MINUTES: February 18, 2016

PRESENT: S. Birge, M. Chen, C. Fox, S. Goel, N. Ostro, Stellar, J., J. Stefl-Mabry, J. Van Voorst

The meeting convened at 4:15 pm. A motion and vote was taken to accept the minutes from 1/21/16. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair’s Report

The complete proposal for the major in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness has been submitted to Undergraduate Education. There were no changes to resource implications and no further approvals needed by the Council.

Provost’s Report

The Provost thanked the Council for expediting the approval process for the major in Homeland Security. He said the hiring process is ongoing for new faculty and also they are in the process of hiring a Dean. He stated that there has been a lot of interest in the new major and he thinks this is a great opportunity for the university. There was a discussion on how the CEHC fits with Rockefeller College and their crossover and shared interests. There was a suggestion that curriculum mapping should be done for improving the overall coherence of the course of study in order to reduce redundancy, improve effectiveness, and ensure alignment of student and faculty interests.

The Provost gave an update on the Strategic Plan. Work on the Strategic Plan has been delayed due to the emergence of the CDTA incident. The Provost and President’s Office are planning to release the names of those serving on the Steering Committee as soon as possible and they are working on determining its structure. They want the Committee to draft a plan and share it with the public. Their original intention was to have the Plan completed by January 2017, but it will not be released until at least spring 2017. The Steering Committee will need to determine the components of the Strategic Plan which will likely include elements of the original plan, the Four Stakes, a possible fifth stake (enhancing student experience and/or online learning), input of working groups, and new metrics. There was a question to the Provost on metrics for the Four Stakes and assessing other measurable outcomes. The Provost is working on aspects of these metrics, such as job placement and obtaining data from SUNY and the Department of Labor.

One of the student representatives brought up a question/problem for the Provost regarding the Honors College. The problem centers on poor retention and problems with class availability. The Provost discussed the operations of other Honors Colleges he has experienced and ways UAlbany’s could be improved, like with the hiring of new faculty and a new Dean.
Presentation by James Van Voorst on 2015-16 Revenue and Expenditures

This presentation followed on one given by Kim Bessette to the Council on the Compact Process and one given by Jim Van Voorst previously on developments in the Budget Process.

This presentation provided information about the campus as a whole and where money comes from and where it goes. It showed how the Vice President’s office looks at flows of money handled by the campus. The figures discussed did not include money paid by the state government, only money the campus can manage, and not items like bonds and state salaries.

See slides attached to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.