

Senate Executive Committee
February 11th, 2:45pm
UNH 306

MINUTES

Attendance: Karin Reinhold; Debra Gelinias; Elga Wulfert; Jim Hargett; Rob Rosenswig; Kaylynn Enright; Christy Smith; Latonya Spencer; Billie Franchini; Ann Marie Murray; Malcolm Sherman; Zina Lawrence; Kathie Winchester; Elizabeth Gray

Meeting convened at 2:48pm

Meeting was presided over by Immediate Past Chair Karin Reinhold in Chair Jim Mower's absence.

Approval of Minutes

VOTE: 8 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention

Provost's Report

The Provost shared that the President gave a thorough report at the Senate meeting and she summarized the main points, including: the celebration of our 175th Anniversary; the progress on the fundraising campaign; the Provost's search proceeding on time; and the SUNY Chancellor's speech – including the PRODI-G program which sets goals and incentives for increasing the diversity of the faculty. She shared about the StAR program – the Strategic Allocation of Resources – through which individuals, departments, and schools can apply for up to \$50,000 grants that increase the graduation and/or retention rates for undergraduates or increase the diversity of graduate students, as indicated in the goals of the Strategic Plan. There is up to \$500,000 total available. The review committee will include the co-chairs of the 5 focus areas of the strategic plan; the immediate past, present, and vice chair of the Senate; an undergraduate student and a graduate student. She shared information about the Women in Higher Education initiative, under which the Provost has created a steering committee to further the goals that were identified in the initial meeting. She provided general information about an initiative in artificial intelligence (AI) for which IBM is investing \$2B in our region (SUNY Poly, RPI, and others). The SUNY Chancellor emphasized the importance of developing instruction in AI related courses across the system. Course work and research in AI is also happening on our campus (CEAS, Dept. of Mathematics) and we are working to advance those initiatives.

Chairs Report

Karin Reinhold encouraged all chairs to attend Senate meetings since at the last meeting they did not meet quorum. She indicated that a member can appoint a designee and that person can count toward quorum in the member's absence.

Proposed changes to the Senate Charter regarding CPCA quorum rules

Jim Hargett, Chair of CPCA

Chair Hargett indicated that CPCA is considering an increasing number of tenure cases and this trend is expected to continue. The average member handles 8 cases each semester, including sitting on committees, reviewing documents, preparing, etc. The 21 members of the committee have been broken up into 3 groups, and each member typically attends a meeting every two weeks – it is an enormous workload. This makes it challenging to recruit. Reducing quorum allows fewer people to attend each meeting. He asked that people work to help recruit full professors, women, and individuals in the sciences.

VOTE: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

Micro-Credentialing at UAlbany

Debra Gelinas

Presentation attached.

Q: would badges be centralized in the Center for Experiential Education?

A: Individual departments will manage their own micro-credentials, but the institution will have a single Credly Acclaim membership, approve new micro-credentials, support departments in development, and host a catalogue of all micro-credentials.

Q: What is the cost of the Credly Acclaim membership?

A: \$5,000 per year

Q: How difficult is it to create a micro-credential?

A: It depends on the specifics of the micro-credential, whether there is new course development, etc.

Q: How would they get approved?

A: There would be a committee in the Center for Experiential Learning to approve

Q: If the company goes bankrupt what happens to the micro-credentials?

A: This is unlikely to happen, but the company is engaging in strategies to protect the content. Additionally, there are other platforms for micro-credentialing, and a platform is not even necessary.

Q: Why doesn't SUNY have its own platform? Why pay a private company?

A: The reason most institutions are not handling them internally is the meta-data, and SUNY indicates that it would be very challenging to replicate what the platform offers.

Q: What is the benefit of a micro-credential?

A: Transcripts and resumes do not tell the whole story, and in particular do not always highlight skills and competencies. This helps to tell a fuller picture, and helps graduates to market and

articulate their skills and competencies. It also specifically assesses these skills and competencies, and so is not just self-reported.

Q: How can we spell out what makes a good micro-credential?

A: One important piece will be tying it to the employers. If we have a clear idea of what employers are looking for and it is clearly articulated, the specifics are less important than matching the skills and competencies.

Q: How closely are you working with Career Services?

A: Working closely with Career Services, as well as specific career development directors, IR, Start Up NY, and more.

Q: Who will certify the accomplishment? How will we determine minimum criteria?

A: The ones run out of the academic departments will be responsible for creating and assessing those. If it is co-curricular the department is expected to outline how the learning will be assessed. It is up to each department how they lay out the criteria, and the Center will review to ensure that quality is maintained.

Q: Will it be reported to/reviewed and approved by GAC and UAC?

A: There will be a member of UAC and a member of GAC on the approval committee.

The SEC recommends the following amendments to the policy: a committee in CEE will review each badge, with a representative from UAC and GAC, and the badges will not go before the full councils, with reports going back to UAC, GAC and SEC.

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 abstentions, 1 opposed

Forensic Science Minor

Don Orokos

Don Orokos shared that the minor is composed of 9 courses. This includes a lecture course that is required that currently has about 200 students from various departments. The second required course is a lab course. They will also be required to take genetics and additional labs. There is a restriction of 20 students per academic year. It will be determined depending on interest whether an additional section of any courses will be necessary.

A concern was expressed about uncontrolled growth of the minor. It was indicated that there is a cap on the minor, and that the University is in the process of rebuilding the major so this would help with recruitment for that.

VOTE: 7 in favor; abstentions 1; 0 opposed

Council and Committee Reports:

UFS: Nothing to add

GSO: Nothing to add

SA: Not present

CAA: Not present

CAFFECOR: Asked to look into a case in which the office of a faculty member at another university had been targeted with anti-Semitic graffiti.

COR: Nothing to add

CPCA: Not present

GAC: Report was read by UPPC chair

LISC: Nothing to add

UAC: Nothing to add

UPPC: Looking into the issue of quorum, encouraging the SA representative and student senators to attend. There was some discussion about redefining quorum to help to achieve quorum during the meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42pm