

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES**

Meeting of the University Senate, April 25, 2016  
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT –Cynthia Fox**

#### **I. Informational**

1. SEC met on April 13. The elimination of the Women's Division I tennis program as of the 2016-17 school year and recent Faculty Athletics Representative Report to the Senate has been the catalyst for a discussion of the relationship between the Senate and the Athletics Department. Chair Fox pointed out that the Athletics Committee is one of three standing committees of ULC, but that ULC had not informed of the change; in fact that committee has not been constituted in at least the past four years. Chair Fox pointed out that she had learned of the change herself only because the press release had been forwarded to her by UUP with a question as to whether the Senate had any standing in the matter.
2. At that same meeting, the SEC discussed with guests David Rousseau, Elizabeth Gray and Celine Forsyth Senate Bill 1516-04 CEHC PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF ARTS AND A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY.
3. Chair Fox met on April 15 with President Jones, Provost Stellar, Vice President for Research Diaz, and Presidential Assistant Alice Oldfather to discuss the Spring Faculty meeting. The meeting is April 26 at 3:00 in the Campus Center Ballroom with refreshments to follow.
4. Chair Fox will attend the SUNY-wide Plenary at Brockport on May 6-7.

#### **II. Actions Taken**

1. The SEC agreed unanimously that Senate Bill 1516-04 should be placed on the agenda of the April 25 Senate meeting. Noting that the agenda was very full with elections and Resolution 11516-01R, the SEC asked that Chair Fox distribute the proposal ahead of the agenda with a request that Senators read these documents and send their comments and questions to her, with a copy to David Rousseau, by noon on Thursday, April 21. The idea was that this would help facilitate, and thus expedite, the discussion when the bill gets to the Senate floor.

#### **III. Recommendations for actions**

1. The relationship between the Senate and the Athletics Department should be clarified.

2. The issue of the non-constitution of Committees such as the ULC's Athletics Committee should be addressed.

**UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – J. Philippe Abraham, Walter Little & John Schmidt, SUNY Senators**

We look forward to the next plenary meeting of the SUNY Senate in Brockport on May 6 & 7. Details of the next SUNY Budget will be a prominent topic then.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Katherine Slye, GSA President  
Assembly Discussion with Dean Kevin Williams Regarding the GTA Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations**

Dean Kevin Williams attended our Assembly meeting on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the progress on the GTA BRP recommendations. Overall it was a productive and informative conversation and we agreed that the GSA will be a key partner in continuing to push for increased resources in this area of Graduate Student Support.

He told us that he only got about half of the 1 million dollars he requested through compact budgeting, so the new base has only risen to \$15,300, with STEM fields having a higher base; this leaves us 90-95% of the way to the base recommendations from the report. He also told us he was able to double the number of 5<sup>th</sup> year funding lines from 15 to 30.

In discussion of the other recommendations, Dean Williams wants to work with departments to increase the number of research assistantships by bringing in grant money. He also wants explore cost sharing, where the University might pay tuition but the grant from the professor pays for the stipend. He does recognize that this model works better for STEM fields than the Humanities and Social Sciences, and that is why he thinks a department based solution is best.

As far as the recommendation for highly competitive university-wide fellowships, Dean Williams said there used to be a Presidential Fellowship program whereby some graduate students received higher stipends; some faculty did not like having tiers of graduate students. No other progress has been made on this recommendation.

We also discussed the loss of tuition remission for GAs in administrative units; the administrative units now must pay tuition costs if they want their GA to continue to have tuition covered while the University will still pay the stipend. Dean Williams told us that most units look like they will pay the tuition; he also said the money previously allocated to this purpose was used to increase the GTA stipends. We had some students express a concern about this choice of moving resources: it not only pits graduate students against each other in a competition

for resources, but some departments have students that depend upon Administrative GA positions since their department does not have GTA lines. There was a concern that some departments might lose students if the administrative unit they work in is unable to find the money to pay their GA's tuition.

### **Assembly Resolutions and Advocacy**

I provided a letter for support on behalf of the GSA for the Office of Environmental Sustainability's Energy to Lead proposal. This proposal will not only enable the University at Albany to be a sustainably leader in New York State, but empower students to be apart of that change and accomplishment. Their plan will make Liberty Terrace a net zero energy campus living residence and continue their engagement with students on programming and education efforts to continue to spread awareness of sustainability in addition to partnering with students in the creation of actionable solutions to sustainability issues on campus.

At our Assembly meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Assembly passed a resolution in support of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act, Senate Bill 8573 and Assembly Bill A811a. These bills call for NYS to stop investing state money in fossil fuels and calls for investments in clean energy. Assembly Representatives, the E-board, and other attendees also signed letters of opposition to a NYS natural gas pipeline. They were sent to Governor Cuomo and Assemblyman McLaughlin and Senator Marchionne whose districts would be negatively affected by the pipeline should it be installed.

Two members of the GSA, our Treasurer Hina Thalgo and the 16-17 Equity and Inclusion Chair, along with myself, are attending the SUNY Student Assembly meeting April 15-17<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, all SUNY campuses have the opportunity to send voting delegates to discuss the official stances of the SUNY SA on important issues facing students, our state, and nation. There are about 15 or so resolutions being considered, and we will be presenting two resolutions our Assembly has passed this year: Fossil Fuel Divestment Act and Ban the Box Resolutions.

Four GSA members, including our Vice President Hirah Mir and the 16-17 President and Treasurer, are attending the NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference April 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Hirah will be presenting on an alternative jobs handbook, a resource intended to help graduate students market themselves for non-academic jobs, and all of the attendees will attend sessions to gain information to help the GSA grow and develop.

### **President's Forum**

We are hosting our annual Forum with President Jones on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm in SS256. We will be discussing the role Graduate Students will play in the University strategic planning process, the GTA and Contingent BRP recommendations, as well as other issues graduate students want to discuss.

### **Candidates Forum & Election Results**

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, students heard from the candidates who are running for GSA office for the 2016-2017 year. The candidates were able to share their plan for the next year and students were able to ask questions of the candidates.

The 2016-2017 GSA Officers are:

President: Jefferson Garcia

Vice President: Dylan Card

Treasurer: Thomas Robertson

Equity and Inclusion Chair: Scott Wilcott

Programming Chair: To Be Appointed by the President and Confirmed by the Assembly

Grants Chair: To Be Appointed by the President and Confirmed by the Assembly

University Council Rep: Stanley De La Cruz

Lead Senator: To be Determined

### **Renaming Indian Quad**

At the next University Council Meeting, the GSA is asking the Council to consider renaming Indian Quad, with current suggestions being "Indigenous People's Quad," "First Nations Quad," or the Mohawk word "Onkwehon: we," which means "The Real People" referring to the Mohican and Mohawk. The GSA will also consider this issue in our Assembly in the coming weeks. This topic emerged last year as we prepared to host the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students' annual Leadership Summit. Hosting student leaders from across the country at Liberty Terrace and giving them a tour of the heritage garden led to a critical dialogue about why our University still maintained the name "Indian" for one of our quads when the use of this term in reference to indigenous people of New York State is generally seen as offensive.

The naming of the quad and its halls (the halls named after various indigenous nations in New York; Mahican, Cayuga, Seneca, etc.) is undoubtedly an attempt to pay respect to New York State heritage, but the evolution of the term "Indian" since the quad was named suggests that we need to revisit how we respect the indigenous populations of New York State. Regardless of the recommendations of names to come, the basic request from students to the Council is to at least thoughtfully consider a name change. We believe we should take advantage of the opportunity to show respect for indigenous nations of New York, rather than letting a questionable term continue to be used.

### **SA (Student Association) – Jarius Jemmott, Student Association President**

No response

### **CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – James Mower, Chair**

CAA will meet on April 21 to approve assessment reports submitted by APRC.

**CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) –Carol Jewell, Chair**

**I. Informational**

CAFFECoR met on April 4, 2016.

**II. Reports of Actions**

CAFFECoR discussed issues remaining on the agenda for the remainder of the academic year, and possible actions for the following academic year.

**III. Recommendations for Actions**

CAFFECoR will submit two (2) resolutions on academic freedom, to be voted on at the May 2016 Senate meeting. CAFFECoR will meet again on April 21, 2016.

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Michael Jerison, Chair**

Nothing to report

**COR (Council on Research) – Daniele Fabris, Chair**

Nothing to report

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Lynn Warner, Chair**

March 28 - Reviewed 1 continuing appointment case, 1 promotion case

April 12- Reviewed 1 promotion case

No other cases are expected this semester

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Ronald Toseland, Chair**

GAC voted to approve a new Certificate of Graduate Study program in Computing Education. Pending additional endorsement by UPPC it is recommended to the Senate for approval. GAC also gave final approval to changes in the Educational Administration & Policy Studies PhD program, Physics MS and PhD programs, Behavioral Neuroscience PhD and Biomedical MS & PhD programs. GAC discussed and voted to approve the recommendation of its Committee on Educational Policy & Procedures that the definition of certifiable full-time enrollment be amended to become a minimum of 9 credits per term, and recommends the Senate take action to approve this policy change. GAC discussed the graduate Ombuds Program and requested a program status update and GSA briefing regarding it from the Graduate Dean's office. GAC discussed the Blue Ribbon Panel report on graduate student funding and received an implementation update regarding it from Graduate Dean Williams. Further consideration of the details in conjunction with GSA representatives was requested of the Committee on Educational Policy & Procedures.

**GOV (Governance Council) – James Collins, Chair  
Old/continuing business**

The Council's two main committees:

\* *Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation*: Has developed and distributed the biennial survey of Senate constituencies. At the Council's 3/28/16 meeting, it discussed strategies for improving response rates and committed to a plan of action. Results are now in, with higher response rates than in 2014. The Committee has begun scheduling analysis, preliminary to preparing a report for the University Senate next fall.

\* *Committee on Liaison & Election*: Is immersed in the ongoing tasks of conducting annual Senate elections. It also submitted a request to create an Emeritus Faculty listserv, and continues to work on the details of developing a Part-time Faculty listserv. It has also assisted with three Senate Forums on March 25 (Academic Freedom), April 5<sup>th</sup> (Contingent Faculty Concerns) and April 18<sup>th</sup>, Sustainability.

An ad-hoc working group was established to revise a Charter Amendment from CAA. It did so in consultation with the Chair of CAA, and anticipates submitting the Charter Amendment to the Senate for May 9.

**Actions taken/new business:**

The Council reviewed the role, functioning and oversight of the existing Graduate Student Ombudsperson, and referred the matter to GSA leaders and the GAC.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – David Mamorella, Chair**

1. [UAlbany App, Version 2.0 Demo w/questions/comments \(Goodwin/Smith\)](#)

Jeff and Brian provided the committee with a demo of how the new UAlbany App functions on a person's phone. The App was designed to provide students with access to the information that they use most. Input for the App came from the students as well as administrative staff. Communications and Marketing partnered with EAS to create this App. Some of the functions students wanted to see in the App were mobile access to academic standings, bus information, laundry facility availability, as well as registrar info, class schedules, etc. The student foundation helped with input and feedback. Still need to establish focus groups, as a more formalized process is needed. In addition, a governance body is needed and a decision as to whether the App should be developed in house or outsourced. There are currently 11 – 12,000 students using the App. It was suggested to add a feature that could push out alerts and notifications for students for graduation, emergency alerts, weather alerts, etc. Also, it would be useful to be able to view availability of computers in the Information Commons.

## 2. Report from Interim Dean of the Libraries, Rebecca Mugridge

**Faculty searches.** The search committee for the Access Services & Information Commons Evening Associate position has completed its work, and Glen Benedict will begin working on April 7. The Reference Librarian search committee has completed its review of candidates and made recommendations for which candidates to bring in for interviews; we will be requesting permission from ODI to invite them tomorrow. The Interactive Media Center position has been posted with a deadline of April 29. We have sent the hiring paperwork for an Information Literacy Librarian position to ODI/HR/Budget; that paperwork is making its way through the system. We hope to post that position in the next two weeks.

**Conversations in Standish.** There will be an upcoming conversation on April 6: Rick Fogarty, History Department, will be speaking on April 6, 12:35-1:30 on “What Can 1916 Tell Us About 2016? Europe, Islam, and the Middle East.” We plan to host 2-3 of these conversations every semester; they have all been highly successful at bringing faculty, students, and the community together.

**Information Commons Steering Committee.** Now that Simeon is on board, and we have a new Director of Public Services, we are planning to revitalize the Information Commons Steering Committee.

**Information Literacy Conference.** Members of the Libraries' Information Literacy Department, including Trudi Jacobson, Allison Hosier, Kelsey O'Brien, Greg Bobish, and Irina Holden planned and offered a one-day conference on the new Information Literacy Framework, the new information literacy standards for higher education which was recently adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries. This highly successful event drew more than 50 attendees from as far away as Illinois and Texas. The Badging System was introduced. This tool is used by students to complete a module and receive a badge for doing so.

**Compact planning proposals.** The Libraries are putting forward four compact planning proposals this year. They include:

- Funding to replace student seating in the University Library
- New Information Literacy Classroom in the Science Library
- Library Support for Engineering Programs
- Library Support for the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cyber Security

**Marcia Brown gift and event.** The Libraries are hosting an event on April 8 to celebrate the life of Marcia Brown, an award-winning children's book author and illustrator, best known for *Stone Soup*. The event will be held in the Standish Room, from 2:00 to 5:00. All are welcome but are asked to RSVP to Brian Keough at [bkeough@albany.edu](mailto:bkeough@albany.edu) or 437-3931.

### 3. Report from CIO – Simeon Ananou

**Gartner License.** ITS has acquired an institutional license to Gartner, a leading information technology research and advisory company. An informational announcement will soon go out to the Campus community.

**Information Security Office.** ITS acquired the capability of scanning any University system with a leading Gartner product, Nessus. In addition to vulnerability scanning, Nessus also does configuration scanning (for devices like network gear), and compliance scanning for things like PCI.

**ResNet bid award information.** This is currently in progress, but we have requested 75Mb links for both wired and wireless which is a dramatic improvement over the current 10Mb links that are currently provisioned for the residential halls. The bid is scheduled to open on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We should have the results, and this project will be well underway in time for a report at the University Council meeting. We hope to have a new service provider by Fall.

**NYSERNet & Internet II.** The University has direct access to NYSERnet, whereby we can share a lot of information. In addition, Internet II is a very robust network aiding in the exchange of information with other institutions here and overseas. Everyone has access to these services.

**College Scheduler Implementation.** Transforming the capability of students to plan their schedules their way.

**Web & Digital Strategy.** ITS is still working with Communications and Marketing to defining the strategy to achieve operational excellence by deploying enterprise-wide digital solutions that meet our consumers' needs, internally and externally; with an initial focus on how to engage students and their influencers.

**Transfer-Credit Transition.** Transitioning the technology and processes used to ensure our transfer students can come and go more seamlessly and plan their degree.

4. New Business

The Committee is down two members; if anyone knows of someone who is interested in joining, please email Dave.

Additionally, Rebecca will have someone from the Libraries present on the “badging” model for the next LISC meeting.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) –Karen Kiorpes and Christy Smith, Co-Chairs**

The UAC met on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The Curriculum and Honors Committee

- Approved a proposal from Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies Department to deactivate the Globalization of Americas minor for lack of enrollments.
- Approved proposals from Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department to revise the LGTBQ and the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies minors.
- Approved a proposal from Chemistry implementing additional offerings available in the department slightly changing all their majors.
- Along with UAC via an email vote, approved Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies Department’s proposal to change the name of the major and the minor from Latin American Studies to Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The change to the major will have to be approved on the State Education Department level.
- Approved proposals from Biology revising prerequisites and creating a new course, ABIO 330.

UAC approved a proposal from the Department of Communication to change the name of their major and minor from “Rhetoric and Communication” to “Communication”, along with a change to the HEGIS code.

The *Biology* General Education Competency Plan was previously approved by UAC pending clarification for the oral discourse competency. ABIO 212 was addressed and the plan was approved unanimously.

A revised plan from *Geography and Planning*, including revised syllabi for required courses and designated electives that fulfill the oral discourse requirement, was approved.

The *Art* General Education Competency Plan was previously submitted, with the Information Literacy and Advanced Writing competencies still needing approval for both majors (36 credit and 60 credit). The revision was reviewed on April 12th. Recommendations regarding Information Literacy and Oral Discourse requirements were submitted by the UAC Chairs to the Chair of Art and Art History requesting further revision.

## **ULC (University Life Council) – Michael Jaromin, Chair**

### **1) Old Business**

No response from Dean Nasca to see if he would attend on the 29th as a follow-up to the Tobacco-Free campus initiative. Will also pursue for 4/26

### **2) New Business**

a) 11:00 a.m. Randy Stark, Associate Vice President Human Resources

- i) Randy Stark noted that a new training coordinator will start in HR next week. Orientation and on-boarding will be on the agenda for this staff person. Members of the Council noted that there should be a focus on an Orientation for new faculty/staff but also on a Welcome to the University to build a connection to the campus and surrounding community.
- ii) Orientation should be University-wide but also department specific. Randy mentioned that they would also be looking at having some training available on-line and that they would also look at other models on other campuses for best practices.
- iii) Some of the topics noted that should be covered were policies, benefits, services, safety, parking, research info, harassment, workplace violence, tenure/promotion/renewal, blackboard etc.
- iv) Randy also mentioned the possibility of a 3-3-3 program where new hires were followed up after 3 days, 3 weeks and 3 months.
- v) Other issues were brought up such as part time staff, on-line only staff who never come to campus.
- vi) Randy noted they would begin this on-boarding in the summer and could include previous hires.

b) 11:30 a.m. Tamra Minor Chief Diversity Officer and Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

- i) Senate Forum. Deborah LaFond noted that the Senate should consider holding a Forum on diversity issues specifically coming out of the bus incident—this forum would likely be hosted by ULC. This forum would be faculty led not led by the administration.
- ii) Dr. Minor noted there have been three additional dialogues led by faculty so far and they had been announced campus-wide. Additional dialogues would be announced soon and would be student-focused, faculty-focused and some would combine student-faculty-staff.
- iii) These dialogues are led by faculty who are leading experts in these areas such as Dr. Vivien Ng, Dr. Karyn Loscocco, Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Lani Jones and Dr. Loretta Pyles among others.
- iv) It was noted that the focus of these dialogues is not necessarily about the CDTA incident but addressing other campus wide issues.
- v) The graduate student representative noted that the Dialogues have been great but thought that all faculty/staff should perhaps have training. Dr. Minor noted the faculty Dialogue in Action series and a possible proposal to have all new faculty sign up for these in the

fall.

- vi) It was noted that Deans and Directors should encourage faculty and staff to attend these workshops and what better ways might there be to get the information out. The beadworks calendar system was noted as being cumbersome.
- vii) Senator LaFond is interested in drafting a resolution supporting additional faculty led forums which she will pass to the ULC for review.

### **3) Other**

a) Next meeting topics:

Dr. Michael Christakis, Vice President for Student Affairs will attend on 4/26  
Maternity and Paternity Leave

## **UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Joette Stefl-Mabry, Chair**

### **I. Informational**

- UPPC met on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the meeting was chaired by Dr. Cynthia Fox as Dr. Joette Stefl-Mabry was attending a conference.
  - Approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2016 meeting was deferred because quorum was not met.
  - Dr. Laura Schweitzer, Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical initiatives provided the rationale for renaming the “East Campus” to the “Health Sciences Campus” to highlight its presence as a site for health sciences-related research and teaching currently taking place in the School of Public Health, the Cancer Research Center, and the Center for Functional Genomics. The renaming will be accompanied by a press release, new website, and campus event.
  - James Van Voorst, Vice President of Finance and Administration provided an update to the Council on recent developments regarding the 2016-17 State Budget and its impact on the University:
    - The Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was not continued
    - University Centers were authorized to raise non-resident tuition by up to 10 percent
    - No \$20 million for the renovation of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Schuyler building and
    - 20% funding increase for the Educational Opportunity Program
- UPPC held a special meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss three new proposals:
  - Certificate of Graduate Study in Computing Education (CCE Online), presented by Dr. Peter Shea, Educational Theory and Practice
  - Certificate in International Education Management, presented by Dr. Mitch Leventhal and Dr. Alan Wagner, Educational Administration & Policy Studies (EAPS).
  - Letter of Intent describing a Graduate Degree Program: M.A. International Education Management, presented by Dr. Mitch Leventhal and Dr. Alan Wagner, Educational Administration & Policy Studies (EAPS).

## **II. Reports of Actions**

- UPPC voted to conditionally approve the proposal for the Certificate of Graduate Study in Computing Education (CCE Online) pending revisions to the original proposal as suggested by the Council.
- UPPC voted to conditionally approve the proposal for the Certificate in International Education Management pending revisions to the original proposal as suggested by the Council.
- UPPC voted to accept the Letter of Intent describing the Graduate Degree Program: M.A. International Education Management.

## **III. Recommended Actions**

N/A