CAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014
3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences, Room 122

In Attendance: Marlene Belfort, Susan Blood, Alexander Buyantuev, Kristen Corbosiero, Adam Gordon (Recorder), Colin Henck, Lan Huynh, Gregory Lnenicka, Oleg Lunin, Matthew Matsaganis, Ewan McNay, Karin Reinhold (Chair), Alexandre Tchernev, Dan S. White, Edelgard Wulfert, TC Yang, Baris Yoruk, Liming Zhou.

Not in attendance: Rajani Bhatia, Duncan Cumming, Teresa Ebert, Lisa Fuller, Danny Goodwin, Charles Hartman, Joshua Isralowitz, Colbert Nepalsingh, Maksim Royzen, Oscar Williams

1. Call to Order

Chair Reinhold called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for 10/8/2014 Council Meeting

A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by O. Lunin, seconded by A. Tchernev. The meeting minutes for October 8, 2014 were approved with one abstention.

3. Chair’s Report

Chair Reinhold noted that the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (OCFR) has been created to help faculty identify sources of funding and securing private and corporate grants (www.albany.edu/giving/OCFRform). In addition, she relayed that the Disability Resource Center (DRC) noted that rules for meeting the needs of students with disabilities have changed. She asked that faculty please contact the center for assistance in having their courses be in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, particularly with respect to hearing and vision disabilities. In response to a question, the Chair noted that a professor’s responsibility to provide accommodation for a disability starts at the point that the professor is presented with a letter from the DRC; that responsibility is not retroactive to the beginning of the semester.

She also made a serious of announcements, and gave a report from the Council of Chairs:

A. Announcements:

- The SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the University Faculty Senate will be hosting a conference entitled “Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access and Impact” on November 12-13, 2014 at the Albany Marriott Hotel, located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. This conference will leverage SUNY investments in student success and diversity while exploring best practices in recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff within the domain of higher education. http://www.suny.edu/makingdiversitycount/

- Intercampus Panel on Art in the Age of Rapid Climate Change. A panel discussion moderated by Dean Edelgard Wulfert, will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in University Hall on the University at Albany uptown campus. Members of the interdisciplinary panel will include the following faculty:
  - Tom Cohen, UAlbany (English Department and Institute on Critical Climate Change)
The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments, and the main program will start at 7:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Mary Valentis at mvalentis@albany.edu.

B. Report from Council of Chairs:

- Full CAS Faculty Meeting is 12/3/14 (3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., CC 375)
- Course Action Forms and Curricular Proposals are due no later than 2/27/15. Please submit program related proposals before the last day of classes in the fall semester (12/9/14). Bear in mind scheduling registration dates when specifying the effective semester for proposals. Please use updated Course Action Form and UPPC Campus Impact Statement and send proposals to Cindy Endres at cendres@albany.edu.
- Faculty Participation Requested: Commencement is Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the SEFCU Arena. Marching faculty should register at http://www.albany.edu/commencement/faculty.php. Registration through the website is necessary and you will receive updates via email on assembly time, location and other details the week prior to Commencement. Please also let your Commencement Coordinator/Administrative Manager/Department Secretary know of your participation. Further information is available at: http://www.albany.edu/commencement/

4. Senate Report

Alexandre Tchernev gave the following report from the University Senate Meeting of Monday, October 20, 2014:

The items on the agenda included the Interim Provost's Report, and the Senate Chair's Report, followed by the reports of the various committees, and by New Business. Interim provost Timothy Mulcahy discussed in his report the appointment of two committees. One committee's task will be to review stipends for undergraduate and graduate students, and the related university budget issues. The other committee's task will be to consider issues around contingent faculty experiences (correct proportion, professional development opportunities, etc.) and the related university budget issues. In the New Business section summaries of the results of the University at Albany Shared Governance Survey were presented, in which relatively few survey respondents expressed positive opinions of the effectiveness of the Senate.

5. Dean's Report

Dean Wulfert thanked the members of the Faculty Development Committee for their good work on the FRAP proposals, especially given the large number of proposals this year; she noted that the panel summaries were particularly useful to her in guiding her own review and in the process of making her recommendations on the proposals. She stressed that funding for the FRAP awards comes from indirect cost returns on sponsored research, and that this is a mechanism through which success in obtaining external grants benefits research-active faculty across the university, including in areas where faculty are not externally funded. L. Zhou, chair of the Faculty Development Committee, noted that there had been an 80% increase in FRAP applications but that funding levels had remained the same. Dean Wulfert responded that an increasing number of applications come from first-year faculty with start-up funds; she believes the FRAP mechanism should be reserved for faculty who no longer have start-up funds and also for seed-funding for more senior faculty who want to embark on new areas of research. She noted that the new
application form asks applicants to specify the amount of start-up funds they have available, which suggests that this variable may be taken into account when funding decisions are being made.

Dean Wulfert reported that there was a higher number of applications this year for the CAS Dean’s Teaching Award. A committee of past award winners will evaluate the proposals, i.e., they will not come to the Development Committee. L. Zhou asked about-for help to review the 96 CAS Travel Award proposals, and the Dean said that in past years the Academic Planning and Faculty Development Committees had combined to evaluate these.

The Dean reported that her office has completed a draft of a CAS strategic plan. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Assistant Dean Marie Rabideau, overarching themes, objectives, and specific action steps have been extracted from the mini strategic plans of the CAS departments and mapped on to the University’s strategic plan and the President’s four stakes in the ground. This draft of the CAS strategic plan was being vetted through the Council of Chairs. It will now be submitted to the Academic Planning Committee for comment and will eventually go to all CAS faculty and professionals for input before it is being accepted as the new strategic plan that will guide CAS activities for the next 3-5 years.

Dean Wulfert elaborated on Rich Becker’s and Winsome Foderingham’s visit to the Chairs Council. She reiterated that interested faculty should use the OCFR form mentioned in the Chair’s Report to request that the OCFR identify possible corporate and/or foundation sponsors for faculty research.

The full CAS faculty meeting will be held on December 3rd. Dean Wulfert asked council members to encourage all CAS faculty to attend. She will present relevant information about CAS activities during the past calendar year and the CAS Dean’s Teaching Award will be presented.

Regarding the University at Albany Shared Governance Survey mentioned in the Senate report, she noted that response rates were extremely low and that therefore any deductions based on these responses are at best of highly dubious validity.

Dean Wulfert also announced that she was putting together a one-year Committee on Online Education and Learning chaired by Susanna Fessler to examine possible contributions CAS can make to the University’s online involvement. She expressed interest in developing one form of a Gen Ed program that is fully online. The Committee will also examine whether there are opportunities for developing programs that would attract not only traditional, but also new students (e.g., students who are employed, already have Bachelor’s degrees but are looking for further professional/career development). A discussion followed in which O. Lunin raised the question of whether English courses could be provided for foreign-born funded teaching assistants who currently would have to pay out of pocket for language instruction. The Dean stated she would look into addressing this need and suggested possible mechanisms to do so (e.g., perhaps hiring a part time instructor, offering a course over the summer so as to not interfere with regular courses).

6. Committee Reports

Nominating (from Alexandre Tcherney):

The committee had put out a call for nominations for a Senator at Large seat, and received one response from Mathias Vuille, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.
Tenure and Promotion (from Greg Lnenicka):

The Tenure and Promotion committee has twelve cases scheduled for review this academic year: five tenure cases, and seven cases for promotion to full professor. The committee has met to consider two of these cases: one for continuing appointment and promotion to associate professor and the other for promotion to full professor.

Faculty Development (from Liming Zhou):

The committee finished the reviews of 25 FRAP proposals and submitted final recommendation to the Dean on time.

Academic Planning (from Lisa Fuller):

The committee had nothing new to report.

Academic Programs (from Marlene Belfort and Matthew Matsagani):

Since the last CAS Faculty Council meeting, the committee has reviewed a total of eight Course Action Forms (CAF). Of those proposals, four have involved revisions to majors and minors (one CAF from LLC regarding the Spanish major and minor, one CAF from English for a revision to the English minor, two from ART for revisions to the Art History major and the Film Studies minor). The other proposals have involved changes to prerequisites and course descriptions, as well a new course in economics to be offered through the Honors College. The CAFs for changes to majors and minors have required more time and effort and have involved considerable revisions, although the departments we have had to work with have been generally cooperative.

Academic Support (from Duncan Cumming):

The committee had nothing new to report.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

8. New Business

There was no new business to address.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by E. McNay. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Adam Gordon