MINUTES: April 7, 2016

PRESENT: S. Chittur, C. Fox, M. Leventhal, N. Ostro, Parker, C., J. Van Voorst, E. Wulfert
GUEST: Laura Schweitzer, Hedberg, W.

The meeting convened at 2:45.

Chair’s Report
Cynthia Fox chaired the meeting on the chairperson’s behalf. Approval of the minutes from the February meeting was deferred because quorum was not met.

Provost’s Report
The Provost was out of the country, but sent Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs William Hedberg on his behalf.

Presentation by Dr. Laura Schweitzer
Dr. Schweitzer introduced herself and her role as Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical Initiatives. She leads the university in developing health sciences-related curricula, student advisement and outside partnerships.

Her goal is to strengthen and enhance the public perception of the University at Albany as an institution with strong offerings in the Health Sciences fields. She wants to highlight the opportunities in teaching and research at the University and she wants to broaden and deepen them by forming more partnerships with outside health-related entities like Albany Medical Center and Albany College of Pharmacy, among others.

Part of her strategy for accomplishing this goal is to undertake a renaming of the “East Campus” to the “Health Sciences Campus.” This designation will highlight its presence as a site for the health sciences-related research and teaching that takes currently takes place in the School of Public Health, the Cancer Research Center, and the Center for Functional Genomics. Renaming and relabeling will give more visibility to the important work that takes place on this campus, attract more researchers and students, and help drive greater collaboration with local colleges, corporations, organizations, and government agencies.

The renaming will be accompanied by a press release, new website, and campus event.

Update by James Van Voorst on the Budget Process
Vice President of Finance and Administration James Van Voorst updated the Council on recent developments regarding the 2016-17 State Budget and its impact on the University.

Vice President Van Voorst discussed four developments in the budget that have the biggest impact. The Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was not continued; University Centers were authorized to raise non-
resident tuition by up to 10 percent; no $20 million for renovation of funding for School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and 20% funding increase for the Educational Opportunity Program.

Vice President Van Voorst reassured the Council that the university’s fiscal plan is on track and that there are no major setbacks due to the enacted budget. Discussion of how to fund the renovation of the former Albany High School Building are underway, but no decisions have yet been made.

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.