A regular meeting of the University Council was held on September 25, 2015 in University Hall, Room 306. Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; Nancy Burton; Nick Butler (Elected Student Member); Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; Mark Egan; John Fallon (by telephone); James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; James Collins (Faculty Representative); Joseph Garba (Alumni Representative, by telephone); and Caitlin Janiszewski, Graduate Student Representative. Also present were President Robert Jones; Senior Vice President James Stellar; Vice Presidents Joseph Brennan; Fardin Sanai; Jim Van Voorst; Michael Christakis; Laura Schweitzer; Janet Thayer, Counsel’s Office; Mark Benson, Director of Athletics; Carole Sweeton, Interim CIO; Sheila Seery, Government Relations; Chantelle Cleary, Title IX Coordinator; Alice Oldfather and Leanne Wirkkula, President’s Office.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the members present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. After a round of introductions, the Chair requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Clancy/JeanPierre), which passed unanimously. He then gave the floor to President Jones for his report.

In the President’s report, Robert Jones reviewed the success of the University’s first convocation. He then introduced Dr. Laura Schweitzer, Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical Initiatives. She will focus on shaping a vision for the East Campus through better aligning allied health programs and expanding biomedical initiatives across the university. Short remarks (Schweitzer).

President Jones then discussed the progress report for the Capital Region Economic Development Council and thanked Michael Castellana for his leadership with regard to the Upstate Revitalization Initiative efforts. The President then discussed the University’s plan to establish a deeper affiliation with Albany Law School, the opportunity it provides to redefine legal education; and how synergies will create more opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions. Finally, the President invited the Council to the State of the University address scheduled for October 27. Conversation and comments from Collins, Schweitzer, Egan, and Jackson.

Chairman Castellana introduced a justification for a Short Notice Resolution regarding the naming of the Football Stadium. Motion carried by Egan and seconded by Clancy and Caldwell. The Council unanimously voted to waive the 7 day notification requirement. Sanai provided background on the gift; the donors; and the positive impact it will have the program and opportunities including scholarship it will afford to students. Conversation and comments from
Fallon, Egan, Sanai. Chairman Castellana proceeded to read the resolution. Without objection to the motion, the Council unanimously approved the resolution to name the University at Albany Football Stadium: The Tom & Mary Casey Stadium, and furthermore that the playing field will remain named “Bob Ford Field at the Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.”

The Chairman then introduced Janet Thayer, Associate Counsel who provided a brief overview of NYS Open Meeting Law for new board membership. Discussion followed: Egan, Castellana, JeanPierre, Fallon. Thayer to investigate whether recording of Council meetings is required or if providing minutes for each meetings meets standards for compliance.

Chantelle Cleary, Title IX Coordinator was then introduced by the Chairman. Cleary provided an update to the Council on campus efforts to increase awareness, engagement and education regarding sexual violence, student rights, support and advocacy. As part of the presentation she explained the Student Bill of Rights, the Just Ask Campaign and the status of training campus constituents. She then drew comparisons between national data and UAlbany’s reporting statistics. Discussion followed: Egan; Castellana; Collins; and Janiszewski.

Vice President Jim Van Voorst presented the University’s new Compact Budget Process. He underscored the importance of creating a transparent process that is driven by strategic initiatives, fosters collaboration and cross pollinated ideas. A discussion ensued (Burton; Janiszewski) regarding the number of initiatives submitted v. approved and whether the funding decision resided with the campus.

Finally, Provost Jim Stellar briefly updated the Council on campus participation in the SUNY Performance Investment and Performance Fund. UAlbany submitted 14 proposals of which 11 were selected for further vetting. The objective of this fund is to drive the creation of new, and improve upon existing programs that are successful and evidence-based, with potential to scale-up across the SUNY system.

A motion to adjourn the session was approved at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council