Chair’s Report

The chair introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year. Members of the council went around and introduced themselves.

The chair then suggested changing future meeting times from 2:30 – 4:15 to 2:45 – 4:30 in order to accommodate teaching schedules. There was a general consensus.

The chair briefly touched on the agenda items, especially the timeline for discussion and feedback of SUNY Performance Fund proposals. It was noted that there was going to have to be a quick turnaround for UPPC feedback on these proposals.

The chair then introduced Dean David Rousseau who was seeking UPPC approval of his plan for an undergraduate degree in the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity (CEHC).
New Business

Dean Rousseau gave a general overview of the major in the CEHC as laid out in the Campus Impact Form submitted to the council. Dean Rousseau explained the outline of the major which consists of six core courses, four courses in one of three concentrations, three courses emphasizing experiential education, and 100 hours of non-credit training. He then touched on enrollment expectations for the major, and the process of hiring faculty.

A question and answer period followed. Questions touched on such topics as the inclusion of extreme weather courses, the role of the study of economics in the program, the hiring of adjunct professors, budgetary implications of the program, the decision to make the degree a Bachelor of Arts vs. a Bachelor of Science, the availability of the major at other SUNYs, and why a minor could not suffice.

Dean Rousseau answered these questions in turn. First, he stated that there will be four full time faculty members hired. Secondly, the major will be interdisciplinary so it has the potential to touch on areas like weather and economics. Dr. Rousseau then explained that this is a one-of-a-kind major and school – with either no presence or a limited presence at other SUNYs (e.g., SUNY Canton). He went on to explain the high demand for this degree and the increased interest by potential students for its creation. He said that a major in this area would better prepare students for the job market and give them the appropriate skills for preparing for careers in the field, something that a minor would not accomplish. He said that a Bachelor of Arts degree is more appropriate for students pursuing the tradition of a strong liberal arts education and for maintaining the interdisciplinary aspects of this major. His hopes are that the degree will have a positive influence on the university’s revenue as it hopes to generate a greater increase on tuition enrollment due to its popularity and demand. He listened to council member Cathy Parker’s warning that technology costs could rise and be a recurring and not a one-time expense as laid out in the budget whose suggestion was positively received. Then Dean Rousseau went on to highlight that the experiential requirement for the major would not entail cost to
the university since students would be signed-on by outside organizations free of charge. A council member asked if outside organizations in states where natural disasters were prevalent (e.g., Louisiana/Florida) had been consulted and their resources utilized. Dean Rousseau assured the council that they were consulted and his aspirations were that future students would take advantage of those areas of expertise. Overall, the discussion was lively with some debate and a few objections raised by council members who did not see the need for a major over a minor program or who thought there was not enough time to deliberate the complex aspects of the new school, the major and its impact on the university as a whole.

The guests of CEHC left the room. A vote on the proposal was then taken. 8 members voted for, one abstained, none voted against. The proposal passed. The Campus Impact Form was signed by the chair and given to Dean Rousseau.

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The second guest, Dr. Myrna Friedlander from the Counseling Psychology Program, then entered to present her proposal – the option for obtaining a Master’s of Science Degree half-way towards being enrolled in and actively pursuing the Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

As explained in Dr. Freidlander’s Campus Impact Form submitted to the council, her motivation for this change to the Ph.D. program is to give her Ph.D. students a level playing field when it comes to internship and job offerings in counseling psychology. Without a master’s in the field, some Ph.D. students are passed over for certain jobs and internships that require at least a master’s. This change would allow students in the Ph.D. program to obtain a master’s after they complete a master’s project (a “capstone scientist-practitioner project” to be designed and graded by the student’s advisor). Dr. Friedlander discussed precedents for this in the Clinical Psychology program and emphasized that this would not increase costs or burden the university’s resources since no change to the existing funding or course load of the student’s Ph.D. program plan would change.

During the question and answer period of the presentation, the council raised a couple of procedural objections. First, it was stated that Dr. Friedlander needed to
contact ITS and the University Libraries and have them write letters stating that there will be no or minimal impact on their departments. These letters have to be submitted to the council. Secondly, letters of support from the dean and other faculty should be submitted recommending this proposal. Thirdly, the requirement for a “capstone scientist-practitioner project” should be laid out in more detail in the proposal. These recommendations were given to help facilitate the future passage of the proposal.

After Dr. Friedlander left the room, a vote was taken. The council voted unanimously to accept the proposal and sign the Campus Impact Form contingent on the submission of the abovementioned supporting documentation.

Provost’s Report

Provost Stellar gave an overview of recent and upcoming changes at the university as witnessed in his role. Briefly itemized, these were:

- Creation of CEHC
- Building plans for ETEC building on State Campus to house CEHC, history of ETEC, expansion, promise, and end date of 2019 or so.
- Revitalization of neighborhoods around Downtown Campus with coming planned renovation of Schuyler Building (old Albany High) to house College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Wish and need to give downtown a facelift and new hope.
- Appointment of Kim Boyer as Interim Dean of College of Engineering.
- Optimism that Engineering School and other academic innovations will bring 1000 extra students, hoping to help reach the 20,000 student benchmark.
- Appointment of Vice Provost and Dean Harvey Charles for International Education, in line with President’s vision and four stakes, emphasis on “global,” also initiation of new deal with school in central China for their students to participate in a 3 + 1 engineering program here at UAlbany.
- Appointment of Dean Darrell Wheeler as Vice Provost of Public Engagement. Also, in keeping with vision of increasing public service and community involvement.
- Separation of SUNY Poly and UAlbany coming to the end of that on-going process.
- New affiliation relationships forged with Albany Law School.
- Progress and release of promised funding with Compact Plans.
- Submission of SUNY Performance Fund Proposals.
- Goal to improve freshman retention. Currently shedding almost 20%. Want to hold on to 10%. Ability to sustain revenue of $6 million.
- The Spiritual Mission: Do better for students. Hold on to them. Inspire them to stay. Imbue with school pride. Create welcoming, inclusive environment that keeps them happy, feeling at home, engaged. Create new academic opportunities and sustain innovation that will drive increased enrollment, retain students, and fulfill promise.

New Business (Continued)

After the Provost’s Report, initial review began of the SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund proposals. The chair expressed her concern regarding the one-time funding of projects outlined in the proposals and raised the question that if the projects outlined in the proposals went ahead as planned from where would future funding be found especially if these projects were on-going? The chair stressed the need for council members to provide feedback on the proposals in order to raise their objections and voice their mutual concerns before the October 2nd deadline when proposals are due to the Provost who then must submit them to the President by October 6th. Discussion began about the most efficient process for providing feedback to the authors of proposals in a timely manner. A decision was made to post proposals on Google Drive and provide access to all to post comments. The number of proposals needed for review was reduced from 11 to 7.

Old Business

Minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting will be approved on October 21, 2015

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Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by
ALEXANDER PEREZ, SECRETARY