
Not in attendance: Alexander Buyantuev, Duncan Cumming, Jan Halamek, Ewan McNay, Alyssa Morey, Colbert Nepaulsingh

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2015

Councilors reviewed the minutes and offered corrections to the attendance list. The corrected meeting minutes for September 16, 2015 were approved with one abstention.

3. Chair’s Report

The Chairs Council met on Wednesday, October 7, 2015. After the procedural approval of the minutes, Dean Wulfert offered ideas on how to improve student retention. Sanjay Goel gave a presentation on the Blackstone Launchpad project aimed at fostering entrepreneurship on campus. Chantelle Cleary gave a presentation on existing procedures and resources in place at the University to remain compliant with Title IX and other laws and regulations on sexual abuse.

Chair Tchernev reviewed a series of announcements distributed earlier regarding Homecoming/Family/Reunion Weekend; UAlbany Conference Support Award (letter of support from Department Chairs and other procedural requirements); UAlbany Journal Support Award (letter of support from Department Chairs and other procedural requirements); Thirteen Annual College Faculty Dinner; Sabbatical reports; CAS Conference Travel Fund Program applications (procedural requirements); Full CAS Faculty Meeting; Course Action Forms and Curricular Proposals. He also reminded councilors of the need to have departmental representation at the Open House for Prospective Students on 10/17/2105.

4. Senate Report

Faculty Council Vice-Chair Chen summarized the Senate’s September 28, 2015, meeting in which Provost James Stellar mentioned two important projects for the University: The establishment of the Homeland Security College and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The former expects 200 students enrolled already and the latter is expecting three times...
such number. The Provost is working with Student Affairs on efforts to retain and grow
demand for enrollments. The Deactivation of the Puerto Rican Studies Major was untabled. The
Chair of the Department of Latin American and US Latino Studies talked about the process,
rationale and objections especially raised by Professor Cruz at the meeting. It was noted that
Puerto Rican Studies will remain within the department’s curriculum but subsumed under larger
area studies, and that there has been virtually no enrollment in the Puerto Rican Studies Major in
the last ten years. At the end of the meeting, there was no quorum for a vote to take place.

Chen's report was followed by a quick discussion of the Homeland Security initiative, especially
about its funding appropriations, location on the UAlbany campus, new faculty hires,
disciplinary affiliation, type of degree programs, and anticipated enrollments. Janell Hobson
provided some explanation of its conception, motivations, leadership, and timeframe. Dean
Wulfert clarified the proposed location of the new colleges based on available funding and office
and classroom space needs.

5. **Dean’s Report**

Dean Wulfert spoke about the Compact Planning Process, including the total number of
submissions (280), the number of funded projects (52), and the fact that she presented four
projects from the College of Arts and Sciences to the compact planning committee (President
Jones, his Chief of Staff, VPR, VP F&A, Provost), of which only one was partially funded (the
Health Sciences/Human Biology major that has grown to become the third largest major in CAS
and that – with additional investments – could become the largest major with approximately
1,000 students). Dean Wulfert mentioned that she has been in conversations with the Provost to
get additional projects co-funded with CAS (e.g., the Data Sciences proposal and the Institute for
History and Community Engagement). Dean Wulfert stated that for a future compact round she
hoped the university would solicit letters of intent rather than full proposals to avoid unnecessary
work.

**Committee Reports**

5.1 **Nomination Committee**

Chair Chen announced that Carlos Balsas had volunteered to be the recorder. At Chair
Tchernev’s motion, Professor Balsas was formally elected. The search continues for a Chair of
the Academic Programs Committee.

5.2 **Tenure and Promotion Committee**

Chair Powers had nothing to report.

5.3 **Faculty Development Committee**

Chair Blood stated that the Faculty Development Committee has a new member from
Economics, Zhongwen Liang, to replace Chandra Ambarish, who is no longer at the University.
Chair Blood also announced that FRAP A applications have been received and that they will be
reviewed shortly.
5.4 Academic Planning Committee
Chair Stewart had nothing to report.

5.5 Academic Programs
An Academic Programs Subcommittee was formed to review a student grievance; however the group is awaiting a graduate student representative to join before discussing the case.

5.6 Academic Support
Chair Cumming had nothing to report.

6. Old Business
No old business.

7. New Business
No new business.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carlos Balsas.