CAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2016  
3:30 p.m., AS222


1. Call to Order
Chair Tchernev called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2016
The meeting minutes of the February 10 Faculty Council meeting were approved with two abstentions of faculty members who had not attended the meeting.

3. Chair’s Report
Chair Tchernev reported that the council of chairs had met on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 and that Aran Mull, Assistant Chief of Police, UPD, and Sally D’Alessandro, Director of Student CARE Services, Office of Community Standards, had given presentations on how to manage disruptive or threatening student behavior. Thereafter, Associate Dean John Delano presented a summary of the student retention plans submitted by the various CAS departments. Chair Tchernev also indicated in his report a series of announcements pertaining to CAS Authors and Artists Reception (3/24/16, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Standish Room), nominations to carry the College gonfalon at the Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement ceremonies (due 3/25/16 to Jay Oddi), CAS Ice Cream Social (5/17/16, 2:30-4:30 p.m.), fall 2015 sabbatical reports (due to Steve Galime 5/31/16), faculty participation requests for academic/student services fair and scholars luncheons for Admitted Presidential and Frederick Douglass Scholars (3/3/16 and 3/11/16), open houses for Accepted Students (4/16/16 and 4/17/16 to Jay Oddi).

4. Senate Report
Vice Chair Chen reported that the provost had announced that the strategic planning process would be delayed due to the “bus incident.” Specific questions concerning the incident were not answered because of “due processes” on campus and beyond. Furthermore, the provost emphasized that the university stands on core values and celebration of diversity. In addition, Darrell Wheeler, Dean of Social Welfare and Vice Provost for Student Engagement, reported on the Office of Public Engagement and Community Engagement. This Office will serve as a repository for data of related programs at different units across the university. A Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) online graduate certificate program was voted on and approved.
5. Dean’s Report

Dean Wulfert elaborated on the Assistant Chief of Police’s and the Director of Student CARE Services’ presentations by saying that it is important to report strange student behavior before it escalates. Faculty might feel reticent to report unusual student behaviors, but such reporting may help address students’ psychological and emotional problems, which can cause not only disruptive behavior but lead to more severe academic risks. Concerns can be reported to Student CARE services via phone (442-5501) or via the web: https://albany-suny-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid093619?

Dean Wulfert mentioned the availability of student resources on campus, including the Student Health Services - http://www.albany.edu/health_center/hcservices.shtml, as well as the Student Counseling Center - http://www.albany.edu/counseling_center/.

Dean Wulfert also reported on the ongoing investigation of the “CTDA bus incident” and on how the UAlbany Campus has been resolute in dispelling any allegations of campus-wide racism. The President’s Council on Diversity has invited two speakers to give a special presentation on unconscious bias and how to reduce it.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Nominating Committee

Chair Chen reported that she had solicited nominations for the open seat on the Academic Planning Committee and that Malcolm Sherman, John Justeson, and Vivek Jain had volunteered and were appointed as members of the Academic Planning Committee.

6.2 Tenure and Promotion Committee

Chair Powers had nothing to report.

6.3 Faculty Development Committee

It was reported that the faculty development committee was currently reviewing 42 travel grant applications and soon would begin reviewing FRAP B applications.

6.4 Academic Planning Committee

Chair Stewart reported that APC had been charged with reviewing and ranking the Letters of Intent (LOI) for CAS Compact proposals. Chair Stewart also described the methodology employed in reviewing the proposals, including that the full committee reviewed and rated each LOI paying close attention to the president’s four directives, committee members with conflicts excluded themselves, and that the results were tallied and sent to the Dean with a note of explanation.

6.5 Academic Programs

Chair Srivastav reported that Academic Programs dealt with 17 course or program proposals, all of which had moved forward.
6.6 Academic Support
Chair Cumming had nothing to report.

7. Old Business
No old business.

8. New Business
No new business.

9. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carlos Balsas.