9-21-2012 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting for September 21, 2012
Approved by the Council on October 15, 2012

In attendance:  J. Baronner (staff), F. Bolton (staff), B. Dieffenbach, K. Gersowitz, T. Groves (Chair), L. Jone, D. Mancini, P. Terpelets, M. VanUllen, K. Williams, R. Yang, A. Zemel

Unable to attend:  J. Bartow (staff), P. Caban, S. Commuri, A. Krause

The meeting was called to order by Chair Groves at 9:08 AM

1. Consideration of minutes for the 5/4/2012 GAC meeting

The Council unanimously approved the 5/4/2012 minutes with a 5-0-0 vote. Only returning members from last year were permitted to vote.

2. Dean’s report – K. Williams

President Philip and Provost Phillips presented the University’s NY SUNY 2020 proposal to Governor Cuomo at the Capitol September 20th. The centerpiece of the proposal is the Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (E-TEC), which is a 225,000square foot center that will house research clusters in Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, biomedical and biotechnology studies, forensic science and cybersecurity, and advanced data analytics. It will serve as an Innovation Eco center to harness the University’s capacity in emerging technologies by accelerating cooperative R & D and technology transfer. The funds provided by this plan will allow for 187 new faculty members, 355 researcher scientists, and 193 campus support jobs. The plan calls for an increase of 1,300 students (about 300 at the graduate level). The plan is projected to have a large economic impact on the region ($1.8 billion overall impact; 800 new jobs).

The Graduate Education Working Group of the UAlbany Strategic Plan has started its second year of work on the graduate education priorities of the Plan. Dean Williams met with the PhD program directors earlier in the month to review the program metrics that will be used to access doctoral programs on campus, beginning this year. The Working Group will be addressing issues related to the collection and reporting of the program metrics and recommendations for using them in allocation decisions. It will also be addressing issues related to graduate student support (e.g., level of stipends, years of funding) and professional development activities for students.

Overall graduate enrollment is up slightly from last year (approximately 4400) but is still below the target for the campus financial plan. International enrollment is up considerably. Also, we have our largest group (at least in recent history) of under-represented minority students entering PhD programs in STEM this year (6).

3. Chair’s Report – T. Groves

A document showing the Council’s charter and responsibilities was previously e-mailed to members. Chair Groves discussed it at length.
The first University Senate meeting for this semester will be held next Monday (9/24).

4. GAC Committees

The Council reviewed a handout of individuals that will populate GAC and its committees. Chair Groves acknowledged Jon Bartow’s efforts with tracking and following up. The Council was reminded that all members should consider serving on one of the committees. Non-GAC members are permitted to join a committee as well. The Chair explained the responsibilities of the three committees. Professor Suraj Commuri was elected Chair of CEP&P by an 8-0-0 vote. Professor Rongwei Yang agreed to Chair the CAS&S Committee and was approved by Council with seven votes and one abstention. No volunteers came forward to chair the CC&I Committee. Chair Groves will discuss the CC&I Chair situation with Jon Bartow.

GAC oversees program assessments with the aspect of oversight only. A few new assessments were generated in 2011-2012. These will be reviewed by GAC during 2012-2013. The review is via volunteers resulting in a one or two page report. The remaining assessments must be completed by Spring 2013.

The academic dishonesty portion of both the Graduate and Undergraduate Bulletins will be updated to incorporate today’s technology. The proposed language change is currently being discussed by a committee.

6. New Business

No new business was conducted.

Future Meetings:

Meetings dates/times will be announced within the next week. Since certain members will not be able to attend all meetings, the plan is to choose meetings where the majority of members will be present. GAC meetings will be synchronized with Senate meetings due to the need to present certain bills to the Senate. The Chair thanked the Council members for volunteering to the council.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Groves at 9:56 AM.

END OF GAC 9/21/2012 MINUTES

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