

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

UNIVERSITY SENATE – November 27, 2006

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -- William Lanford, Chair

No report.

COR (Council on Research) -- Andrew Haas, Chair

No report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) -- David Shub, Chair

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) -- Sally Friedman, Chair

Nothing to report. The Council meets again on November 30th.

GOV (Governance Council) -- Reed Hoyt, Chair

The Governance Council met on Monday, 6 November and Monday 20 November. The Council approved a series of updates, corrections, and amendments to the Senate Charter. For the sake of clarity, these will be presented to the Senate in two stages: first, the updates and corrections for the 27 November meeting and the proposed amendments for the 18 December meeting. The Executive Committee will circulate them to the full senate.

The Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation also met on Monday, 13 November and will shortly propose either legislation or a resolution to the Council.

The Council has approved a letter soliciting nominations for members of the Presidential Search Committee and has directed an inquiry to the UAC.

The Council will examine the role of professional staff in the governance process.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Daniel White, Chair

Nothing to report. The Council will continue to discuss the e-mail issue.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – John Monfasani, Chair

The UAC has discussed several items but not taken any action on a proposal since the last summary.

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

The Council met on November 6 and discussed book availability and book prices and ways to reduce those prices for students. Faculty are encouraged to submit their orders for coming semesters as early as possible since this facilitates the repurchase of students' books at a price most advantageous to them. Books which are not known to have been reordered are repurchased at a lower price.

Because the chair of ULC is serving on the Task Force on Acquaintance Rape, ULC determined that it would review the report of the Task Force when it is issued in December in order to determine what recommendations it would bring to the Senate.

ULC also discussed the continuing need for a professional staff member to support intramurals and student activities. ULC has learned that hundreds of students who wished to participate in such activities were unable to do so because of space limitations.

ULC met on November 20 with guest Dr. Peter Vellis to discuss health insurance needs of Albany students and possible ways to resolve the issue for an estimated 3,000 Albany students who may not have any health coverage at this time. That number is an estimate since students are not obligated to prove that they have coverage when they decline to purchase the optional plan that Albany makes available to them. Dr. Vellis reported that only about 300 students purchase that plan, and that many students who visit our on-campus medical facility decline to pursue the treatments that are recommended to them because of their cost.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Steven Messner, Chair

UPC met on October 24. The Council discussed responses from UAC to the draft proposal to create an Undergraduate Ombuds Office. The council decided to ask UAC to invite representatives from UPC to attend a UAC meeting to address concerns about the proposal. The Chair of UPC has also solicited comments on the proposal from members of ULC and from the Vice President for Student Success. The Council discussed a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Satisfaction concerning new procedures for peer evaluation of teaching. The Chair of the Council is seeking input from CPCA and from a campus UUP representative to assist in the formulation of a specific proposal. In addition to these matters, UPC will consider a request to suspend the Organizational Studies Doctoral Program at its next meeting, which is scheduled for November 30.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) -- Lawrence Snyder, Chair

Nothing to report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) -- Elga Wulfert, Chair

Nothing to report.