UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL
2010-11 CHAIR: R. MICHAEL RANGE

DECEMBER 3, 2010
MEETING MINUTES


GUESTS: Kim Bessette, Associate Vice President for Financial Management and Budget
Michael Sattinger, Professor, Department of Economics

MINUTES: Minutes of October 29, 2010 approved as written

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

No report was given

CHAIR’S REPORT

Dr. Range reported that the Senate approved three resolutions related to program deactivation – two were endorsements of SUNY wide faculty senate resolutions. The third resolution, drafted by LLC, objected to the deactivations and called on the President to seek alternative routes to resolve the financial crisis.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSAL FOR BS/MA IN ECONOMICS

Michael Sattinger, Professor of Economics attended to elucidate the proposal for a BS/MA combined degree and answer any questions from the Council. He explained that the two basic programs are already in place, and that there has been a lot of interest in this program. One of the problems is shared resource courses – if undergrad econ majors take these classes, they cannot retake them for graduate credit. Eliminating this problem may persuade a number of students to go for the BS, which is more substantive. Dr. Sattinger added that no additional resources are requested for this program, and that this would reduce the cost to the University for a number of degrees, by reducing waste & overlap. Dr. Range opened up the floor for discussion. Dr. Wagner asked Dr. Sattinger about career opportunities for MA students. Dr. Sattinger replied that internships with state or public institutions lead to employment, and that there is a significant market for these students. Dr. Wagner also asked about funding potential for the program; there is very little. The MA program is an end in itself, and is not a stepping stone to the Ph.D. Dr. Range added that GAC has approved the measure and that UPPC’s task is to review the proposal for resource implications. Dr. Lifshin moved to accept the proposal; all voted in favor. Dr. Range thanked Dr. Sattinger for his attendance.
**PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE IN ED PSYCHOLOGY**

The School of Education has submitted a request to discontinue the program; Dr. Range remarked that he had expected the Dean Bangert-Drowns to attend to discuss the proposal (he arrived after discussion was concluded). However, the document itself provided sufficient information for Council to take action. Mr. Williams noted the lack of students in the program as a pretty strong incentive to discontinue the program. Dr. Wagner moved to approve the proposal; all in favor of discontinuation with one abstention. The proposal will move to the Senate.

**HISTORICAL ALL-FUNDS BUDGET DATA**

Mr. Beditz introduced Ms. Bessette to explain the complexities of the All-Funds budget. She distributed a pie chart of how the budget breaks down by revenue type. Dr. Range asked if fees are excluded from the tuition component of the state budget – Ms. Bessette responded that fees are mostly kept separate in other funds, as appropriate. Aside from the State Tax support portion of the budget, the other pieces of the pie include:

- **DIFR** – *(Dormitory Fund Reimbursable)* - $6,577 standard double room rate for 2010/11 – all DIFR income must be used for dorm expenses only.

- **IFR** - *(Income Fund Reimbursable)*
  - **Campus Financial Plan IFR** – no data prior to 05/06. These funds are managed within Financial Management and Budget. Several are associated with student fees, which are broad based fees – Comprehensive (Health, Transportation & Technology) $1,104 (09/10) and mandatory Athletic fees ($491); also the new Recreation fee ($70). We have to submit a budget to SUNY and spending and fee levels are controlled by SUNY. The fees are capped by HEPI *(Higher Education Price Index)*. Other fees such as late payment, late registration, Library, returned check, drop/add rates are set by Board of Trustees and SUNY retains 50% of those fees. Summer Session is a CFP IFR. $6.4m revenue, SUNY takes $2.5m in overhead off the top. Up to 14.3% charged in overhead fees on these accounts.
  - **Departmental IFR** - all other revenue, e.g. faculty release time, application fees, facility rental fees, library fines, interlibrary loan, internships, MOU’s and contracts. Not as many spending restrictions on these accounts. SUNY’s ‘reserve’ funds that have been spoken of lately are the campus IFR fund balances, not a pot of separate funding held by Central. Spending IFR funds for faculty lines incur benefits (1.5x) whereas state lines do not.

- **Indirect Cost Recovery** – The RF assessment formula is not favorable to us – our effective recovery rate is 18% and RF takes 3% of our Direct & Indirect activity.

- **Specific State Appropriations** – these include academic equipment replacement, child care, disabled student services, Educational Opportunity Program, Rockefeller Institute of
Government, and tuition waivers for graduate students. Funds may be spent only on the designated categories.

**University at Albany Foundation** – includes fundraising, gifts & grants with a $15m budget. The funds may be restricted or not – some are endowed, some immediately spendable – UAF non-endowed departmental funds are not included in this picture as it is a private corporation.

**University Auxiliary Services** – UAS is a private corporation and we are its only client. Services include Chartwells food service, bookstore, vending & banking – the majority of funds remain with UAS, with a small amount of money available for student programming. UAS is a non-profit agency, but they do bank money for dining hall renovations, etc. UAS mission money is used to pay rent, etc. and each Vice President receives $1-5k in discretionary funds annually.

**Grants & Contracts (RF Direct)** – CNSE and HRI not included

Dr. Range suggested a follow up on the presented material at the planned meeting for December 17th.

**ELECTION OF UPPC CHAIR FOR SPRING 2011**

As Dr. Range will be on sabbatical as of January 1, 2011 an election was called to select a new chair to complete the 2010/11 term. Dr. Range asked for nominations; Dr. Lifshin nominated Dr. Fossett, seconded by Mr. Bessette. Dr. Lahiri asked Dr. Lifshin to state his reasons for nominating Dr. Fossett. Dr. Lifshin cited his appreciation for Dr. Fossett’s background and its relevance to the issues that UPPC is called upon to address, and spoke well of his character and disposition as being conducive to serving as an effective and impartial chair. Dr. Range called for a vote; Dr. Fossett was elected as the UPPC chair through 8/31/11.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Dr. Range asked the Council to review the report with an eye to resource implications. Dr. Lifshin reported that correspondence circulated after the SEC presentation indicated that the document had not been reviewed by many in great detail and that perhaps the report had been rushed to the Senate Floor. Dr. North will present the report to the Senate on December 13th for comments and discussion. After that, UAC and UPPC will have the opportunity to review the documentation and revise the report into a bill. Dr. Range brought up the first year writing requirement and upper level courses designed to meet competency requirements as examples that have resource implications and include mandates for departments. Departments must have the opportunity to identify and categorize these topics, and provide feedback before an implementation plan can be fully articulated. The goal is to have the plan in place by Fall 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Stern