

2009-2010 University Senate Executive Committee
November 30, 2009
R. Michael Range, Chair

MINUTES

Present: Heidi Andrade, Richard Collier, Susanna Fessler, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Dustin Lanterman, Eric Lifshin, John Monfasani, Gwen Moore, George Philip, Susan Phillips, Michael Range, Carlos Rodriguez, Joan Savitt, Daniel Smith, Daniel White

Guests: Marjorie Pryse

The meeting convened at 3:34 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 2 were approved with minor changes. Laurence Kranich provided corrections to the section on the Middle States Chapters.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (GEORGE PHILIP)

Budget:

President Philip reported that SUNY's share of the latest mid-year budget cut is expected to be \$90 million. SUNY will contribute \$20 million for this year only, reducing the University's share to \$4.474 million. The University had anticipated the pending cuts and will be able to absorb some of the cost through its energy savings, efforts to reduce discretionary travel, delay of equipment purchases and a soft hiring freeze. The President discussed the SUNY Flex legislation as a possible solution to SUNY's budget crisis. If approved, the legislation would remove SUNY's budget from the state operating budget. It has the potential to prevent the governor from withholding funds from SUNY. The legislation would enable the Trustees to set tuition without approval from the state legislature and allow SUNY to retain its tuition money instead of using it to resolve the stage budget crisis. SUNY Flex would enable the campus to lease land following the model in place at CNSE. The flex legislation is UAlbany's response to the UB2020 legislation and SUNY Buffalo has expressed its support for SUNY Flex.

The President thanked everyone for their help with the Middle States review panel. Dr. Donald Langenberg was impressed with the reports we have produced. The Middle States evaluation team will visit March 15-17.

The 25th anniversary of the NYS Writer's Institute was an excellent program with former Governor Mario Cuomo and author Doris Kearns Goodwin as guest speakers.

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – R. MICHAEL RANGE, CHAIR

Graduate Student Support (GSS) Report: On November 10, 2009, the Chair received a question from GAC Chair Larry Kranich regarding procedures for reviewing the GSS report. The Chair referred the matter to the Governance Council. GOV examined the question, and on November 17 submitted a detailed report to the Chair, which was copied to

Graduate Studies Dean Pryse and to the GAC Chair. Due to the complexities of the issues, Chair Range placed discussion of the GOV report on the agenda of today's SEC meeting, and he invited Dean Pryse to join in that discussion.

Definition of Diversity: President Philip had asked the University Community to review the draft of a revised definition of diversity and a new vision for diversity for UAlbany, and he asked for feedback and suggestions. Both CAFFECOR and ULC have discussed the draft document. The input of these governance bodies will be the basis for a discussion of the new vision and definition at today's meeting. Chair Range had invited Tamra Minor, Assistant VP and Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action, to be available for that discussion, but unfortunately she is not able to participate due to prior commitments.

OTHER REPORTS

PROVOST'S REPORT--SUSAN PHILLIPS

Provost Phillips provided an update regarding the FYE task force. Follow-up conversations regarding retention have been promising but further discussions concerning student engagement are needed. The Provost has made a request to the Office of Undergraduate Education to take this on as an agenda item. Linda Krzykowski, Vice Dean for Administration in the School of Business has been asked to assist with the effort and form a faculty advisory group. The group will consider how to use resources and staffing to create an engaging environment for our students.

The Provost discussed the CLUE initiative for teaching faculty. Three planning groups will be formed to focus on faculty retention, promotion and tenure, and quality of life issues. The groups will come up with data concerning needs across campus and put forward a set of ideas and proposals on what needs to be accomplished.

UFS (UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATOR'S REPORT) – WILLIAM LANFORD & DANIEL D. WHITE, SUNY SENATORS

Nothing to report.

GSO (GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION) – MELANIE BREGANZA, GSO PRESIDENT

Nothing to report.

SA (STUDENT ASSOCIATION) – JOSH SUSSMAN, SA PRESIDENT

Nothing to report.

MSCHE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT – REED HOYT, UNIVERSITY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Nothing to report.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Heidi Andrade, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on November 16 to discuss incentives for high quality assessment and to share comments on chapters five, nine and ten of the draft Middle States report. A brainstormed list of incentives for assessment was generated and will be revisited at the next meeting. Questions about and comments on the Middle States report were discussed. Council members will post fine-grained, text-level suggestions for revision to the report on the website; broad stroke comments will be summarized in a memo from the CAA before the 12/7 deadline.

CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

CAFFECOR met on November 9th to discuss revision of the Community Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) document. At this point we have a compiled version of the CRR with member suggestions and await final member approval before it is forwarded to Student Success and Conflict Resolution for their review. Of note is that, in the course of inputting suggested changes, the chair of CAFFECOR has noted sections which are pertinent to ULC and LISC also. For example, if the CAFFECOR changes take effect, one

part of the policy on computer usage (LISC's purview) would also have to be changed. The electronic version of the revised CRR draft has been circulated to SEC members, but the chair of CAFFECOR would like to emphasize that ***this draft has not yet been finalized by CAFFECOR***. Constructive criticism is welcome.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – John Monfasani, Chair

The CERS-GOV Joint Committee continues to meet on a weekly basis. We hope to have a draft ready by early December that we can discuss with administrative officers and concerned faculty.

COR (Council on Research) – James Castracane, Chair

Nothing to report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Carlos Rodriguez, Chair

CPCA has nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

The GAC approved a proposal to establish an Advanced (Graduate) Certificate Program in Professional Science Management (PSM). The proposal has been distributed to SEC members and is on today's agenda.

GAC has reviewed the Middle States chapter and will send its comments to the SEC.

GOV (Governance Council) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

Strategic Planning Committee: At its November 20th meeting, GOV identified individuals it felt would be important to include on the SPC group, representing large academic areas or populations not represented thus far on the group. Chair Lifshin has transmitted this list to the Provost.

Excellence Awards Committees: In accordance with SUNY and SUNY Senate Awards Committee requirements for campus excellence awards committees in order for local recipients to be eligible for the Chancellor's Excellence Awards, GOV approved and transmitted to the President membership for this year's committees; a student representative also needs to be selected and SUNY regulations indicated that the President and the Senate Chair each designate one member of each selection committee. GOV also suggested that the President's designee convene the first meeting of each committee and preside over the election of their chair, noting that both the President's and the Senate Chair's designees are full voting members of the given committee and could be elected chair of that body.

The committees are for the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Professional Service, Excellence in Librarianship, Excellence in Support ("Classified") Service, Excellence in Academic ("Faculty") Service, and Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. GOV noted that the last award has *two distinct sets of criteria*, one for "Scholarship" (formerly the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research") and one for "Creative Activities." The UA Senate Charter designates the responsibility for the "Research" award to the Council on Research, but does not address "Creative Activities." [The criteria, requisite forms, and the number of possible recipients allocated to UA for each award can be found on the following SUNY sites:

<http://www.suny.edu/provost/facultyAwards.cfm?navLevel=5> and

http://www.suny.edu/provost/faculty_awards_files/CEA%202009-2011%20policies%20and%20procedures.pdf.

Consequently, the membership for "Scholarship and Creative Activities" expressly avoided the research component and included membership suggested by Provost's Office concerned with "creative activities."

Bill Hedberg responded that the membership was acceptable for all except the "Scholarship and Creative Activities" committee, but he is passing on to COR the list of members recommended by GOV. He also provided the names of the President's designee for each committee and, in most cases, the name of a support staff person. Senate Chair Range provided a tentative list of his designees (not all of whom as yet have agreed to serve on the committees.)

GOV remains concerned that UA faculty whose accomplishments are more appropriate to the "Creative Activities" criteria may not be (and may not have been) given appropriate consideration for that award. There is no question about COR continuing its appropriate role in selecting a committee to nominate faculty it deems worthy for the President's Award for Research (and thereby the Chancellor's Award for "Scholarship") but it may be desirable in the future to have a separate committee concerned with a President's (and Chancellor's) Award for Excellence in Creative Activities.

GAC inquiry regarding reports from the Graduate Student Support (GSS) panels: Senate Chair Range asked GOV to provide an interpretation of the Senate Charter in response to a request from GAC Chair Kranich. Specifically, Kranich noted that in response to the GAC request to Graduate Dean Pryse for information on the GSS deliberations, "The Dean told the Council that GAC will receive a copy of the final report of the GSS review but not the individual program assessments. She assured the Council that the GSS report will not include proposals for continuing or discontinuing programs nor will it contain any funding recommendations. Therefore, since Subsection X.4.5.1 is subsidiary to X.4.5, it is her contention that the GSS review will not affect the continuation of graduate programs, and therefore 4.5 does not apply nor its subsidiary."

At a special meeting of GOV on November 17th, the council strongly disagreed with that interpretation. However, recognizing the potential harm of premature disclosure of some GSS rankings, it suggested GAC (and, as applicable, UPPC) members made privy to those findings take a confidentiality oath. This response was sent to Chair Range with cc's to Pryse, Kranich and UPPC Chair Delano and has been distributed to SEC members. It was subsequently noted that GOV's response was cited as a reason for not informing

program directors of the panels' findings—this was not suggested in the GOV document, and preservation of appropriate, established opportunities to challenge GSS opinions imply that the programs receiving tentative weak rankings need to be informed of this at the earliest possible opportunity.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Gwen Moore, Chair

At the last LISC meeting, CIO Christine Haile reported that ITS staff is working with the School of Business on the design for the new building by providing input and cabling suggestions as well as instruction on the AV and classroom design. Fixed technology will be in each classroom. The Registrar's office will schedule these classrooms.

Dean of Libraries Mary Casserly reported that the Libraries are okay for now with the mid-year budget cuts.

The University Library and the Science Library will again have extended hours during exam week. The hours are posted on the website.

Skype is now available in a group study room in the University Library.

IT Committee chair Larry Raffalovich reported that the IT Committee met and discussed privacy and security concerns, as well as how much is being monitored, and does the University have the authority to monitor content and usage. University Counsel John Reilly was invited to attend the November 23 meeting of the IT Committee to discuss privacy policy.

Other issues raised were concern with the embedded links that accompany emails and the caution that should be taken when opening these links. A discussion followed regarding the lack of subject lines in blast emails and some of the electronic classrooms being non-conducive to teaching. A suggestion to revisit "email as an official means of communication" by the Committee was made.

LISC members are asked to review and comment on the Middle States Self-Study Report, especially Chapter 3.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC approved a CAS course for training tutors under a grant.

UAC learned that the number of students electing S/U grading has greatly increased now that the last date to do so has been moved to later in the semester (877 in Fall 09 with a later deadline compared to 396 in Fall 08 with Sept. 22nd deadline). It remains to be seen if the number of appeals will go down! (Students who elect S/U grading must obtain a C or better to pass.)

UAC discussed the concept of granting blanket Gen Ed approval for topics courses. No vote was taken. The sense of the group was that each course, or in this case, group of courses, should be reviewed on its own merits, and that a general topics course in an area that fell under a particular gen ed could be approved if set up to clearly show those objectives would be met in all topics.

UAC began a discussion about determining whether a student who missed more than 2 weeks of classes due to illness or any "allowable" reason should always be allowed back in class at the request of the Dean, as is the case for shorter absences of similar nature.

The new date and time for UAC meetings in the spring 2010 semester has been set for Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am.

The UAC reviewed Chapter 9 of the Middle State Self-Study draft report and submitted comments as requested.

The UAC proposes a revision in the General Education Foreign Language requirement. The proposal has been distributed to SEC members and is on today's agenda.

ULC (University Life Council) – Daniel R. Smith, Chair

ULC met to discuss the Middle States Self-Study draft; its comments on chapters 10 and 7 follow:

Chapter 10 typos: Page 8, course prefix is 'RSSW'. Page 8 is missing a link. Page 18 'Capitol' should be spelled 'Capital'. Page 12 number of veterans is now 221 as of fall 2009.

Chapter 10 comments: Page 3, reference to a "dip to 72.4% [retention] after eight semesters", it is unclear whether this is correct. Shouldn't retention dip to zero given graduation after eight semesters for EOP students, especially in light of the fact that in the very next sentence Institutional Research has calculated the graduation rate at 60%?

Chapter 7 typos: Page 9, third paragraph: acronym "LGBTQ" should be "LGBTQQA" (Questioning, Allied). And, last sentence, same paragraph is a fragment "In and examine...faculty and staff."

Chapter 7 comments:

1. Student Services for Graduate Students needs to be explicated. Notation that 30% of the crime on campus is "theft"--what is the other 70%? Is it more serious crime? Needs explanation and data.
2. Perceptions of safety? Where are the stats that demonstrate that UA is more safe than the general Albany community? There is one chart (Appendix 7.2) with 'Students as Crime Victims OFF CAMPUS', how about stats on students as crime victims on campus?
3. Appendices 7.1- 7.5, charts or appendices entitled "Cultural Leaders Avg. GPA", "Prevention Program Attendance", and "Residence Hall Programming" are not referred to in the body of the chapter.

ULC continues to ask for three undergraduate student members for the University Life Council, one of whom must be a senator

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – John Delano, Chair

The UPPC met on Thursday, November 19. At that meeting, the UPPC received a report from Kim Bessett, Associate Vice President for Financial Management and Budget, providing the UPPC with a spreadsheet showing NY State allocations to UAlbany during the last several years. These data had been requested in a prior UPPC meeting, and the prompt response from the Office of Financial Management and Budget was appreciated.

In addition, the UPPC discussed a 15-page Letter of Intent for the creation of a Master's degree program in Global Affairs at Rockefeller College. Dean Jeffrey Straussman and Professor Rey Koslowski replied to questions and comments from UPPC members on specific aspects of the Letter of Intent. The UPPC will be meeting on Thursday, December 3, to continue the discussion with Prof. Koslowski about the Global Affairs proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft of Vision for and Definition of Diversity:

Tamra Minor, Director for Diversity and Affirmative Action, was unable to join today's discussion. It was agreed to postpone the discussion until a time when she would be available.

Governance Review Process of Final Report of Doctoral Program Review:

Chair Range informed SEC members that the topic being discussed was related to a request from GAC Chair Kranich to Marjorie Pryse, Dean of Graduate Studies, to receive the individual program assessments of the Graduate Student Support (GSS) Review Panel. Dean Pryse indicated that GAC would receive the final report but not the individual assessments. Chair Kranich believed the assessments should be made available to GAC, in accordance with Section X.4.5 and X.4.5.1 of the Senate Charter. Dean Pryse did not believe the Charter section was applicable since there would be no recommendations concerning terminations or restructuring of doctoral programs. Chair Kranich consulted with Chair Range who referred the matter to the Governance Council for its interpretation of the Charter. GOV met to discuss the matter and forwarded their response to Chair Range, indicating they disagreed with the Dean's interpretation. Chair Range asked that today's discussion provide a review of the procedural matters related to the GSS and a clarification of the roles of GAC and UPPC in reviewing the GSS report. Dean Pryse had been invited to participate in the discussion.

Provost Phillips opened the discussion by providing background on the formation of the GSS, when last spring she contacted then Senate Chair Delano asking for Senate assistance in forming a panel of distinguished faculty to review the quality of doctoral programs across campus. At a time when the University was faced with dwindling resources, this was viewed as a funding issue. The Governance Council, with input from the SEC, provided a list of names for the panel to the Provost. Of the twenty seven members of the panel constituted by the Provost, 60% were from the list approved by governance. The Provost held discussions with CAA, COR, GAC and UPPC to put a design in place before engaging the panel. The design was presented to the panel and they were advised regarding confidentiality. The report was provided to the Provost and shared with department chairs and deans, but there has been no inclusion of a broader audience.

Provost Phillips continued, stating that the conclusions of the report could assist in determining how to utilize our resources. The resulting report has the potential to provide restoration of the \$1.5 million that was removed from graduate student support last year. In order to meet recruitment schedules, allocations will need to be provided to departments by the end of February. The GSS report could inform how allocations are used. The Provost expressed concern about the need to scrutinize the work that has been done by the members of the panel but she also stated that she understands the need for transparency.

Dean Pryse said the Provost had done an excellent job with the construction of the panel. She appreciated the response from GOV and agreed to field questions on the issue.

Chair Kranich stated the draft design had provided for review of the GSS recommendations and that these would be forwarded to GAC and other relevant councils in December. He sent a letter to Dean Pryse in November, requesting that, in accordance with the charter, GAC should receive the assessment reports. He saw this as a matter of procedure and it seemed clear that the statutes stated the assessment reports would be made available to GAC. GOV Chair Eric Lifshin restated Governance Council's position in supporting GAC's request. The collective feeling of GOV members was that assessment reports could be useful in the areas of funding and support, for future concerns of our students and in achieving objectives of our faculty. The lack of criteria and data supporting the assessments is of concern.

Dean Pryse provided a detailed account of the procedures the subpanels employed in reviewing the programs. Chair Range stated that the integrity of their work was not in question, but in order for governance to participate and provide its best recommendations to the president based on the panel's findings, access to the data utilized for recommendations should be made available as early as possible. Provost Phillips stated that it was not her understanding that what was written in the reports would go outside the review process and she was unsure of the intended audience. President Philip spoke of his concerns about maintaining confidentiality about individuals identified explicitly in the panel reports and about the ratings of programs.

During the discussion, Senator Delano, Chair of the UPPC, stated that he saw no value in Senate councils (e.g., GAC; UPPC; CAA; COR) receiving the reviews for each program. Those reports were the product of data that would not be available to the Senate councils, and involved calibrated assessments of those data by the GSS panelists that also would not be available. In the absence of the Senate councils re-doing the assessments, he saw no purpose to be served in distributing those individual programmatic reviews to the Senate.

Dean Pryse stated that the funding decisions to be made would include the GSS review but did not believe that recommendations concerning funding were ever subject to Senate review. Chair Range stated that funding decisions that have an impact on programs require consultation with the appropriate governance bodies. President Philip spoke of his concern of unduly creating polarization in the University community if there is little impact resulting from the reports. He would be willing to have information shared, and he supports any level of disclosure that informs. The President stated there will be some level of consultation before any big decisions are made. Dean Pryse continued that in terms of consultation, there are ambiguities in the Charter but it is important to obtain Senate input. Deans will have access to the sub panel reviews and any recommendations to discontinue or change programs would come from the schools and colleges, making it necessary for them to be part of the discussion.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to move ahead with the agenda and to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Update on Community Rights and Responsibilities:

Chair Fessler reported that CAFFECOR members had identified areas in the Community Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) document pertaining to ULC and LISC. The Office of Student Success is on board to work with changes recommended by governance. CAFFECOR will move forward on this at the beginning of the spring semester, since this will affect all undergraduates. She stated that the work that had been done by her and Malcolm Sherman last year helped to inform them in the revision and brought them into compliance with New York State law.

The section concerning Harassment, Defamation was discussed as it pertains to use of computers, and CAFFECOR feels it is an issue for LISC. Chair Range asked LISC Chair Moore to discuss with members of LISC. Chair Fessler recommends removing the references concerning Hate or Bias - Related Incidents, which are poorly defined, but maintaining the section on Hate or Bias Crimes. These changes could make the University less susceptible to lawsuits.

CAFFECOR members were in agreement to strike the Principles of a Just Community on the first page since it appears in the undergraduate bulletin and they did not believe it contributed to the conversation.

Chair Fessler and Vice President for Student Success, Christine Bouchard, are in agreement to have University Counsel review the document.

Bill No. 0910-02: Revise Wording on Satisfying the Foreign Language Gen Ed With Credits Earned While Studying Abroad:

UAC Chair Savitt stated the bill would provide an additional means of meeting the GenEd requirement for obtaining foreign language credits. Students who learn a language at an overseas site have the potential to gain greater competency, and the bill recognizes the intensity of study that will be involved. A motion was made and seconded to move the bill forward to the Senate agenda.

Graduate Certificate Program in PSM:

Chair Kranich discussed the proposal which comes from the Departments of Biology and Computer Science, the School of Business, and the Rockefeller College. The proposal provides an advanced graduate certificate program of 18 credits which would provide training in business and public management. The program is designed for people in the masters programs of the above disciplines who are interested in science but not research. Chair Kranich was uncertain if it would require further approval beyond that of the University, but it is modeled after the program at SUNY Buffalo which has already been approved by the state. Chair Kranich indicated it would not require further resources but utilize existing resources. A motion to move the proposal to the Senate was approved.

NEW AGENDA ITEM

GAC Chair Kranich asked for future discussions concerning responsibility of reviewing assessment reports. He noted that CAA has a responsibility to make recommendation on the assessment process per the Charter. He would like a discussion to take place to clarify allocation of responsibility.

Chair Kranich referred to a discussion at the last meeting on November 2 concerning an inconsistency of information regarding assistantships posted on-line by departments and the information that is provided by the Office of Graduate Studies. The guidelines provided by Graduate Studies pertain to funding issues and he stressed the need of informing departments on maintaining their websites in a manner consistent with that office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail Cameron, Recorder