

University at Albany
State University of New York

University Council
Minutes
December 6, 2013

A regular meeting of the University Council was held on December 6, 2013 in University Hall, Room 306. Members present were: Michael Castellana, Chair; Pierre Alric; Robert Balachandran; Patricia Caldwell; John Fallon [by phone]; Abner JeanPierre; James Jackson [by phone]; Michael Stein; Joette Stefl-Mabry [Faculty Representative]; Timothy Murphy [Alumni Representative]; and Klara Botvinnik [Student Representative, by phone]. Also present were Pres. Robert Jones; Vice Presidents Susan Phillips, Fardin Sanai, Lee McElroy and Stephen Beditz; John Reilly, Counsel's Office; Vincent Delio, Chief of Staff; Kim Bessette, Associate Vice President and Budget Director; Tim Lever, Assistant Budget Director; and special guest, Dr. Robert Ford.

Mr. Beditz confirmed that the members present and participating by phone constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. He asked for a motion to reorder the agenda (Stein/Jackson) which was approved, as were the minutes of the October 11, 2013 meeting (Alric/Caldwell). Chairman Castellana then gave the floor to President Jones for his remarks.

The President gave a brief overview of current activities. Of particular note was the December 4, 2013 inauguration of the Confucius Institute, an educational center designed to promote Chinese language and culture to our students and the region. It will also help facilitate student study-abroad opportunities and funding for faculty exchange activities. Affiliated with China's Ministry of Education and Office of Chinese Language Council International, the Institute will provide a direct link with China's Southwest University of Finance and Economics.

President Jones then gave an update on the University's activities under the Start-Up NY program. He reiterated that businesses we might partner with under this program must have either a close alignment with our educational mission or promote engagement and service of underserved communities. Our plan (draft attached) will be submitted to SUNY by December 16 for review, then to the Empire State Development Corporation for final approval. Michael Shimazu, Associate Vice President for Business Partnerships and Economic Development, will lead our efforts under the program.

President Jones noted the Chancellor recently held a conference on "big data," which explored the question of how data analysis might be used to improve our students' learning experience and success. In the future, we will host a presidential "big data"

forum and develop a structured program around data analytics, with the intent to create a Center of Excellence to teach and research on this topic.

President Jones briefly mentioned the University's collaboration with Hudson Valley Community College to provide mutual backup data center services; the ongoing "four stakes" discussions, first mentioned in his inaugural address; the success of the Citizen Laureate Dinner; and noted that our new School of Business building has been recognized as the fourth most beautiful school of business in the world. In finishing his remarks, President Jones took a moment to recognize Coach Bob Ford upon his upcoming retirement, and thanked him for all that he has done to enhance the reputation of the University at Albany during his forty-four years of wonderful service.

At the conclusion of the President's remarks, Chairman Castellana noted that this would be an ideal time to address item 6.a. of the agenda, and asked for a motion to adopt a formal resolution in recognition of Coach Ford's service to the University (Stein/Balachandran). Upon approval, he read the attached resolution, which was unanimously approved. Coach Ford then made brief remarks on his coaching philosophy and noted it was his privilege to work at such a fine institution and with such wonderful coaches, students and staff over all these years. Mr. Beditz presented Coach Ford with a framed copy of the resolution.

Chairman Castellana then turned to updates. Faculty Representative Stefl-Mabry had no new business to report from the Faculty Senate. Student Representative Botvinnik then made brief remarks on the activities of the Student Association.

Alumni Association Representative Murphy reported the Alumni Association has engaged in marketing activities involving billboard placements and handed out examples, as well as a redesigned e-newsletter (attached). The Association has made two new staff hires, and has upgraded its computer platform which will provide better means of tracking and communicating with alumni. The e-newsletter and enhanced social media connectivity will help in this regard. Mr. Murphy noted that the Association's strategic plan is being modified, and reported that approximately 1,600 alums came to Homecoming Weekend, far exceeding all expectations. Discussion followed on billboard placements (Balachandran, Sanai). Mr. Stein congratulated Mr. Murphy on the Association's collaborative approach, and Ms. Caldwell suggested that future marketing and communications initiatives would be ideal student involvement projects. Mr. Alric complimented Mr. Murphy for his message on the Association's website.

Turning to other business, Associate Vice President and Budget Director Kim Bessette made a presentation on the University's budget. She began with an overview of the State's budget-setting process and followed with a high-level analysis of the Campus' income sources and outflow by type of expenditure and by division. Discussion (Caldwell, Stein, Jones, and Balachandran) followed. Ms. Caldwell asked how the

Council might assist in altering the current mix of income sources, as the State has steadily withdrawn taxpayer support over the years to the point that only 13% of the Campus' income derives from direct State support (fringe benefits excluded).

Discussion followed (Castellana, Caldwell, Jones, Beditz, and Balachandran) and Mr. Alric noted that the discussion speaks to the need for examining the Council's role in assisting the University to grow.

Chairman Castellana suggested that this was an excellent time to move to the next item on the agenda, the Role of the Council. This item was not included for action, but rather to prompt discussion and test for interest in a deeper discussion at a future meeting. The Council agreed that significant time should be set aside for this topic, and suggested that a regular meeting could begin at noon to provide a sufficient block of time. Beditz will provide background information in advance of the meeting (statutory role, SUNY Faculty/Senate statements as appropriate, information from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, etc.) in order to inform the discussion.

Turning to other business, Mr. Beditz noted that the next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for February 28, 2014 in Albany. However, the Chancellor has scheduled a meeting in New York City on that day which will require President Jones' and Vice President Sanai's attendance. As an alternative, consideration will be given to moving the Council meeting ahead one day, to February 27, in New York City. Mr. Beditz will correspond with the members to see if that can be arranged.

Vice President Sanai took the opportunity to note the Robert and Lynn Hassan Jones Presidential Scholarship Fund is now at \$700,000, and urged anyone who has not contributed to do so.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made (Stein/Alric) and the meeting ended at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Beditz
University Liaison to the Council