Ad hoc University-wide Governance CommitteeAd hoc University-wide
Governance
Committee

June 7, 2004

Minutes

Present: J. Acker, R. Bangert-Drowns, J. Bartow, P. Eppard, M.
Fogelman, R. Geer
                         T. Hoff, J. Pipkin, L. Schell, G. Singh, J.
Wyckoff, B.
Via

Guest: Senate Chair Professor M. Pryse

Introduction:

Professor Acker distributed several documents relevant to the committee's
charge, including a copy of the Senate Bill introduced by EPC and passed
on May
3, 2004 pertaining to the formation and business of the Ad Hoc
University-Wide
Governance Committee; relevant provisions of the University at Albany
Faculty
Bylaws; and a summary description of the Councils and Committees of the
University Senate. Senate Chair Pryse reviewed the charge of the
committee,
noting that it came to the Senate as a motion from EPC. She distributed a
copy
of a Memorandum dated April 28, 2004 from Interim President Ryan to
Edelgard
Wulfert, Chair of EPC. That Memorandum included portions of a SUNY Board
of
Trustees resolution relevant to the formation of the College of Nanoscale
Science and Engineering, including a provision resolving that "an
autonomous
faculty governance structure be created for" the College. The Memorandum
further included Interim President Ryan's request for "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); [and] research (Council on Research)."   The
May 3
Senate Bill and Interim President Ryan's April 28 Memorandum followed
earlier
events and discussions. For example, on March 15, 2004, after
discussions with

the Provost and EPC, the Senate passed a resolution supporting unified
governance. A subcommittee made up of three members of EPC and three
members of
the School of NanoSciences and NanoEngineering was formed to discuss what
the
new college wanted in terms of its autonomous governance and how it would
fit in
with the University's existing governance structure. (Subcommittee
members were
Professors John Logan, David McCaffrey and Marjorie Pryse representing
EPC and
Professors Robert Geer, Pradeep Haldar and James Castracane representing
SNN.)

Professor Pryse explained that this committee is not charged with
examining the
development of the new College or its bylaws. Creation of the College
with the
accompanying calls for the College's autonomy raises more general issues
throughout the University. The committee is expected to consider issues
relating to the interaction of the University Senate governance structure
with
the faculty governance structures of the individual schools and colleges
in
areas including tenure and promotion, graduate academic curriculum, and
research
at the University. The charge is to think about the current practices of
the
University with respect to these areas, to explore consequences of any
changes
that might occur, and to form recommendations.

The question of how significant Stony Brook's governance structure should
be as
the model for deliberations within this committee's discussion was
raised.
Professor Pryse suggested the committee invite Professor Wulfert to
report about
Stony Brook since she has done research on it and has spoken to the
provost
there. It was agreed among group members that they should explore in
more
detail how autonomous the units are at Stony Brook and also to look
beyond the
SUNY system at other state research universities.

Framework for future proceedings:

Professor Acker asked how the committee would like to proceed. He
suggested
dividing into subcommittees to research tenure and promotion, graduate
academic
curriculum and academic standing, and research issues both at this
institution

and peer institutions and having the subcommittees report to the committee after
that information had been collected. This and other proposals were discussed and
it was agreed that the committee would first learn more about UAlbany's policies
on these matters. This would best be accomplished by inviting the outgoing
Chairs of the three councils, GAC, CPCA and RES to future meetings for a better
understanding of each council's policies. In anticipation of the committee's
next meeting, committee members were to consult with their own schools/colleges
to gather information about practices with respect to tenure and promotion,
graduate academic curriculum and academic standing, and research so they can
report to the committee and be prepared to discuss related issues with the
invited Council chairs.

Timetable:

It was decided that the committee would plan to meet weekly throughout the
summer on Wednesdays at 3:00-5:00, although scheduled meetings that are not
needed will be cancelled as appropriate. There was a proposal by Professor
Schell for sending alternates to meetings if a member could not make a meeting.
The proposal was accepted with all agreeing that the alternate should be fully
informed of the committee's progress and prior discussions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 3:00 at a site to
be determined.