Chair Wagner called the meeting to order and asked the membership to introduce themselves.

Minutes from May 7, 2014 were approved as written with seven yeas and two abstentions.

**Provost's Report**

Interim Provost Mulcahy thanked the University for his reception on campus and Sue Phillips for her service as Provost. He pledged to work with faculty and staff to move forward on mission and vision during his tenure, which will last until a new hire is made or May, 2015. Provost Mulcahy has observed many opportunities for the campus to move forward, and he looks forward to working cooperatively with the university community.

**Old Business**

**CNSE Transition**

Sue Phillips has transitioned into new roles as the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She attended today’s UPPC meeting to provide an update on the CNSE transition process.

CNSE is now officially SUNY Polytechnic Institute. In March 2014, SUNY authorized CNSE to merge with SUNYIT. This authorization began the process of administratively moving employees, academic programs and students. In order to do migrate the programs and students, SUNYIT has to offer the new program area, level and location, which requires SUNY,
SED and Middle States approval. A MOU under development between UAlbany and the new entity maps out what we would be providing to this new institution, including general education courses, housing, food services, medical and pharmacy services, recreation and transportation. Metrics were developed to calculate costing; we came up with workable plan with as little new infrastructure as possible, which is now being fine-tuned. As of July 3, 2014, all employees have moved to the new organization. This triggered a number of IT access events - we needed to have a way for people teaching in Nano at UAlbany to be able to have PeopleSoft access to grading functions for classes taught this fall, as well as other IT services associated with instruction and research. We created a new category of affiliation for the CNSE faculty and staff which took about a month to piece together.

While the new affiliation of CNSE teaching faculty and research/advising affiliates is all set now, the status of students has not yet changed. Dr. Phillips provided handout on student status, describing three options:

1) Students (undergrad or grad) who started their CNSE programs at UAlbany can choose to complete their degrees at UAlbany
2) Students (undergrad or grad) who start their CNSE programs at SUNY Poly, and who complete their degrees at SUNY Poly
3) Students (undergrad or grad) who start their CNSE programs at UAlbany and who choose to transfer to a CNSE (or other) program at SUNY Poly

This will mean that we will have multiple rosters of students for some time. The access point for transfer may start as early as next week. We anticipate that bachelors and masters students will be able to enter SUNY Poly as new students, or as transfer students, in Fall 2015, but it may take longer for doctoral students.

The new name and formal recognition of SUNY Polytechnic Institute was made by the SUNY Board of Trustees on Tuesday. We are still working on infrastructure issues such as space, water, waste management, etc. Academic programs will be deactivated here - we will accept applications but not accept students until December 31st (although we will continue to offer the programs to students already underway who choose to complete their programs at UAlbany). Programs will be discontinued on our side at the point when we expect the last student to have exited, which could occur between 2018 and 2020.

There are three different levels of working groups involved in the transition - SUNY, UAlbany and CNSE; there is a campus advisory group and a campus operations group. New issues are identified at each meeting, but the process is moving along smoothly. A FAQ has been developed to address questions that the university may have regarding the transition process.

A council member inquired about how many students are in the transfer categories. While we don’t know who or how many will transfer, there are currently about 300 students in the CNSE programs. We expect a class of maybe 50-55 in the fall, but don’t know how many of the current or new students will transfer to SUNY Poly. Dean Wulfert asked about factors motivating of students to transfer – Vice President Phillips replied that financial aid will remain static, but our fees are higher than theirs. Housing arrangements will potentially be more expensive for Poly than UAlbany students, given the housing replacement costs associated with
leasing them a building or a couple of floors in a similar fashion to the Brubacher Hall arrangement with St. Rose. Taking beds offline means we need to buy additional beds for our own students at an increased cost.

Vice President Phillips mentioned that a concern had been raised by advisory group and union regarding faculty who did not want to move to the new institution. All CNSE faculty and staff move to SUNY Poly. If we have an opening at UAlbany we can consider individual Nano faculty/staff members for those lines, but we do not have specific lines generated for this purpose.

Ms. DiDonna inquired about how scholarships for student athletes will change. For a current student with a scholarship, if they stay at UAlbany, it's the same. If they move to Poly, they are not eligible to play. It is not clear whether Poly students will have student level access to athletic games. Our two schools may look to combine student associations to enable cross participation.

Chair Wagner thanked Vice President Phillips for the update.

**New Business**

Chair Wagner made an administrative note regarding both proposals the council is about to review: LOI (Letter of Intent) phase means that it is at the idea phase - not the detail expected in final. Dr. Freed explained that starting this year we are going back to old model where proposals come to UPPC first; then the Letter of Intent and UAC/GAC reviews are performed concurrently, and the proposal does not return to UPPC. UPPC reviews resource implications and fit with the university mission, not quality of the academic program.

**Undergraduate Degree in Human Development**

Chair Wagner opened the discussion of the proposal and requested the council to initiate discussion and ask questions with the reminder that we are looking at resource implications - budget, faculty use, library, IT, etc.

Dean Wulfert pointed out that some of the courses mandated (Psych 101 or Sociology 115 and four other courses from CAS) are listed as electives, but there were no letters of endorsement from those departments accompanying the Campus Impact Form. It is important to discuss the program plans with chairs of affected departments. While discussion may have occurred, there is no documentation in the file. The Dean requested that those letters to be appended to the proposal to allay concerns. Upcoming staffing changes in the departments could affect their ability to provide the requested seats, so the agreement has to be in writing as there could be financial implications. Chair Wagner asked the guests if they had letters from the CAS departments to please provide them to the Dean, specific to course with the number of seats involved.

Dr. Quinn explained that he was naive to the process as this is his first foray into undergraduate programs in a long time. The issues with the required courses are being worked out in a variety of ways, and he is not sure what cost implications are for extra sections. Dean Wulfert responded that is why the proposals come to UPPC. A letter comes from department that
offers the course - x number of seats are made available and then the agreement is renegotiated if program growth requires additional seats. Letters should go to the Dean for review prior to UPPC submission. A council member asked how the appropriate courses in Sociology and Psychology determined. This is initiated by SED, and later discussed with the other units. Soc 260Z and 460W social psychology would be appropriate to add for this program. Dean Wulfert asked if there are prerequisites to the Psychology courses. Dr. Quinn read the bulletin very carefully and did not see any prerequisites.

Returning to the Dean’s first concern, Dr. Quinn was unclear who steps up to the plate to offer an alternative. Dean Wulfert explained that the commitment comes from the place that funding the new program, the Campus Financial Plan (CFP) or whatever mechanism is used so you can go the Provost for funds. Vice President Phillips offered that there is another piece of this – adding new seats only become relevant if we are adding new students. Major migration is a different issue. Dr. Quinn added that this is part of the rationale, not a quid pro quo - this will create additional opportunities in other programs. We will not just have a new major, but increased student credit hour capacity with the new major. Dean Wulfert responded that this does not solve the problem - if new major really only shifts students, it's not an issue. New students may cause the capacity problem. Interim Provost Mulcahy laid out the communication path -- the Dean would approach the Provost with a plan and funding request that includes what they bring to the table and what kind of assistance they are seeking. The Dean’s Office and the Provost’s Office will deal with the administrative details. If new resources are needed, it should always go through the Dean.

Chair Wagner asked the council if letters are submitted and no additional resources are needed at this time, can we move forward. She also asked for other resource implication questions. Finding no additional concerns, the Chair called for a motion contingent upon provision of letters from the chairs of Sociology and Psychology endorsed by dean of CAS. The motion was approved with 7 yeas, no opposed or abstentions.

**Computer Engineering Proposal**

Chair Wagner requested questions, concerns and comments on the Computer Engineering proposal.

A council member remarked that this program has the kind of career focus that ought to be really growing, and wondered if we may be underestimating interest and subsequent resource implications. Dr. Faerman responded that for this particular program, we believe that the resource package for startup is accurate - if growth is explosive, we would have the revenue to support additional resources. This is a very niche engineering field with limited attraction at this point. Chair Wagner asked a related question - 18 majors in year 1 growing to 100 in year 5 seems like a small number for the resources. The first year takes in 36 majors, starting with 18 freshmen and 18 junior transfers. The five year estimate of 99 is accurate. Dean Faerman observed that since engineering programs need to be accredited, having a cohort of juniors in year 1 will yield graduates quickly, which will be beneficial to the accreditation process. Dean Wulfert commented that the source of funds $2m seems a lot - they think it wise to be conservative with enrollment as this is an area of uncharted waters. RPI Computer Engineering
has 230-240 students enrolled now. Additionally, this is a difficult program that attracts high end students. Chair Wagner sees this as the foundation of a house that's growing - $2m to set foundation for a program that will grow beyond this. Dean Faerman concurred - the assumption is that this will eventually grow intellectual diversity to go to the graduate level. This is the university's first engineering program post-Nano. The Board of Trustees resolution (on the CNSE split) included recognition that we would create new engineering programs in niche areas. The Computer Engineering costs are comparable costs at other institutions, and not unreasonable relative to engineering in general as these types of programs are expensive.

Dean Faerman mentioned that our reduced research profile has weakened our federal funding position - having engineering programs will enhance our federal profile and is a good long term investment. A council member asked why this is a separate department within the College of Computing and Information. Dean Faerman replied that this major draws more heavily on Physics and math than Computer Science; it really is an intellectually unique department. Provost Mulcahy agreed that this is a foundational move that contributes to the university's long term vision. It has been carefully priced out to be adequate to the need without being excessive. A council member asked for further clarification on the program and the need for analyzing/designing compact systems. If you think about computers, there's a language and a hardware part – electrical engineers who physically build the computers and the software engineers who build the language – the design / language piece becomes important. We are not building big computers, but learning how to build small, inexpensive components that require materials we already have in Physics. We are not building a mechanical or civil engineering program. Computer Engineering is a comparatively affordable program that teaches students how to add embedded systems and develop the ability put these together.

Chair Wagner noted that the relationship between this and other disciplines has been detailed in letters and that everything has been worked out. Dean Wulfert has seen letters of support and has been satisfied appropriate consultation has taken place. Chair Wagner asked for copies of the letters to be appended to these minutes.

A question was raised as to the funding source. Provost Mulcahy responded that funding was included in the 2014-15 budget request from CCI, which has been reviewed and recommended. The budget process in final stages of approval now. At the moment, what is being recommended is a budget compatible with this request. 2020 and CARR funding sources along with some long term SUNY funding.

Chair Wagner called for a vote on moving the proposal forward – 8 voted in favor with no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Stern