life Council has nothing new to report. The Chair is in the process of organizing for the Fall 2011 semester.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Senators selected by their council as Council Chair:

Chair Fessler informed the Senate that, in accordance with the *Bylaws* II.2.4, Senate Councils whose elected chairs are not senators may nominate said chairs to be appointed for a one-year term as a Senator by the approval of the Senate. Adrian Masters was elected as chair of CAA and Yenisel Gulatee was elected as Chair of ULC; neither were senators. Separate votes on whether to appoint them as a senator for a one-year term were conducted for both chairs with the following results:

Adrian Masters: 39 approved; 0 opposed; 0 abstained

Yenisel Gulatee: 39 approved; 0 opposed; 0 abstained

Senate Bill 1112-01: Adoption of iClickers for Senate Voting:

Chair Fessler introduced the bill to adopt iClickers (ICs) which comes from last year's GOV council. The proposal is to replace hand votes with IC votes after discussion and debate of a bill has been completed. The rationale is that the IC system will be faster, more efficient. The votes will be reviewed by the Senate Secretary to make sure that all votes are of the Senate. GOV vetted the bill and this is the final product. Senators were provided an opportunity to practice and become familiar with the technology prior to voting on the bill. Mock bills were presented and Chair Fessler explained that the polls would be open for a brief voting period and announced when the polls would be closing. She asked that Senators consider questions that may not be covered in the bill and its supporting information.

The bill was then open for a debate. Chair Fessler responded to an inquiry about what aspect of the process this would improve. She said ICs would provide a more accurate count. Constituents unable to attend meetings would have access to the voting records of their representatives. This would also protect students and junior faculty who may feel intimidated by political influences of the campus. A review of the data management was provided. Concerns were raised about accidentally hitting invalid buttons, i.e., buttons "D" or "E," on the devices. GOV Chair Lyons said that during the mock bill demonstration only one invalid button was hit, but that it was on purpose (she was the one who cast that vote) and thus she did not consider it a problem. Senator Lanford asked if

there would be certainty that no other ICs are registering during a vote. Chair Fessler said that although there is not, the Senate Secretary will review the votes and errant votes would be eliminated. If it makes the vote unclear, the Secretary will report back to the Senate at its next meeting. Senator Castracane asked if there is a provision for non-anonymous votes. Chair Fessler explained that there was and if a senator calls for a roll call that can be done as well.

The debate closed and GOV Chair Lyons asked for motion to approve the bill. A motion was made and seconded and the bill was approved with the following voting results:

43 approved; 1 opposed; 2 abstained

The Senate conducted its voting with iClickers from this point on.

Approval of changes to council memberships:

Secretary Leonard reviewed changes in council memberships since they were approved last April:

CPCA: Addition of Graduate Student Senator Thomas Devlin

GAC: Addition of Graduate Student Senator Carmen Duncan; addition of Graduate Student Joseph Bissonette

GOV: Donald Keenan from the Libraries has switched his seat on ULC with Candace Merbler

LISC: Addition of Graduate Student Ersin Dincelli

UAC: Addition of Undergraduate Student Bryant Barksdale

ULC: Addition of Candace Merbler, Libraries to replace Donald Keenan; addition of Graduate Student Christine Preble

UPPC: Addition of Senator David Wills, CAS/LLC; addition of Graduate Student Senator Giray Askoy; addition of Undergraduate Student Senator Sana Khan

Secretary Leonard said she appreciated the feedback from those who pointed out typos, incorrect titles, etc. There were no other changes in the memberships and a motion to approve the changes was made and seconded. The polls opened for a vote resulting in 47 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstained.

Charter Amendment 1112-01A: Ending Time of Senate Meetings:

Chair Fessler said the amendment was put forth by last year's Governance Council. The amendment has been passed by the Executive Committee. The amendment was then forwarded to the entire Senate following the Charter requirement that it be circulated at the least three weeks prior to a Senate vote. Chair Fessler said the change was straight forward since the Senate meeting time has changed. The new language addresses steps to be taken if meetings run beyond a certain time. There was no further discussion of the amendment and the amendment was approved for a vote with the following results: 43 approved, 3 opposed, 0 abstained

Senate Bill 1112-02: Revisions to Music Minor:

UAC Chair Malatesta introduced the bill to address change made to the curriculum last year. The bill provides a clarification of electives added at the 300 level or above. There was not further discussion of the bill and motion to approve the bill was made and seconded. The bill was approved with the following voting results:

44 approved, 2 opposed, 1 abstained

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Gail Cameron, Recorder