2014-2015 University Senate

Monday, April 27, 2015
2:45 pm, Assembly Hall

Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Almahamid, Ilham; Bernnard, Deborah; Chengalur-Smith, Indushobha; Chittur, Sridar; Earle, Keith; Fessler, Susanna; Fogarty, Rick; Ford, Michael; Fox, Cynthia; Goldfarb, Boris; Griffith, Glyne; Gulatee, Yenisel; Henderson, Chenaniah; Hobson, Janell; Isralowitz, Joshua; Janiszewski, Caitlin; Jaromin, Michael; Jerison, Michael; Kearney, Ann; Kressner, Ilka; Kuznetsov, Igor; Lahiri, Kajal; Lapenas, Andrei; Malavasic, Jolene; Mamorella, David; Manjak, Martin; McCaffrey, David; McDowall, David; Mielenz, Ben; Neori, Klil; Ng, Vivien; Parker, Catherine; Pasquill, James; Petry, Greta; Powers, Nathan; Robinson, George; Rorissa, Abebe; Rosenswig, Robert; Scheck, Helene; Schmidt, John; Sherman, Keith; Slade, Leonard; Stellar, James; Tucker, Ian; Vuille, Mathias; Williams, Kevin; Wulfert, Edelgard; Yagelski, Robert; Yuan, Xiaojun; Zemel, Alan

Guests: Jewell, Carol; Jones, David; O'Neil, Natalie; Collins, James; Wagner, David; Forsythe, Celine; Winchester, Kathie; Bartow, Jon; Vergari, Sandra; Tchernev, Alex; Hedberg, Bill; Wirkkula, Leanne; Benjamin, Bret; Chesin, Sorrell; Reinhold, Karin

The meeting convened at 2:46 pm.

Chair Stefl-Mabry requested that the order of the agenda items change so that New Business would follow the Chair's Report. The request was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 6, 2015 were approved with the following voting results:
Approved 31, Opposed 1, Abstained 4

PROVOST'S REPORT – JAMES R. STELLAR

The Provost shared that the administration is still in the full throws of hiring deans. Announcements will be coming out shortly once candidates inform their own campuses. The Libraries search is still in flux, the Vice Provost for International Affairs has seen its last candidate, and the Criminal Justice finalists are in conversation.

The Contingent Committee is having significant and robust conversations. Both the Contingent and the Stipend Committees will share reports with the administration at the end of term.

With the coming of spring, Provost Stellar expressed that it is more and more charming to be on campus.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair

I.   **Informational**
- Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry and Vice Chair Fox met with Provost Stellar and Chief of Staff Leanne Wirkkula on April 9th, 2015.
- A Charter Amendment, introduced by GOV, has been forwarded by the SEC to the Senate. The Amendment is distributed to the Senate with materials for the April 27th meeting and will come for a vote at the May 11th meeting in accordance with Faculty Bylaws Article IV.3

- A proposal for a new Advanced Certificate Program, Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators was approved by UPPC and is under review by GAC.
- Proposals for the BS/MS programs in Human Development are awaiting further review from GAC.
- On April 15, 2015 Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry received an email request to address the lack of Senate communication (emails and/or notification) to part-time contingents. Currently only 78 of the 520 academic contingents are 100% fulltime, and receive Senate email and information regarding elections. However 442, who are less than 100% fulltime do not receive Senate email, and yet they have an **elected** "part-time faculty at large" representative on the Senate who they cannot vote for, and many do not even know the position exists. Chair Stefl-Mabry notified Vice Chair Fox and asked that the issue be discussed with the Governance Council.
- The Senate Chair and Vice Chair will be attending the Spring Plenary for Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs) in Plattsburg on April 23rd-25th.

II.   Reports of Actions
- Chair Stefl-Mabry received an email from Celine Forsyth, Office of Undergraduate Education, on April 15, 2015, announcing that the State Education Department has officially registered Informatics as a new Bachelor of Science major effective immediately. Admission to the Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary major with a concentration in Information Science snow suspended.

III.   Recommended Actions
- N/A

*Chair Stefl-Mabry reported that Provost Stellar called for an emergency meeting of the Senate Executive Committee that morning to discuss name change for the College of Computing and Information. The SEC decided to bring this proposal forward as a bill to the full Senate; therefore that has been added to the Senate agenda. The bill was distributed to the Senate in a handout at the meeting. The Rationale for the bill would be provided by Provost Stellar. The Faculty meeting will be held in combination with the last Senate meeting on May 11th. Update from the Spring Plenary at SUNY Plattsburgh: Presidents are currently being reviewed by the Chancellor. This is to be an annual process for all those Presidents in their position for at least 5 years, and those with longest service are being reviewed first. The Chancellor will identify the next year's group in the fall, and then a third round the year after. Current, past and immediate past campus governance leaders (CGLs) will be asked to provide input. The first group was notified in April, and CGLs were notified last week. Each had less than 2 weeks to respond. Reviews will be conducted using SUNY Excel metrics. Presidents will have a potential raise in salary based on outcomes. It was mentioned new Presidents are earning more than those in office longer. President turnaround has been typically 3 years, and SUNY recruits more than 10 Presidents a year. **SUNY Excel** Reports will be due from campuses by December 31, 2015.*

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill 1415-03 Proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security (UPPC, GAC).
Dean of Rockefeller College David Rousseau explained that this Certificate is an extension of the Public Sector Management Certificate that has a Homeland Security concentration and has been in operation for 10 years. The idea is to expand with components to cover Emergency Preparedness and Cyber Security. The proposal grew out of one funded through SUNY 2020 put in jointly by the School of Criminal Justice, College of Computing and Information, and Rockefeller College. All the deans have seen the proposal and the name, which underwent renovation to better align with the new college and the name proposed by the governor. This is expected to be a component of the new college, but began with the 2020 proposal.

A motion was made to approve Bill 1415-03, with the following voting results: Approved 32; Opposed 3; Abstained 3

Approval of Proposed Council and Standing Committee Memberships for 2015-2016
Chair Stefl-Mabry presented a slide to the Senate for review with the proposed Council and Committee memberships that the Committee on Council Nominations had put forward. The Committee had met that past Thursday and was chaired by Vice Chair Cynthia Fox, who summarized the process as follows: We tried to nominate members based on requests that the volunteers had made. Some committees and councils were more popular than others, so it was not always possible. The volunteer list has not been exhausted, since there will likely be turnover as plans and schedules change, and people can still be added. Some of the colleges have not let us know who their senators are, as it depends on when they do their voting. The Committee had worked very hard to find a balance while adhering to the strict membership rules for each council and committee.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed council roster. The roster was approved with the following voting results: Approved 38; Opposed 2; Abstained 4

Election of new Vice Chair for 2015-16

Chair Stefl-Mabry asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Chair Stefl-Mabry announced the following nominations:

James Collins, Anthropology, CAS
Karin Reinhold, Mathematics, CAS
David Wagner, Sociology, CAS

Chair Stefl-Mabry explained that according to the Bylaws, each candidate was invited to address the Senate for up to 2 minutes. After the addresses, the Chair added that it speaks well that 3 people were willing to assume the role. All voters were distributed ballots, which Senate Secretary Gulatee and Parliamentarian Howard collected and tallied.

The voting results per the Teller's Report were as follows: James Collins 28; Karin Reinhold 9; David Wagner 9

Chair Stefl-Mabry and the Senate congratulated James Collins on being elected to serve as the new Vice-Chair.

Senate Bill 1415-06: Name Change for the College of Computing and Information

Chair Stefl-Mabry invited Provost Stellar to lead the discussion and answer any questions regarding Bill 1415-06.

Rationale:

Provost Stellar announced that Senate Bill 1415-06 came to the Senate courtesy of the Senate Executive Committee meeting earlier that day in which we asked that this bill be brought forward in the interest of formal consultation with the faculty per the Bylaws. The Provost explained that Dean Faerman and Anne Marie Murray, who had worked on this project, were unable to attend the Senate meeting due to a conflicting meeting. He indicated he was grateful to be able to address questions.

The Provost outlined that the basic idea, as President Jones spoke about in his State of the University Address, is to rename the College of Computing and Information to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The reason for that is it was thought, and widely discussed, that UAlbany would be stronger if it had an engineering college. It would have a STEM representation that was stronger, we would be able to attract more students, and we would have a more balanced portfolio. This would contribute to the financial health of the institution, by providing another way to generate resources through tuition and grants. On February 2nd the Provost had attended a College of Computing and Information meeting to discuss this name change. There had since been multiple conversations with various committees which suggested CCI's leadership (including its chairs, dean, assistant dean) was solidly behind this proposal.

Part of the rationale is that although we continue to concentrate on information and computers – indeed there is a new department that has been approved – down the road we might add something else should we so choose, going through due process. The name change was proposed on the basis of extensive research in consultation with engineering operations at other universities. The name is a very broad one and allows us to expand, similar to the College of Arts and Sciences that has many things under it. Right now the idea is to do this simple name change to leave room for the future.

Provost Stellar stated that the President has talked about the proposal on many occasions, including here at the Senate. The administration has also made presentations at various places around the campus, including at a UPPC meeting and at the morning's SEC meeting. Provost Stellar stated it was thought by coming to the Senate body today, and thanked the SEC for making that possible, that the administration was satisfying the idea of having formal consultation.

The Provost then opened the floor to questions.

It was asked if the removal of 'computing' from the title would put our Computer Science program, which had earned a Turing prize and has a strong theoretical component, in a secondary role. Provost Stellar stated that had been the first topic of an initial meeting and that the answer was no. A Computer Engineering department had been approved through the Senate. We also have a data center and have had conferences on 'big data' as it applies to things like healthcare. Down the road with the fullness of the governance process we may want to add a component, as long as we continue to invest in all the components that exist in it.

A member congratulated the administration on and fully supported the proposal, and voiced that it was part of our new President's vision. The member asked that we do it right and make it first rate, and believed it will greatly enhance our stature. The Provost responded that the commitment, within our budget, is to make the program top flight, as we would not want it any other way.

A question was posed regarding the budget and "$0" sum rubric. The perception was that funding spoke to strengths in the theoretical division, and also has a practical focus that implies a fair number of resources would be devoted to faculty. Provost Stellar replied that, in consultation with leadership, the effort would be to stay on the data side, and to do so within budget to produce excellence. The idea is that as this grows applicants, we think we can sustain the program on tuition. In lobbying with the legislature to do with capital projects, and among others, people like the idea.

It was asked if down the road a branch off was expected to a School of Engineering and if the renaming of CCI was for budget reasons. Provost Stellar responded that we want to proceed to make this integrated, so we do not want split-offs. We are renaming CCI to make it more powerful, starting with the current strengths that we have. Research and service opportunities could include such programs as Engineers Without Borders, which would also bring together Public Policy, and Government Relations.

Appreciation was noted regarding the inclusiveness with this retitling; however it was asked what role Information Studies would play in the College. The Provost responded that Information Studies often exists as part of engineering colleges. We had a Libraries and Information Studies program that is accredited at Queens College, which brilliantly manages something that intersects information with people. Half of that program was in Libraries, and half in areas such as Critical Thinking and Information. Given information is so powerful in our society, we will endeavor to strengthen all constituent parts within this name.

Regarding Life Science initiatives, Provost Stellar, who is a neuroscientist, noted we have to move when we can. Perhaps when we prove we are doing well a few years down the road, we can try to capitalize on the strong Biological Sciences that we have in various forms.

A motion was made to approve Bill 1415-06, with the following voting results: Approved 37; Opposed 5; Abstained 2

Provost Stellar and Professor David Rousseau's update re: the Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security College.

Provost Stellar thanked David Rousseau for all the work he had done to pull the College together and for agreeing to serve as Interim Dean. Dean Rousseau had been asked by Chair Stefl-Mabry to provide an update as part of formal consultation on the program to the Senate, and indicated he was happy to give updates whenever the Senate wishes. As soon as the governor announced his interest in having UAlbany host the Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security College in January, we immediately started planning. UAlbany was chosen because we have tremendous assets across the University. At the graduate level, we have a program in Homeland Security, Rockefeller, Information Security, a new School of Business, a new Cyber Security MBA program, and a SPH Public Health Preparedness and Surveillance program. At the Undergraduate level, we have a new Informatics Cyber Security concentration, a Digital Forensics program. We also have an enormous amount of training programs, which Dean Rousseau also outlined, including Rockefeller College's through the state (about $6 million per year) on emergency management and homeland security, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the School of Public Health. At this point we have been bringing together for academic consideration a committee of 50+ faculty members and a steering committee of about 10 faculty members. We met with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair, and added people who were suggested as members by GOV. We have been working on a number of programs. Hopefully on May 11th an undergrad minor would be presented. We are working toward major and external reviews and hope to

bring that to the Senate in the fall. These would be broad Liberal Arts programs focused on critical thinking about world problems, would engage students, and would fit with what we already do. We hope to convince the governor to do more and bring in more resources. Dean Rousseau encouraged support and hoped to bring in as many voices as they can.

Dean Rousseau and Provost Stellar then addressed questions, summarized as follows:

The program came out of a NY SUNY 2020 proposal. They had found there to be tremendous demand for, for instance, Cyber Security. The program is broad to apply to many areas, though if students want to specialize it would be perfect to continue their education here. The emergency preparedness component fits within large-scale disasters and events, and includes consideration of how to recover, respond, rebuild infrastructure to make more sustainable, and address social justice. The capital investment of $15 million is to go in part in the E-TEC building. The governor wants us to come up with a vision, which the committees are trying to set up. We think to sustain the program we would need at least 15 faculty, but would also draw on faculty across the university. The understanding is that they expect to provide operational funding support. We have had conversations with people across the state about how Forensics would be a great fit with the program and would fit with the mission of the college and its partners. It was asked what the vision is of what makes this an academic discipline and undergraduate major, distinct from the applied side. Dean Rousseau clarified that the allusion to Sociology and Political science was in terms of where we place our students and whether or not it is a professional degree versus a broad Liberal Arts degree. It is not like Sociology in that it is an interdisciplinary program that is not a fully developed field in and of itself, similar to many other programs we have. Interdisciplinary programs can put forward a coherent vision that provides training for undergraduates interested in those specific areas. We are designing the program for broader questions about, for instance, civil liberties and cyber security, ethics and public health, all very comfortable within an undergraduate degree. It is much more applied work, but not a narrow professional level the way at the graduate level you would like it to be.

Provost Stellar addressed the question of what the discussion is about how this particular school fits in the overall environment of CAS and what that overall environment looks like on the forefront. He answered that the same kinds of questions came up with engineering. The program has professional elements in it. As long as we continue to embrace critical thinking and broad understanding, it is alright to have specializations, as we have in CAS already. In terms of the size of CAS, we do not want to fix things that are not broken. We have a lot on our plate now. The Provost's idea is that CAS becomes a smaller piece of the pie without changing its size because the pie got bigger, to generate additional resources. Finally there is an interesting way in which CAS can enhance the program. Fundamentally we want to train people to think. Industry wants this as well as this kind of innovation and skills.

Chair Stefl-Mabry thanked the Provost and Dean for the information, and stressed to the assembly the importance of sharing the information presented on the Senate floor with constituents.

Senate Bill 1415-04 Proposal to Deactivate and Discontinue the Puerto Rican Studies Major in the Department of Latin American, Caribbean & U.S. Latino Studies (UAC).

Glyne Griffith, Chair of Latin American, Caribbean & U.S. Latino Studies explained the logic for the proposal. Historically when the program began at UAlbany, it was not unlike what happened nationally. UAlbany's program began with a Puerto Rican Studies major, but over the years it expanded and became interdisciplinary. With the deactivation and discontinuation, there is no diminution of Puerto Rican Studies. It simply folded into the larger context of Latin American, Caribbean & U.S. Latino Studies. In fact, 7-8 years ago the department changed its name to include U.S. Latino Studies because it is more reflective of the breadth of scholarship. This proposal is simply another sign of that broader and deeper context.

Chair Stefl-Mabry announced the Senate vote on the proposal was not valid as quorum had been lost.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Elisa Lopez, Recorder