UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL
2008-09 CHAIR: REED HOYT

APRIL 7, 2009
MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: S. Birge, D. Dewar, E. Eisenbraun, R. Hoyt, C. Herman, S. Phillips

GUESTS: Vice President for Athletics Dr. Lee McElroy and Dr. Teresa Harrison, Professor, Department of Communication

NEW BUSINESS

I. Report on Athletics

Dr. Lee McElroy and Dr. Teresa Harrison presented a report on student athlete academic progress during the Fall 2008 as well as NCAA Division 1 2006-07 Academic Progress Rate public report. Dr. Harrison is the Faculty Athletics Representative, a position required by NCAA regulations. She functions as a liaison between the athletics and academic affairs, and makes sure that student athletes participate in a sufficiently rigorous academic program. She represents the student athletes, keeps track of academic eligibility and works with academic support to provide services for student athletes. She also recommends students for post-graduate scholarships.

Concerns that are frequently raised concerning student athletes are that there is a clustering of students in less vigorous majors – UAlbany has no evidence of major clustering – there is a great diversity among majors. UAlbany’s student athletes compare very well academically against our conference and the NCAA overall – we are third in our conference, and 20% of our students are in the EOP program or are students of color, which is significantly higher than any other Division I NCAA school. Also, our students regularly show up on All Academic Teams. UAlbany student athletes provide over 2,000 hours of community service per year, arranged by the athletes themselves that is not part of a mandatory program.

Graduation rates have been a problem in the baseball program – there has been a historical lack of engagement in the culture. Safeguards have been introduced into the program including penalties for transferring and a 1.8 G.P.A. requirement to maintain eligibility.

Academic Support staff provides services to student athletes that include a required study hall for freshman and transfer students. Those with a 3.5 or higher G.P.A. are excused from spring study hall. Students with a 2.3 or under G.P.A. are required to meet with their faculty advisor and go to study hall. The study hall program has proven to be of great benefit to student retention.

Dr. Harrison noted that an Athletics Advisory Board has been instituted that meets twice a semester. The board is comprised of four faculty members, two professional staff, one alumni representative, two student athletes and two representatives from intramural athletics. The Advisory Board conducts reviews of academic programs, makes budget recommendations, reviews financial support and responds to gender equity issues. They also monitor the conduct of the programs and advise the Department of Athletics on the appointment of personnel.

Dr. Hoyt thanked Dr. McElroy and Dr. Harrison for their presentation.
CHAIR’S REPORT

The minutes of March 19 and March 25 were approved as written.

Senate elections will be done via electronic ballot through MyUAlbany.

Dr. Hoyt reported that there is a plan in place for the Presidential Search – he hoped to have additional information within a week.

Registrar Robert Gibson will present academic calendar for 2010/11 at the meeting on April 24th.

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:09am

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Stern