CAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2015  
3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences, Room 122

In Attendance: Marlene Belfort, Rajani Bhatia, Susan Blood, Fan Pen Chen, Duncan Cumming, Teresa Ebert, Danny Goodwin, Adam Gordon (Recorder), Colin Henck, Lan Huynh, Ryan Irwin, Joshua Isralowitz, Oleg Lunin, Matthew Matsaganis, Ewan McNay, Karin Reinhold (Chair), Maksim Royzen, Alexandre Tchernev, Edelgard Wulfert, TC Yang, Baris Yoruk, Liming Zhou.

Not in attendance: Alexander Buyantuev, Kristen Corbosiero, Lisa Fuller, Gregory Lnenicka, Colbert Nepaulsingh, Oscar Williams

1. Call to Order

Chair Reinhold called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for 12/3/2014 Council Meeting

Chair Reinhold called for a vote to approve the minutes for the previous meeting. The meeting minutes for December 3, 2014 were approved with one abstention.

3. Chair’s Report

Chair Reinhold read a series of announcements, and gave a report from the Council of Chairs:

A. Announcements:

- Journal Support Award application materials due to Department Chair by 2/6/15 for the spring round of competition. (Dept. Chairs should submit ranked applications to Dean’s Office by 2/13/15.) (For more details: [http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Journal_Support_Award_Application.pdf](http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Journal_Support_Award_Application.pdf))
- Conference Support Award application materials due to Department Chair by 2/6/15 for the spring round of competition. (Dept. Chairs should submit ranked applications to Dean’s Office by 2/13/15.) (For more details: [http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Conference_Award_Application.pdf](http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Conference_Award_Application.pdf))
- Nominations for President's Award for Undergraduate Research are due 3/6/15 (send ranked nominations to Jay Oddi, jodd@albany.edu) [http://www.albany.edu/research/assets/Presidential_Undergraduate_Guidelines_and_cover_sheet.pdf](http://www.albany.edu/research/assets/Presidential_Undergraduate_Guidelines_and_cover_sheet.pdf)
- CAS Conference Travel Fund Program applications due 2/23/15 (AS-217, original plus 3 copies) [CAS Conference Travel Fund Program Application](http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/CAS-Conference-Travel-Fund-Program.pdf)
- Course Action Forms and Curricular Proposals are due no later than 2/27/15. 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.
- FRAP B Applications due 3/6/15 (AS-217, original plus 10 copies) (For more details: http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/FRAP_application.pdf)
- Sabbatical reports for Fall 2014 are due 3/15/15 (faculty should send via email to Steve Galime at sgalime@albany.edu with copy to Department Chair and Administrative Manager/Department Secretary)
- CAS Research Reception is 3/24/15 from 3-5:00 p.m. in the Standish Room (invitations to be sent soon)
- Faculty Participation Requested:
  - Academic/Student Services Fair and Scholars Luncheons for admitted Presidential and Frederick Douglass Scholars are 2/26/15 and 3/4/15 from 10-10:45 a.m. (Academic Fair-UNH Atrium) and 12:00 p.m. (Luncheon-CC Ballroom). Please provide name of department representative at Academic Fair to Jay Oddi at joddi@albany.edu by 2/11/15. Current Departments needed: ANT/LIN, ATM, BIO, CHM, COM, ECO, ENG/JRL, HIS, LLC/SPN, MAT, MUS, PHY, PSY, SOC. Luncheon only participants should RSVP to Jaclyn Napoleon, Undergraduate Admissions (jnapoleon@albany.edu or 2-5435).
  - Open Houses for Accepted Students are 4/11/15 and 4/12/15 (send name of department representative to Jay Oddi at joddi@albany.edu by 3/25/15).

B. Report from Council of Chairs:

Chair Reinhold reported that John Delano talked about enrollment trends and figures. Undergraduate enrollment is declining, which correlates with the national trend. Within CAS, the worst decline is occurring in Master’s degree programs. Chair Reinhold also shared a slide show illustrating the patterns across disciplines in terms of enrollments and employer demand. Finally, she noted that Student Surveys would be conducted this semester.

4. Senate Report

Alexandre Tchernev gave the following report from the University Senate Meeting of Monday, February 9, 2015:

The president spoke about the proposed affiliation with the Albany Law School, saying that discussion around the logistics of such an affiliation were ongoing, and that they would eventually need approval from SUNY Central. He also spoke about the new engineering program, and then the new provost introduced himself (James R. Stellar). It was then discovered that there were not enough members present to form a quorum (presumably due to the inclement weather), and the senate meeting was adjourned.

5. Dean’s Report

Dean Wulfert began by discussing the upcoming compact planning process. She noted that when a compact planning process was last implemented under former President Kermit Hall, it was a labor-intensive process for all departments and centers across campus, and most proposals were not implemented. The deans conveyed this to President Jones, and the process will be modified this time in response to the deans’ concerns. Specific information regarding the process will come from the president, but Dean Wulfert made a few points. First, all proposals should map onto one or more of the President’s four “stakes in the ground” in order to be competitive. Second, the proposals most likely to be successful
will be similar to the 2020 proposals, in that they will demonstrate how they will lead to increased enrollments, increased external funding, or both. She said that the President wants to build new programs that will attract new students who would not otherwise come to the university (e.g., the new engineering program). Programs attracting international students and Master’s degree students are particularly desirable because these are students that do not receive funding from the university. Third, in order to address the concerns resulting from the last implementation of compact planning, departments or centers interested in making a proposal will first send a short letter of intent to the Dean’s Office, and then the Dean will solicit full proposals from a subset of those departments and centers. Those proposals will then be forwarded to the Provost, who will forward a subset of those to a committee that will consider all proposals (academic and non-academic) to make recommendations to the President. Final decisions will likely be made in late June or July.

At this point, several faculty asked whether it was known how much money would be available overall for these programs. Dean Wulfert responded that the Deans should have an approximate idea of that once the call for proposals goes out.

Dean Wulfert then commented on the ongoing discussion with Albany Law School. She noted that Albany Law has been suffering from declining enrollments, and stressed that the details of the affiliation are still unspecified and under discussion. She said that former Provost Susan Phillips is now in charge of negotiating the relationships with Albany Law School, SUNY Downstate, and the separation of CNSE. Susan Phillips has a committee considering ways to link UAlbany with Albany Law School using joint degrees, for example a joint M.A./J.D.

Dean Wulfert then presented information on foreign language enrollments across the U.S. from a recent article in “Inside Higher Ed”, noting that overall enrollments are down 6.7% since 2009, and even Spanish has seen an 8.2% decline over that time period. There followed a brief discussion about a former joint B.A./M.B.A. program at UAlbany between French and Business, but it was noted that this program ended because of a national trend to require students to acquire work experience between the completion of an undergraduate degree and being accepted into business school.

E. McNay then asked that if enrollments are a concern and future funding will be linked to enrollments, will UAlbany eventually be on the hook for the decreased enrollments at Albany Law. Dean Wulfert responded that such concerns will be part of the discussion around the affiliation between the two institutions. O. Lunin noted that patent lawyers must also have a Master’s degree in a science field, and this may be an avenue for a joint program. Dean Wulfert responded that this was a good point, and stressed that there should be faculty involvement in Susan Phillips’ focus groups that are looking into potential joint degrees.

Dean Wulfert then mentioned a proposal to partner with community colleges who would develop classes to give our science students applied skills in their areas of study and that GlobalFoundries would develop an internship program to provide hands-on experience. She also noted that GlobalFoundries has a test for all potential new employees that emphasizes “soft skills” (e.g. teamwork), and that this is an area where CAS can help STEM students.
6. Committee Reports

Nominating (from Alexandre Tchernev):

The committee had nothing new to report.

Tenure and Promotion (from Greg Lnenicka):

The committee had nothing new to report.

Faculty Development (from Liming Zhou):

The committee had nothing new to report.

Academic Planning (from Lisa Fuller):

The Committee on Academic Planning and the Committee on Faculty Development met jointly in early December 2014 to make determinations concerning the Fall Travel awards. There were 94 applications in total. Due to the large number of applications this round, the committee agreed that we would not fund any applications that did not include evidence of having been accepted or invited to the conference or meeting. This meant that sixteen applications for funds were not considered because they were submitted either before the calls for papers came out or before acceptances were issued. We allocated $46,000 among 71 applicants. Award letters went out to applicants on Jan. 21, 2015.

Academic Programs (from Marlene Belfort and Matthew Matsaganis):

Since the full faculty meeting in December, the Academic Programs Committee has reviewed twelve proposals, including proposals for new courses, revisions to existing courses, changes in prerequisites for existing courses, and modifications to minors or majors. Currently, there are seven additional proposals under consideration and several inquiries have been sent out to departments in order to revise and clarify submitted proposals.

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

Chair Reinhold announced that there were two new councilors, Fan Pen Chen from East Asian Studies and Ryan Irwin from History. After some discussion, both new councilors agreed to serve on the Faculty Development Committee.
9. Adjournment

Chair Reinhold adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Adam Gordon