

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

University Senate Meeting, May 4, 2009

As submitted to Dick Collier, Secretary, University Senate

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT – John Delano, Chair

Doctoral Programs' Review Panel: During the week of April 13, Provost Susan Phillips contacted the Senate Chair requesting Senate assistance in identifying potential members of a review panel for doctoral programs.

The assistance was to be in the form of providing a list of senior faculty actively engaged in doctoral programs that could be considered by the Provost as she contacted individuals for their willingness to serve on this review panel. This message was promptly communicated by the Senate Chair to all members of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), and was placed on the agenda of the April 20th SEC meeting. At that meeting, the Provost and SEC agreed that the list of prospective faculty would be provided by Monday, April 27. It was also agreed at that meeting that the chairs of the Graduate Academic Council, Council on Academic Assessment, University Planning and Policy Council, Governance Council, and Council on Research would take the lead roles in identifying nominees to the proposed review panel, although a few nominations offered by other SEC members were also included on the list that was forwarded to the Provost by the Governance Council on April 27. The work of this review panel is expected to begin shortly, and to have its work completed by Thanksgiving 2009.

Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Task Force: The final report of this group has been completed, and was forwarded to the Provost late last week. The final report incorporated perspectives received from Senate councils (UPPC, CAA, UAC, SEC) that had received briefings from the Co-Chairs of the FYE Task Force (Diane Dewar; Wayne Locust) and the Senate Chair. This report will be available to the entire campus community for comment.

Steering Committee on Community Engagement (SCCE): The final report of the SCCE is nearing completion. The SCCE, which is chaired by Lynn Videka (Vice President for Research) and Miriam Trementozi (Assoc. Vice President for Community Engagement), began its work on May 6, 2008 following a charge by Interim President Philip and Provost Phillips. At present, 196 colleges and universities in the United States have earned the 'Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement'. Some of the major goals of the SCCE are to understand all of the many activities that the campus is currently involved in, how to streamline those activities, consider ways of incentivizing more activity by the campus, and to investigate additional potential for more campus/community linkages that ultimately could lead to UAlbany applying for the Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement.

UFS (University Faculty Senator's Report) – William Lanford, R. Michael Range SUNY Senators

UFS Senator Michael Range and UFS Alternate Dan Smith attended the University Faculty Senate Plenary Session at UBuffalo on May 1st and 2nd... Among items discussed were transfer issues (termed "student mobility" since it was discovered that students move in larger numbers than thought from four-year to two-year, and not for reasons of failure) and open-source publishing, which appears to be gaining momentum.

GSO (Graduate Student Organization) – Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Lead Senator

These are the results of the GSO election: President: Melanie Braganza; Treasurer: Man Kit Tse; MCAA Chair: Zubin Liu; Lead Senator: Nicholas Fahrenkopf; University Council Rep: Glenn Pichardo. Additional events and more information on the GSO can be found at <http://www.albany.edu/~gso> and through (gso@albany.edu).

MSCHE Steering Committee Report – Reed Hoyt, University Senate Representative

The Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for 28 April has been postponed until 13 May so that the initial drafts of all chapters can be carefully considered. Each subcommittee Chair should receive feedback from the co-chairs by 6 May. Following these responses, Subcommittee Chairs have been requested to submit revised versions by 1 June such that the dissemination of the draft report can be submitted for campus-wide review in September.

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) – Henryk Baran, Chair

The Council met on April 29, 2009 and first reviewed and adopted the minutes from its April 1, 2009 meeting. It reviewed and adopted, with minor changes, reports of the Program Review Committee for three departments/programs: English, Religious Studies, and Reading. The Chair updated the Council on the discussion in the Senate Executive Committee concerning the Graduate Student Support (GSS) panel, which will review doctoral programs at the university, and on his forwarding to the Provost, via the SEC, of the names of two previous CAA members, both senior faculty involved with graduate education at the doctoral level, for possible service on this panel. This was followed by a discussion of the upcoming review, the role to be played by the panel, and of possible input from the CAA into the review process. A majority of Council members expressed a concern about sharing Program Review Committee reports directly with the panel, since (1) they were written as formative documents, intended only for the Department Chair of a particular unit and the Dean of the school within which that unit is placed, and (2) some of the PRC's recommendations could have a negative impact on programs. It was proposed that programs/departments could themselves decide whether to include PRC reports in materials they will submit to the review panel. The Council did not reach a formal decision on this issue, and will continue discussion of its possible input into the review process at a special meeting called for May 6.

CAFFECoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) – Malcolm Sherman, Chair

CAFFECoR met on Wednesday April 29 to discuss the impact of the forum on freedom of expression and to assess what next steps might be considered (by next year's CAFFECoR). We expect the issues we raised to be on the agenda of the University Council (which must approve any changes to Community Rights and Responsibilities). At the forum Susanna Fessler showed that our harassment standards were very similar to those which a federal appeals court overturned at Temple University. We have reason to believe our attorneys have been asked to look into this matter...

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) – Carolyn MacDonald, Chair

Drafts of the revision of the misconduct policy have been distributed to Senators for their consideration.

COR (Council on Research) – Lawrence Schell, Chair

Nothing to report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) – Eric Lifshin, Chair

CPCA continues to dig into the backlog of tenure and promotion cases at a rate of about two per week.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) – Laurence Kranich, Chair

GAC met on March 30 and approved proposals by the School of Public Health to modify its Doctor of Public Health and its Master of Public Health programs. In addition, the Council acted upon a petition before its Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. Two other measures before the Council's Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, one from the School of Business to create an elective track in Nano Technology and one from the College of Arts and Sciences to revise the MS in Atmospheric Science program, were tabled pending receipt of additional clarifying information. The Council will meet next on April 27.

GOV (Governance Council) – R. Michael Range, Chair

GOV met on April 27, 2009. The Council reviewed recommendations received from the SEC and others for membership on the Doctoral Programs Review Panel that is being formed by the Provost in consultation with governance. GOV members provided additional nominees. In concluding, GOV voted unanimously, with one abstention with cause, to forward the full list of nominations to the Provost, and to request that GOV, via its chair and, if needed, any special meetings, continue to be engaged in the finalizing of the panel. GOV also continued work on the senate handbook. Several additional suggestions were discussed. A subcommittee continues to incorporate the recommendations. It was agreed that GOV should aim to have the handbook ready for distribution by June 15, 2009.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Lawrence Raffalovich, Chair

Nothing to report. LISC meets again on May 8th.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair

UAC passed a bill restricting entry into the minor in Educational Studies. UAC has a bill which will award students who have earned an International Baccalaureate Diploma 30 credits at UAlbany, provided that no individual course grade is below a 4, or credits on a course-by-course basis for students who participate in an IB program who do not earn the Diploma with at least 30 points. UAC also approved a bill to create a minor in Neuroscience. All three bills are before the Senate.

UAC also expects it will approve several reportable items (changes in minors that are already on the books).

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

ULC is delighted the revision to the Smoking Policy passed the Senate.

On Wednesday 4/15/09 ULC met with Dr. Lee McElroy, Director of Athletics and Prof. Terri Harrison, faculty IAB representative and chair of IAB to review the progress of student-athletes at UAlbany. In what was a fairly simple, yet compelling presentation, statistics of student-athletes progress, summary grades, cum GPA's, majors selected, and graduation rates by team were presented. Finally, a NCAA index was explained as the index defines whether or not a team is meeting the NCAA standard—for the record all UA teams are above the standard...with new data available from the NCAA in a week or so. What was heartening about the report was that Student-athletes are well do as well if not better in the same majors as the rest of the UAlbany population, and there is no "sports major" which student-athletes drift toward as seen at other division I schools. The student-athletes follow the distribution among majors as the rest of the UA undergraduate population.

We also met with Wayne Locust who presented the summary draft of the FYE Taskforce. There were several questions about the proposals, and Council members will forward comments, concerns and questions to VP Locust.

UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Reed Hoyt, Chair

The UPPC met on Thursday, 19 March and approved the proposal to suspend admission to the MAPAP program. The proposal has already been approved by the GAC. The UPPC discussed the matter of graduate program adjustments occasioned by the current budget crisis as outlined in the Special SEC Meeting of 13 March. Provost Phillips provided extensive material that repeated parts of her presentation to the 13 March SEC meeting but added a large amount of substantial information, which contextualized and expanded upon the data shared in the 13 March SEC meeting. Because of the urgency caused by various deadlines concerning budget allocations and projected expenditures the UPPC will revisit other items on its agenda at its next meeting.