

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Meeting of the University Senate, December 8, 2014
As submitted to Yenisel Gulatee, Senate Secretary, University Senate

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

I. Informational

- 11/14/14 Campus Leaders received a memo from President Jones requesting the Senate to review ex officio voting privileges of administrators serving on Senate committees and councils. The Governance Council is in the process of conducting that review.
- Campus Governance Leaders have asked to be invited to department faculty meetings ASAP. Please help us with that request within your department.
- Senate Bill 1415-01: Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Content Teachers was approved by GAC (11/18/14) and UPPC (11/20/14) and will go to the Senate for a vote on 12/08/2014.
- 11/25/14 CGL Conference Call with Provost Alex Cartwright re: SUNY Excels

II. Reports of Actions

- November 20th, Senate Chair received an email from Suzanne Freed, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, that the request to have the Women's Studies programs re-titled to become Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies has received final State approval and has been updated on the NYSED inventory of Registered Programs.

III. Recommendations for Actions

- N/A

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

University Faculty Senate Report

2014 Fall Plenary hosted by SUNY ESF

Attended by Philippe Abraham, Danielle Leonard, John Schmidt

I. Some important developments at System and with the BoT:

In order to best represent the University at Albany at the state-wide University Faculty Senate, the UFS Senators call for increased engagement, information flows, and UAlbany Faculty Senate input on these and other issues through our shared governance processes.

SUNY Excels: The Chancellor previously indicated to us that she is willing to tie increases in State funding for SUNY to performance measures. This initiative is being called SUNY Excels—a matrix of performance measures that will include data and goals at the System level, but with campus goals to be set in appropriate areas (as defined collaboratively campus by campus). We've been asked for input and UFS Senators have been tasked with finding out what elements would be appropriate/ inappropriate for our campus. We have requested that Information

presented to us by Chancellor Zimpher, Provost Cartwright and other be coming soon on the [SUNY UFS Website](#).

System Administration Budget: New financial assessments are coming to campuses in order to support the operations at System Administration. The line-item budget for operating System Administration within the legislatively approved SUNY budget hasn't been increased in some 20 years. Obviously costs have gone up since then, and the Chancellor's numerous initiatives have added to the budgetary pressures. System has been charging campuses for some services, but the System expenditures significantly exceed this as well. A further complication is that some System offices have sent these costs, charge-backs, etc., to campuses at irregular times during the year, making campus budget planning more difficult. So a phased approach has been established that includes some central budget cuts, increases in the charges to campuses, but a single charge for the year—phased in over 5 years. Presidents are unhappy with this. The Board of Trustees is also concerned, in part about the methodology, in part about the size of the System budget. The Board has approved the increased assessments to campuses for this year, but has demanded more justification and an examination of alternatives before moving any further forward.

Budget for 2015-16: With the final year of NYSUNY2020 looming, System is consulting with the Presidents and the Board about whether to request a new round of tuition increases to actually bring us to 2020. Further budget issues are a hard push to convince the governor and the legislature that “maintenance of effort” means covering mandated cost increases. The SUNY Excels matrix is to form the basis for seeking new State funds in support of SUNY. And finally, SUNY is seeking additional bonding authority for both critical maintenance and selected new construction projects.

Seamless Transfer: The transfer paths were updated by the end of last spring, and we are now in a period of considering if adjustments to programs might be necessary to make this work. Many, if not most, requests for program waivers have apparently been denied without satisfactory explanation. Faculty on some campuses are questioning if they are being told to change major requirements for the first two years. Let us know if you know about any of our waiver requests that were denied without explanation.

Open SUNY: The “first wave” of “Open SUNY +” programs—existing online programs with enhancements—was approved last academic year, and the second wave of 56 programs from 17 campuses has just been announced. System Administration has increasingly recognized that most student services need to be coordinated among or handled by the contributing campuses rather than established centrally, although SUNY is currently contracting with an outside vendor to cover a help desk 24/7 (beyond what was being covered by previously existing SUNY Learning Network assistance). System Administration is working with interested campuses to evaluate campus readiness for (expanded) online programs, and there is also now a business tool available to help campuses evaluate the short- and long-term costs/benefits of online programs.

Finally, SUNY is helping facilitate the identification and development of digital materials and open education resources (Affordable Learning Solutions) for courses, not just online ones.

START-UP NY: Some 50 SUNY campuses have approved plans (or soon will). Companies have been announced at a number of campuses. Some campuses have Faculty committees that vet whether the companies fit with the academic mission of the campus. What is the process that UAlbany has established to get faculty input into approving company proposals to fit with the campus mission? Was the UAlbany Senate consulted in most recent decision <http://www.albany.edu/news/54991.php?WT.source=ncfeed> ?

TeachNY: There was a lot of focus on teacher education over the last year, and the Chancellor has emerged as a national champion for the Common Core Standards in K-12 education. As part of this, she urges us to familiarize ourselves with the standards, as future NY students will have been educated according to that approach. We can expect some changes in the abilities of our future students, and we should be prepared to appreciate and take advantage of the skills they should possess. The Chancellor also has established a TeachNY program in conjunction with the State Education Department, with an advisory committee to offer guidance on how to improve teacher education and K-12 quality and success. Nationally recognized experts as well as SUNY faculty (and union) leadership are working together to advise the Chancellor on next steps for teacher education, particularly how to improve the effectiveness of our teacher education programs.

II. Resolutions

Full text of the [Resolutions](#) are available on the UFS website or can be obtained through any UFS Senator.

- Resolution on Sexual Assault Prevention--passed
- Resolution Requesting All State University of New York Campuses Offering Athletics Create Programs to Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Athletes, Coaches, and Staff and to Prevent Anti-LGBT Bias and Discrimination in Athletics --passed
- Resolution on SUNY Excels Performance Measurement System requesting that local campuses as well as UFS have a strong voice in formulating and continually refining metrics—passed
- Resolution on Affordability of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials--passed
- Resolution on Reduction on the Maximum Working Hours for Student Assistants--passed
- Resolution in support of expanding SUNY undergraduate research and creative endeavors —passed--passed

- Resolution on Naloxone Availability for treating opioid overdose cases--passed

Other Issues Addressed by UFS Committees:

- updating guidance to faculty and campuses on best practices for internships and service learning;
- examining the role of non-tenure-track faculty in shared governance;
- guidance for the ethical behavior of faculty; reviewing best practices for prevention of bullying and hazing;
- fostering and supporting undergraduate and graduate research;
- diversity of faculty and staff. Full text of the UFS Committee Reports are available upon request or on the [SUNY UFS website](#).

III. Upcoming conferences and events

- Nov. 7: "Protect, Use and Share Content in Online Education"; SUNY System Administration, Albany; organized by the FACT2 group
- Nov. 11-12: "Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Impact"; Albany Marriott; sponsored by the UFS and the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Feb 10, 2015: "Graduate Research: Making a Difference in New York": Legislative Office Building, Albany; sponsored by UFS
- March 20-21, 2015: 2nd Annual SUNY Voices Shared Governance Conference; location TBD.
- April 10, 2015: First SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium; Brockport. Open to all undergraduate researchers.

IV. Other

Personnel matters at System Administration: The Board has offered the Chancellor a new contract, which is to be for 5 years. Alexander Cartwright has joined SUNY System Administration as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. Alex comes to System from the University at Buffalo, where he had been Vice President for Research. Beth Bringsjord, who served as Interim Provost for the past year, has returned to a position as Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor. Jim Malatras left the position of Chief of Staff, called back to the Governor's office to be Director of Operations for New York State. Stacey Hengsterman is interim Chief of Staff for Chancellor Zimpher, with a search in place for a permanent individual. Josh Sager is the new chief budget officer; he replaces Wendy Gillman, who retired.

LICH and the Hospitals: SUNY finally has a contract to sell the Long Island College Hospital site. What will be the financial impact on the rest of the SUNY campuses? The Board of Trustees will be delving into this question now that we know what SUNY will recover from the sale (\$240M).

Last spring, the Senate Executive Committee took up a resolution that calls upon SUNY to conduct an investigation of how the whole LICH purchase and subsequent closure occurred, in order to try to prevent such a fiasco from occurring in the future. The EC chose not to pass the resolution, reasoning that the basic reasons behind what happened already are public record, that this would be an unnecessary expense that likely wouldn't yield any new results, and that such a study might better be done by one or more of our own faculty.

There are some other developments regarding the hospitals and medical schools. First, the Board passed a resolution to set up a task force to examine and propose a “new governance structure” for the SUNY hospitals: how the hospitals should be governed—likely with local governing boards, answering perhaps to a central governing board that is separate from the SUNY Board of Trustees. There is a call for closer ties between the stand-alone medical schools and the University Centers. Accordingly, not only Downstate and UAlbany have been in discussions about collaborations, but Binghamton and Upstate are in talks as well. The idea: SUNY hospitals remain essential to successful operation of our medical schools and thus a critical part of the SUNY family.

The next Plenary is January 22nd at SUNY Farmingdale.

GSA (Graduate Student Association) – Caitlin Janiszewski, GSA President

The GSA is working on closing out the semester and evaluating how far we have come in achieving our strategic plan's goals. Our Recognized Graduate Student Organization's have had a very successful semester having put on an array of engaging professional development and social events. Our grants program is more efficient than ever. Our MCAA committee is working effectively for the first time in years, regularly attending the President's Diversity Council meetings, re-developing guidelines to encourage the values of diversity and inclusion through RGSO programming and GSA Executive Board activities. Our programming committee hopes to repeat the very successful orientation program we had this fall for transfer and new students in the spring. Although we have had turnover in the position of treasurer this semester, the transition was nearly seamless with the help of our building institutional memory and a new financial manager in the Office of Student Involvement. We continue to build strong fiscal policies to ensure stability and are also exploring ways to invest a rather large surplus in our future to build the foundation of the GSA. Some of the investment has been in our relationship with the National Association of Graduate-Professional students. Through our attendance at their Legislative Action Days and their national conference we have obtained extremely valuable information and best practices to serve the GSA in the future including lobbying strategies, social media strategies, and new professional development models. Our GSA advocacy team, comprised of our Senators and various representative have been the most active and committee group of reps we have seen in the last few years. Despite continued challenges with turnover and

the usual struggles that emerge from attempting to balance graduate student involvement in governance with our other responsibilities, I feel confident in saying that overall the GSA is functioning at the highest level it has in several years.

SA (Student Association) – Marc Cohen, Student Association Representative

Academic Affairs

- Preparing for our upcoming event “Pizza Wars”, where students will have the opportunity to test and rate pizza samples from local vendors throughout Albany.
- All proceeds will be donated to the Albany Police Athletic League annual Toy Drive.

Communications

- Just recently released the November edition of the “SA Daily”.
- Looking for interested writing for the newsletter in the future.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- Will be promoting Epilepsy Awareness Day this upcoming week throughout campus
- Have been collecting donations for the Epilepsy Foundation and are doing a raffle for t-shirts for the cause.
- Our Thanksgiving Food Drive is coming to a close and we will be dropping off all food donations on Monday.

Dippikill

- Recently finished a Dippikill photo book to be displayed at the front desk of our office and eventually a second displayed in the Dippikill Lodge.
- Donated a weekend in Dippikill giveaway to the Rock Cafe for Hillel!

Gender and Sexuality

- Helping establish a new student group that will go by the name of SOUL (Shades of Unified Liberation) which will serve as a safe space and resource for queer people of color and the issues that are specific to these intersecting identities.
- Begging the early stages of planning next semester’s events including a potential LGBT Conference, a Love Is Love Demonstration, a Second Chance Prom, and other exciting ideas.
- Wrapping up Transgender Day of Remembrance which was 11/20, when we created a display in the campus center remembering those who have been murdered due to hate crimes in the past year.

Legislative Affairs

- Scheduling meetings with local representatives including county legislatures and city council Members.
- Discussing university policies and our relationship with the government.

Marketing

- Have recently been tabling for Fall Fest featuring artists Fabolous and Konshens.
- Quarters flyers on all quads, the lecture centers, the libraries, and the campus center on each table.
- Currently promoting 8 different events- flyers and social media.

Programming

- Busy preparing for our fall concert this weekend.

Student Group Affairs

- Working with Sodexo for a catering showcase early next semester.
- Groups will be contacted by the end of the semester for SA visits next semester.
- Preliminary planning for Purple and Gold Awards has begun.
- Currently updating any confusion regarding official recognition for each student group.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Deborah Bernard, Chair

The Council on Academic Assessment met on November 25 and approved a report from the Academic Program Review Committee which reviewed the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences' program review process.

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

Nothing to report

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Susanna Fessler, Chair

Nothing to report

COR (Council on Research) – Kajal Lahiri, Chair

During the last month we have been busy settling on the memberships for the following sub-committees. The work is complete and the subcommittees will start working very soon.

As you see below, some of these sub-committees have very responsible and sensitive decisions to make. So we have been very careful in forming these sub-committees.

Benevolent Awards Review

(Benevolent Association Research Grant for Graduate Students)

Conference/Journal Support Awards Review

FRAP – A Award Review

Committee on Centers, Institutes and Specialized Research Laboratories

Excellence in Research & Creative Activities Review

Researchers Liaison Committee

IRB Policy Review

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Sanjay Putrevu, Chair

The next two CPCA meetings are on Nov. 26 and Dec. 10.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) –Abebe Rorissa, Chair

I. Informational

The GAC met on November 18, 2014. Among items on the Agenda were: (1) review of reports from the GAC’s three Standing Committees, and (2) review and approval of two proposals from the School of Education (The establishment of an Advance Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Content Teachers and A School Policy on Standards of Student Professional Conduct).

Our next scheduled meeting is on December 9.

II. Reports of Actions

- The GAC, based on the review and recommendation by the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing, voted to deny a student’s grade grievance.
- The Council also considered and, after fairly extensive discussions, voted to approve three proposals:
 - A proposal by the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, to revise its MA degree requirements. The proposal sought to combine two tracks and was reviewed by the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction on November 6.
 - A proposal by the School of Education to create a policy on standards of student professional conduct that spells out performance expectations all graduate students at the School need to demonstrate.
 - Another proposal from the School of Education to establish a new advanced certificate program in Adolescent Special Education for Content Teachers, a high need area not just in New York but also nationally.

III. Recommendations for Actions

- We request the University Senate to approve the proposal by the School of Education to establish an *Advanced (Graduate) Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Content Teachers* and forward the proposal to the President for approval. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Academic Council (11/18/14) and University Planning & Policy Council (11/20/14).

GOV (Governance Council) – Cynthia Fox, Chair

I. Informational

1. GOV met on November 10 and again on November 27
2. Chair Fox reported that the recent announcement that Classbook.com has been approved for the Start-Up NY program was discussed at SEC meeting of 11/3 and a question was raised about the consultation process. The UAlbany Start Up NY plan includes both an Advisory Committee and an Ad Hoc Academic Advisory Committee, neither of which were approved through formal consultation. It is also not clear who is currently sitting on those committees. It was suggested that GOV contact Associate Vice President for Business Partnerships and Economic Development Shimazu for clarification. Chair Fox sent the request on November 8.
3. At that same SEC meeting, GSA gave a mini-presentation regarding graduate student issues, requesting that the full presentation be given at the upcoming Senate meeting. An objection was raised on the basis that items placed on the Senate agenda must be actionable, and following much discussion a vote to approve the full 20 minute presentation did not pass. GOV Chair Fox afterward researched the Charter and By-Laws and found no mention that items must be actionable. A letter was sent to Andrew Howard the Senate Parliamentarian, who confirmed items do not need to be actionable and who also pointed out that while the SEC can vote and give advice on agenda items, it cannot prevent them from being on the Senate agenda. He recommended that, in the interest of time, a brief summary of the presentation be included in the GSA Senate report. Chair Fox has shared this information with Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry and has asked that the question of placing items on the agenda be raised at the SEC meeting of December 1.
4. On Friday, November 14, President Jones sent a memo the Senate leadership recommending that the Senate Bylaws and Charter be amended to revoke voting privileges from administrators who serve as ex-officio members as well as those who serve on committees and councils in an administrative capacity. The recommendation comes in response to the findings of the Spring 2014 Faculty and

Professional Staff Survey on Shared Governance and addresses an aspect of our current Bylaws and Charter that has long been recognized as atypical in campus governance structures and formalizes the recommendation articulated in *The University at Albany Senate Handbook*, that “in order for the actions and recommendations of the Senate and its Councils and Committees to reflect as much as possible the voice of the Faculty and other members of the Senate, ex officio members of the Senate and its Councils who are members of the administration should abstain from voting on bills or other recommendations.” Passage of amendments to the Bylaws require approval from 2/3 of the Voting Faculty, 30% of whom must vote in order to achieve quorum. Charter amendments are voted on by the Senate.

II. Reports of Actions

1. The Council has approved the roster of members to each of the Excellence Awards Committees forwarded to us by Bill Hedberg and recommended a Senate delegate and alternative to be included on each Committee.
2. The Council nominated additional candidates to serve on its Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.
3. The Council took up the question of how proposals for new programs move through governance.
4. The Council considered representation for inclusion on the Blue Ribbon Panels on Adjunct/Contingent Faculty and on Graduate Student Compensation Issues and issues that should be considered in formulating their respective charges.
5. The Council heard a report from the organization meeting of the Committee on Liaisons and Elections.
6. The Council discussed the President’s memo of 11/14 and the mechanisms for putting forward the necessary amendments to the Bylaws and Charter.
7. A sub-committee to draft the proposed legislation was formed.

III. Recommendations for Actions

1. Chair Fox will invite additional nominees to serve of the Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation.
2. Chair Fox will forward its recommendations for the two Blue Ribbon Panels to Interim Provost Mulcahy.
3. The Council understands that UPPC Chair Wagner is preparing a document that explain the process for approving new programs and will take up any remaining issues when that document is available.
4. The bylaws amendment subcommittee will present a draft at the next GOV meeting on December 15.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) –Boris Goldfarb, Chair

LISC has formed the two standing committees, including elections of the chairs. John Delano is the new chair of the Library Committee. Rem Davis is the new chair of the IT Usage Policy Committee. Both committees had initial meetings in November and will meet again in January.

LISC council had a meeting on Monday, November 24, and heard the reports from the new chairs, the Dean of the Libraries Mary Casserly, and the CIO Christine Haile.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Robert Yagelski, Chair

The Undergraduate Academic Council met on November 20th. The Council discussed plans for reviewing the proposal for a new undergraduate program in computer engineering, which the Council anticipates receiving before the end of the current semester. The purpose of the discussion was to insure that the proposal will be reviewed by UAC before the semester break, assuming that UAC receives the proposal in time.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a continuation of the Council's review of the General Education Competencies Plans, which was begun during the 2013-2014 academic year. The competencies plans submitted for the majors in East Asian Studies and Latin American Studies were approved. Several other plans were discussed but not voted on pending clarification of specific components of the plans by the departments. To date, thirty plans have been approved. The review process will continue until all competencies plans have been reviewed and approved.

The next UAC meeting is scheduled for December 4th.

ULC (University Life Council) –Michael Jaromin, Chair

The ULC met last on November 10, 2014 and hosted presentations from New Student Programs and Pathways to Success Involvement Record.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 8th.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) –Christine Wagner, Chair

UPPC approved a proposal from the School of Education for a Graduate Certificate in Adolescent Special Education for Content Teachers. UPPC discussed the procedures by which an undergraduate program announcement for a new major comes to UPPC. It was agreed that, following an initial approval by UPPC of the resource implications for a new major, UPPC will have the opportunity to review a proposal again should there be changes to the budget upon the submission of a full proposal to UAC. UPPC discussed the substitution of the current budget

table on the UPPC Campus Impact Form with a modification of the SUNY Expense Table, thus removing duplication of effort in the preparation of proposals by Schools and Colleges, and allowing direct comparison of budgets as the proposal moves from Program Announcement to full proposal. The UPPC Chair reported to UPPC the receipt of a memo from Interim Provost Mulcahy to the Dean of the College of Computing and Information, Sue Faerman regarding the creation of the Department of Computer Engineering. The Program Announcement for the undergraduate major in Computer Engineering, which included all resources required for the department, was approved by UPPC on October 9, 2014.