

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Edelgard Wulfert, Chair  
Council on Educational Policy

**FROM:** John R. Ryan  
Interim President

**SUBJECT:** Establishment of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

**DATE:** April 28, 2004

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At the April 20, 2004 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, a resolution was passed unanimously endorsing and formalizing the formation of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University at Albany. The approved resolution includes the following:

**Resolved**, that the State University of New York hereby establishes the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering as an academic unit within the University at Albany-SUNY headed by a Vice President who serves as its chief administrative officer reporting directly to the President of the University at Albany-SUNY; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Professor Alain E. Kaloyeros be appointed Vice President of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and be hereby authorized to work with the President and the nanoscience and nanoengineering faculty of the University at Albany and take all necessary and appropriate actions to implement the establishment and operation of said college; and be it further

**Resolved**, that an autonomous faculty governance structure be created for the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering within the University at Albany; wherein the faculty of said College begin immediately developing its own bylaws which would further stipulate the structure of this autonomous governance model.

In light of this resolution it is important that we continue the fruitful discussions that we have had on these issues with the Council on Educational Policy. The Provost of the University has also provided a list of recommendations that I have reviewed carefully.

This transmittal document incorporates some aspects of the recommendations I have already received. Moreover, it focuses on the third and final element of the Trustee's resolution since it is the one that directly speaks to academic governance. I am not asking EPC to provide advice on issues concerning administrative governance of the College. I believe it is also important to state at the outset that even in models of distributed and autonomous governance, university-wide *policies* govern the campus even though the structure of decision-making may vary by college/school.

In my assessment of the discussions to date, the following views seem to predominate.

- There is general support for the creation of the College of Nanoscale Sciences and Engineering from outside and within the University at Albany;
- Distributed models of faculty governance do exist, even within SUNY.
- The nanosciences faculty are calling for an autonomous administrative and academic structure, the latter consisting of a fully independent academic senate within a distributed university-wide academic governance (the "Stony Brook Model").

For the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering to be a part of the University at Albany, a number of key elements have been established. These elements are:

- All University at Albany faculty are appointed by the President of the University at Albany, naturally based on the recommendation of the head of the College;
- All sponsored research generated by the faculty of the College are recorded through the University at Albany's Research Foundation account;
- All enrollment generated by the College are part of the University's overall enrollment plan and reported to SUNY System Administration as such.
- The budget of the College is integrated within the University at Albany's overall Campus Financial Plan. Our current system allows for significant flexibility in budgetary decision-making. This also does not conflict with the creation of direct revenue streams from external sources to meet the specific needs of individual academic units. The new College should participate in and benefit from the institution's incentive-based budget model.

According to the University's Provost, the nanosciences faculty are requesting autonomy in a number of specific areas: personnel policy, curriculum, academic standing and appeal, academic judiciary, tenure and promotion, academic planning and resource allocation, research, faculty rights and responsibilities, and student life. Some of these areas are not currently subject to academic governance. But of the ones that are, I am requesting that conversations begin leading to changes in the charter of various councils to allow autonomy for an individual college/school.

Given the Trustee's directive, I am requesting autonomy in academic governance for the new College in the following areas:

- curriculum (Graduate Academic Council)
- academic standing and appeal (Graduate Academic Council but largely internal to the College)
- tenure and promotion (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointment)
- research (Council on Research)

I hope that you can provide advice to me in the areas specified above so that the University at Albany is in compliance with the Trustee's recent resolution. In many respects the more autonomous governance model for the new College is in keeping with an evolving and more mature public research university.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to call on me.