

**University at Albany, State University of New York  
University Senate**

**Minutes**

**November 26, 2007**

**Present:** J. Philippe Abraham, Sandra Austin, Judith Barlow, Kristina Bendikas,  
Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Lance Bosart, Ray Bromley, Fan Pen Chen,  
Richard Collier, Randall Craig, Edward Cupoli, Frank D'Andraia,  
John Delano, John Dias, Bill Ding, Phil Erner, Sue Faerman, Sally Friedman,  
Robert Gibson, Julie Gondar, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Sung  
Bok Kim,  
Daniel Komorowski, Nikki Kotary, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford,  
Paul Miesing, David Miller, John Murphy, Marjorie Pryse, Lawrence Raffalovich,  
R. Michael Range, Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Neal Robbins, Junru Ruan,  
Chinnam Sairam, Joan Savitt, Lawrence Schell, John Schmidt, Malcolm Sherman,  
Scott South, Tim Stephen, Marcia Sutherland, Daniel Truchan, ManKit Tse,  
Lynn Videka, Rose-Marie Weber, Wendy West, Robert Yagelski, Adam

Zonder

**Guests:** Jonathan Bartow, Stephen Howe, Sheila Mahan, Claribel Martinez,  
Susan Phillips, Melinda Spencer, Bruce Szelest

**Minutes:** The Minutes of October 22, 2007 were approved.

**Senate Chair's Report, by Reed Hoyt, Chair:**

- **Presidential Search:** Off-site interviews will be completed by the end of this month. Daniel Tomson, Esq. has assumed the role of Chair of the Search Committee. (George Philip does continue to sit in on meetings when he is available.)
- **Student Retention:** The recent figures show that UAlbany retains students slightly better than the national average. The Annual Report of the Retention Committee is in draft form at this stage. The Student Satisfaction Survey indicates that students satisfaction is improving significantly.
- **Internationalization:** A Senate subcommittee on Internationalization will be staffed and report to the Governance Council. A faculty forum including the topic of internationalization will be held.

**Office in Charge Report by George Philip:**

- **Presidential Search:** He is no longer a formal member of the Committee; he will continue to participate in an advisory role. (The search is progressing well.) He has resigned as Chair of the University Council, after serving on that Council for thirteen years.
- **Provost Search:** He hopes to name an Interim Provost in a reasonable time period.
- **SUNY Chancellor Search:** The search is underway, Carl Hayden and Carl McCall were confirmed by Senate; they engaged the search committee, and it is going apace.
- **SUNY Five-Year Capital Plan:** SUNY representatives are meeting and reviewing the budget. There will be an allocation for critical maintenance; more details to come.
- **Governor's Commission on Higher Education:** The Commission's report is due on December 1<sup>st</sup>. They are addressing governance autonomy, differential tuition, capital funding, etc.
- **Enrollment Management:** Applications are up 8.6% from last year, which are positive in terms of quality and quantity. This is a record number of applications.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** There are two new hires in this department.
- **Athletics Success:** UAlbany athletics are going well, UAlbany won the conference in volleyball; football and basketball are off to a good start.
- **Winter Commencement:** He encouraged faculty to participate in the upcoming Commencement ceremonies.
- **College of Computing and Information:** The Administrative Offices of CCI are moving to the Harriman Campus, into building #7A.
- **Celebrating teachers:** Sue Faerman and Professor Birman.
- **School of Education:** 3 doctoral programs: congratulations to Dean Susan Phillips.

**SUNY Wide Senate:** Senator Range reported that among items discussed at the recent Plenary meeting in Cortland, was the VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability) program. He noted that UAlbany is participating in that program. At this point, the Middle-states testing subject was brought up and discussed. There was a question on the expense incurred by the University for testing the students. Dr. Szelest spoke, and noted that at this point, the University has not made a commitment to student testing and that testing is completely voluntary. He further explained that by conducting some testing, it will position the university in a positive step toward the Middle-States testing and testing results can present as a good marketing tool.

Sector concerns included the discussion on transfer credits. And, Senator Range announced that SUNY System has created an Office for Diversity and Educational Equity, and appointed Dr.

Pedro Cabán as Vice Provost to that office. Dr. Cabán was introduced at the Cortland Plenary meeting. He was offered a tenured position in the UAlbany LACS department.

### **Council and Committee Reports:**

**CAA (Council on Academic Assessment), William Lanford, Chair.** There is nothing new to report.

**COR (Council on Research), Lawrence Schell, Chair.** The subcommittee is reviewing FRAP applications.

**CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments), Eric Lifshin, Chair.** There is nothing new to report.

**GAC (Graduate Academic Council), Sally Friedman, Chair.** GAC has several bills up for SEC discussion: suspension of awarding degrees in the Geology program, a proposed Ph.D. program in Communications, and proposed courses from Education on a variety of certificates.

**GOV (Governance Council), John Delano, Chair.** The Governance Council met on October 29 to discuss its recommendations for membership on the 2007-2008 Selection Committee for Distinguished Teaching Professors (DTP) and Distinguished Service Professors (DSP), as required by the Senate Charter. The names of three DTPs and three DSPs were unanimously agreed upon by Governance Council members. Subsequent to the October 29 meeting, the GOV Chair solicited Deans of the School of Education, School of Business, and the School of Nanoscience and Engineering for the names of highly respected full professors who could be candidates for the two additional members (as per Senate Bill 0708-05 that was passed by the Senate on October 22; and forwarded to the Officer-in-Charge George Phillip on November 7 for his consideration). Members of the Governance Council were sent the list of those full professors by the Chair for their consideration. The GOV Chair has acted on those recommendations and forwarded the names to Bill Hedberg, the Provost's staff member assigned to the Selection Committee.

During the Governance Council's meeting on November 19, the appropriate role of faculty governance in reviewing proposals for 'pilot' courses and 'pilot' programs was discussed in the context of the Freshman Seminar Program (e.g., UFSP 101). The GOV Chair has also met twice with Vice Provost Sue Faerman concerning this matter, which was referred to the Governance Council during the Senate meeting of September 24.

**LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Larry Raffalovich, Chair.** There is nothing to report. LISC will next meet on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council), Karin Reinhold-Larsson, Chair.**

There is nothing new to report, except the Honors College proposal is being discussed.

**ULC (University Life Council), Joan Savitt, Chair.** ULC met on Oct. 29. Current concerns are support staff for intramurals, the effects of having students in triple rooms, and the ratio of students to mental health professionals on campus. We also have the carried-over issue of student housing needs in the period just before the start of classes. ULC met with Interim VP Christine Bouchard at its meeting of November 19. She updated ULC on several recent and upcoming initiatives including living/learning communities for upper-class students (faculty are strongly urged to become involved with these); the relocation of the health center after the end of the spring, 2008 semester; an information program for students to prevent the spread of MRSA; the multi-cultural office in the division; and planned uses for NY Alert.

**UPC (University Planning and Policy Council), Diane Dewar, Chair.**  
There is nothing new to report.

**CAFFECOR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility), Sanjay Goel, Chair.** There is no report.

**CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship), Zai Liang, Chair.** CERS met on November 6. The Committee discussed some newly proposed changes to the current research misconduct policy and procedures. The Committee has not reached consensus about proposed changes. The Committee decided to consult with relevant parties and to continue the discussion in the next meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

**Bill No. 0708-07: (UAC) Expansion of the minor in Informatics.** The bill was introduced by UAC Chair Reinhold-Larsson. The bill was unanimously approved.

#### **New Business:**

**Bill No. 0708-03: (GOV) Process for Election of Senate Officers.** The bill was introduced by GOV Chair Delano. The bill was unanimously approved.

**Bill No. 0708-04: (GOV) ITLAL Charter Amendment.** The bill was introduced by GOV Chair Delano. Chair Delano asked to remove the bill from the floor; for consultation with the ITLAL Director. All approved the withdrawal of the bill.

**Bill No. 0708-06: (GAC) Proposal to Amend the M.S. General Educational Studies Program and Establish New Graduate Certificate Programs.** The bill was introduced by GAC Chair Friedman. Senator Delano entered into the record that this proposal is not related to the state teachers' certification; and Parliamentarian Gibson clarified that these certificates may attract people that have certification; but they are not certifying them. The bill was unanimously approved.

**Bill No. 0708-09: (GAC/UPC) Proposal to Suspend Graduate Admissions in Geological Sciences.** The bill was introduced by GAC Chair Friedman. UPC Chair Dewar noted that UPC members thought the proposal could be a very cost effective move. The proposal was discussed

at length. A brief summary of the discussion is that the four professors involved in the program will participate in the department, and the students will be processed out of the program; with only a small number of students affected by the suspension. The bill was approved with four members opposing.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder