CHAIR’S REPORT
None given

PROVOST’S REPORT
Dr. Phillips reported on a seminar on community engaged scholarship forum that was held at Empire Commons this afternoon. Dr. KerryAnn O’Meara, Associate Professor of Higher Education at the University of Maryland, College Park, was the keynote speaker. Panel members included Katherine Briar-Lawson, Larry Schell, Gilbert Valverde and Elga Wulfert. Philip Nasca headed up UAlbany’s Community-Engaged Scholarship Working Group. A draft of the report is available for review at:


The Provost then provided an update of the strategic plan implementation process. Some 140 faculty and staff engaged in 7 working groups have been working all year. This fall, a proposal will come forward about improving availability and quality of writing instruction, along with Advising Plus, an academic advisor program within departments / mentoring program for new students. On the recruitment front, we are forming a new group on community college connections to figure out how to attract their best students. Other initiatives include a special unit for professional and community education and a showcase of our academic excellence. We are studying needs of non-tenure track faculty and improving pre and post award services. In a couple of weeks, the Steering Committee will meet to map out an evaluation plan. How well we plan strategically and how we implement that plan will inform how well we are doing as an institution.

The next update was on SUNY 2020 progress: we have reopened conversations with the Governor’s office; 49 proposals have been submitted for faculty hires. Provost Phillips hopes to know about funding approvals shortly.

The academic calendar is another topic of much recent discussion. The Spring 2013 calendar has attracted the attention of local religious authorities as it does not make accommodations for Easter or Passover. The Registrar has come back with a set of proposals which she will bring
to UPPC on May 11th. The coincidence of our periods of holiday with public schools has also been raised as a faculty concern.

NEW BUSINESS

MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM PROPOSAL—GUESTS: KATHY GERSOWITZ

Ms. Gersowitz briefly explained the changes to the program and noted that Charles Shepherdson in the English Department will be taking program over in the fall. A vote was called to move the proposal on to SEC, which was approved.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND CLASSICAL STUDIES

Discussion commenced regarding Senate Resolution 1112-5R (to determine offerings in European Languages and Classical Studies in accordance with UAlbany’s mission) relative to whether Dr. Wills’ offer to serve as the UPPC rep to this committee is in conflict with his role as sponsor of the bill, as well as a member of an affected department. Dr. Wills asserted that this legislation is in conflict with an administrative decision that has already been made. Chair Lifshin asked Dr. Wills if his personal interest in this committee would compromise his ability to report the activities of this group back to UPPC in terms of resource implications. Dr. Wills replied that it would not. Dr. Fessler asked Mr. Beditz about the conflict of interest definition. Mr. Beditz responded that broadly, we should not use our professional offices for personal gain or in conflict with our duties as officers of the State of New York. Dr. Fessler felt that the result of the committee’s decision could directly benefit Dr. Wills in terms of employment. Dr. Johnson reflected that having a vested interest could influence one’s participation in such a group.

Dr. Lifshin issued a renewed call for an alternate volunteer to come forth. As no one came forward, Dr. Lifshin asked for a motion to decline Dr. Wills’ offer to serve on the committee as the UPPC representative based on a perceived conflict of interest. Dr. Johnson asked what UPPC would want the volunteer to this committee focus on. Ms. DiDonna voiced a concern that since Dr. Wills authored the proposal, that there could very well be a perception of conflict within the university community if he also served on the committee, which was echoed by Dr. Wagner. Dr. Wagner requested clarification on the committee’s role. (The committee’s charge is to report back to Senate by 4/15/12 on recommendations for program reinstatement, which would ultimately go back to GAC, UAC and ultimately UPPC). A secret ballot approved Dr. Wills as the UPPC representative to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE MASTERS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (MIA) PROPOSAL UPDATE

Provost Phillips reintroduced the proposal from Rockefeller and explained the life cycle of a program proposal – a new program has to go through a SUNY wide screening process via a Letter of Intent (LOI) and is circulated to other campuses for their input. Once the LOI is approved by the other 63 campuses, the program is developed and goes through the regular governance process. The actual program proposal goes to UAC for analysis of compatibility with mission, then GAC, then UPPC, and finally SUNY. When UPPC last saw this, it was a
Master of Global Affairs, which went on to State Ed where it languished. With a new Rockefeller Dean in place, the program has been retooled for resubmission. The Global Center in NYC has solidified and distance learning issues have been worked out. The budget and balance of Albany/NYC classes have been revised. Dr. Koslowski reported that synchronous learning between the two locations has been established, and that enrollments have been adjusted; there is now an even split between NYC and Albany. Dr. Phillips explained that one of the issues in the prior iteration was that the Global Center had just become a concept, and that the Chancellor brought on a new international Vice Chancellor with the hope was that SUNY would have a special interest in funding this, which did not happen. Dr. Koslowski added that the success of the program was heavily dependent on SUNY resources, whereas the revised package is more balanced, and is not marketed as a NYC based program. A motion was brought to the council to move the Letter of Intent along, which was approved with one abstention.

Next meeting will be Friday, May 11, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Stern