UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
2011-12 CHAIR: ERIC LIFSHIN  

JULY 31, 2012  
MEETING MINUTES  


Acting UPPC Chair Susanna Fessler thanked the group for coming on Eric Lifshin’s behalf.  

Provost Phillips and Interim Vice President Beditz provided an update on the NYSUNY 2020 process. Under the NYSUNY2020 legislation passed in June of 2011, all state operated campuses benefit from predictable tuition increases over five years:  

NYSUNY 2020 provides for ALL state-operated SUNY campuses:  

+$300/year undergraduate instate tuition (for 5 years)  
+10%/year graduate instate tuition (for 5 years)  
+10%/year graduate out-of-state tuition (for 5 years)  

For campuses not eligible for the capital funding challenge grant below:  

+10%/year undergraduate out-of-state tuition (for 5 years;)  

For the University Centers, there is a special provision under the NYSUNY 2020 legislation that affords them the opportunity to compete for $35 million in capital funding, and, once approved, be eligible to receive additional tuition and fees:  

Successful NYSUNY 2020 proposal adds:  

+$75/year academic excellence fee  
+10%/year undergraduate out-of-state tuition (for 5 years)  
+$35M in capital funds  

It was noted that NYSUNY 2020 legislation includes a caveat “maintenance of effort” that the increased tuition and fees cannot be offset by decreases in state aid.  

The UAlbany, along with the other three University Centers, presented an initial proposal to the SUNY Board of Trustees in August 2011. That proposal adds 1350 new students and 187 new faculty across six areas of strength and opportunity, and estimates a $1.8 billion impact on the region and state.  

Since that initial presentation, Buffalo and Stony Brook had their proposals fully approved. Binghamton had their initial presentation to the Governor in April, but the proposal has not yet been approved. Albany’s proposal has continued to develop, in close consultation with SUNY and the Governor’s office. The five-year plan includes
increase of students, increase of faculty, a capital project (initially a biomedical initiative), support jobs, and sponsored programs jobs. There are expectations of increased research funding and increased student aid by UAlbany. The new students and faculty activity drive the proposed outcomes. Basic information about the UAlbany proposal remains as presented in August, and includes:

Basic outline of the draft UAlbany proposal (5-year plan):

Signature construction project
+1350 students (1050 undergrad)
+187 faculty across six areas
  1. Climate, Environmental and Economic Sustainability
  2. Emerging Technologies
  3. Human Health and Biomedical Sciences
  4. Public Service and Policy
  5. Business and Entrepreneurship
  6. Liberal Arts and Sciences

2322 new jobs
  187 faculty
  193 support (state and aux)
  355 support (sponsored program)
  1,587 construction jobs

$115 million in research expenditures
$5.2 million in enacted TAP eligibility aid
$2.5 million in increased student aid
$1.8 billion in economic impact throughout the greater Capital Region

A question was asked about housing for new students. According to Interim Vice President Beditz, the new residence halls will help cover the new students and will allow for renovation of existing dorms. Provost Phillips noted that 1350 new students means that there is a greater need for new faculty and staff for instructional and support needs. The increase in number of students started last year, although was somewhat offset by an unexpected decrease in graduate enrollment.

A question was asked about whether or not the increase in students will mean a decrease in student quality. Provost Phillips responded that the University was addressing the possible concern through increasing aid, international recruitment, and student support services. Another question was asked about a potential backlash for increasing out-of-state students. Provost Phillips and Chief of Staff Delio responded that they did not expect this to be an issue as long as New York students continued to have access.

A question was asked if UAlbany would have five full years of benefits after its proposal is approved. Chief of Staff Delio confirmed that this was indeed the case as a result of the enacted FY 2012-13 budget, which amended the NYSUNY 2020 Act to ensure that each of the University Centers will be able to secure all five years of benefits. Provost Phillips mentioned that while we do not have an official timeline with the Governor’s and Chancellor’s Offices, we anticipate some movement soon. The signature construction
project is under discussion, and is likely to include a broader representation of our areas of strength than was in the biomedical initiative originally proposed.

A question was asked about Alumni Quad. Provost Phillips responded that although there had been a proposed renovation of Alumni Quad in a very early draft, there are no plans for Alumni Quad in the current proposal.

A question was asked about how this fits in with the Facilities Master Plan (FMP). Provost Phillips acknowledged that the FMP process and planners are aware of the proposal development process and have worked the proposed construction into the larger plan for the east side of the main campus.

It was mentioned that there could be some negative thoughts internally about the plan if it didn’t have an arts and sciences component. Provost Phillips commented that the largest portion of the proposed new faculty hires is in the liberal arts and sciences, and that the majority of the new students would also be expected to be in that area.

Turning to the hiring plans, Provost Phillips explained that there have been two calls for hiring proposals – one for faculty and one for non-faculty. Interim Vice President Beditz has been working with the non-faculty proposals which are from across the campus to support the increase of students and faculty. Provost Phillips is working on the faculty proposals, for which there was a pilot RFP last fall, and the first full proposal cycle this spring. The process has entailed review by a faculty panel as well as the deans and other members of the Provost's Executive Advisory Council. Some recommendations for funding are just now being made for this round. The full list of proposals was shared, and the elements of the review and recommendation process discussed. Attention was given to the overall quality of the proposal, the distribution across the university areas, and the extent to which the proposed hiring activity would assist with the increased student need and the increased external funding expectations. A complete account of the proposal process, along with abstracts of funded proposals will be posted on the Provost’s website. Another round of proposal submission and review is anticipated for this coming fall, using feedback from the current round. There will also be a new proposal writing workshop to help others for future rounds. Feedback will also be given to the units that did not receive funding.

A question was asked about the connections between the proposals and the NYSUNY 2020 strengths. There is good correspondence, and opportunities may arise in the next round to put forth proposals that play to the ‘signature project.’

A question was asked whether the proposals would generate new seats and not take seats from other departments. Proposers were asked to demonstrate a market for their proposed instructional. However, student choice of courses and majors will continue to be the main factor in where seats are filled.

A question was asked about whether or not any of the new positions could be in the areas that were deactivated. Provost Phillips noted that no hiring proposals were received from those areas, although there may be some resources embedded in larger, college-level, proposals related to providing increased undergraduate instruction.

Acting Chair Fessler also thanked the group for their quick response on the academic calendar issue for the 13-14 year, noting that the majority were in favor of the “Option 5”
compromise plan. She also noted that she and Registrar Karen Chico-Hurst, with the aid of Geoff Williams, have compiled a complete history of the policy and discussion about the academic calendar and that the UPPC will take up the matter of reviewing and updating the academic calendar policy in the Fall.