Dr. Delano called the meeting to order at 3:35pm and commenced with a review of minutes from the October 22nd meeting. Minutes approved with one correction.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

No report was given

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

No report was given

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Masters of Global Affairs Proposal**

Dr. Delano asked the council for comments on the proposal prior to hearing a presentation from Rockefeller College.

Dr. Eisenbraun cited missing elements in the Letter of Intent as an area of concern. The proposal needs letters of support and other documents in order to be complete and ready for review by UPPC. Dr. DeBlasi was curious as to what the contribution of the Levin institute is. Dr. Delano cited Fred Volkwein – ‘no program that is looked at in isolation is unworthy’. We need to look at this in the larger context and ask Dean Straussman further questions. Dean Bangert-Drowns was concerned that the resource issues in the proposal were not fully articulated. This is not a resource neutral proposal; faculty and other resources not entirely clear – perhaps presenting in table format would clarify. Dr. Eisenbraun concurred that this is required by SUNY policy.

Mr. Bessette wondered if the proposal partially driven by availability of space in New York City. Dr. DeBlasi agreed that the council should ask Dean Straussman about genesis of the program. Are we ‘riding a wave’ or is this an initiative? Dr. Delano asked why is it important to create this new program if it is going to be mediocre; the proposal makes aspirational statements re: membership in APSIA (Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs), but not sure that this proposal gets us there. Is UAlbany willing to commit resources necessary to make this program distinctive? Mr.
Bessette – NYU has 200 enrollees and we would have 16 after 5 years? Is a program this small a smart investment given current circumstances, worth the outcome? Rockefeller is one of our distinctive elements; if we are investing in this – can this program be a strength and can we grow it to a viable level, leverage our cost advantage? Dr. Johnson commented that the program may be sized small to show how this can be done with limited additional resources. How do we view the addition of new programs until we see how cuts will transpire?

Dr. Lahiri noted that this is in the planning stage – by the time this is fully fleshed out, there may be funding. Mr. Bessette commented if we are diverting resources, let’s do it right and devote proper resources instead of testing waters with a small trial. Dr. Lahiri noted that all graduate programs have suffered over last 10-15 years; many running on old reputations. Dr. Delano added that we cannot live with the “bankruptcy of evenhandedness” (Volkwein, 1984). In the absence of courage, you end up with across the board mediocrity. This proposal can be seen in the context of investing in an area of future strength; gives distinctiveness and breaks out of ‘bankruptcy’.

Dr. Lenart offered that this program would be unique within SUNY – motivation and market need is very clear. Dr. Arsic noted that at the moment, our nationally ranked programs are at risk – is it strategically wise to open a new program with a 10-15 year horizon until it gains national recognition – should we focus on established programs to bolster their prominence. Dr. DeBlasi closed discussion with a question as to how we value different kinds of visibility – it may be a good idea to ally ourselves with SUNY Central if they support this initiative.

Dean Straussman and Dr. Koslowski joined the meeting to give a brief presentation on the program proposal and to answer questions from the council. The Master of Global Affairs (MGA) was an idea Dr. Straussman had over 3 years ago. There is no branding consistency with this degree – students have a professional goal; position in public, private, not for profit sectors. The MGA degree exists nationally; it is growing nationally and internationally. Dean Straussman views this proposal as being consistent with broad university and SUNY objectives and moves forward a desire to internationalize UAlbany. Currently, Rockefeller College’s greatest strength is at the state level. Dean Straussman wants to expand the program to operate from local to global levels. Employment opportunities for this degree are expanding. The Spring 2006 Compact Plan identified a proposal for a similar program. The goal is to create a program that will eventually become a member of the prestigious Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) and to offer the degree in New York City to maximize its potential (the proposed location for the MGA program is the SUNY Bldg on East 55th St SUNY Global Center). Columbia has the premiere program of this type; NYU has a program, but it is not competitive with our proposed program. New York State has only two APSIA programs – Columbia and Syracuse.

Dr. Delano opened up the floor for discussion/questions from the council. Dr. Lahiri asked if the Columbia program was too much competition. Dr. Lahiri asked if the Columbia program was too much competition. Dean Straussman responded that there is no competition from a public university (including CUNY) – and while we won’t even attempt to compete with Columbia’s program, this would make an attractive alternative, with Rutgers (with an enrollment of 140) being our main competition. Dr. Eisenbraun raised a question about the Letter of Intent – have they studied 5 years of projected costs and enrollment? Dr. Koslowski responded that the expected an enrollment of 25 in the 1st year, 60 in 5 years is a conservative estimate. Dean Straussman noted that it
is hard to estimate demand – the proposed enrollment figures were reasoned by analogy. The two most recent programs referenced in the Letter of Intent (Penn State and UT Austin) were used as benchmarks for enrollment projections. Dean Straussman does not see this program a way to offset enrollment decline; the substantive reason is program itself. As to program cost, there is no intention of reallocating any current Rockefeller resources. This degree program may be the anchor of the SUNY Global Center. Dr. Eisenbraun stated that the council would need to see budget data (not necessarily funding sources) in order to move forward. Dr. Delano suggested that this program would contribute to distinctiveness; trying to lowball program proposal may be an inappropriate thing. Dr. Straussman does have a program estimate, which he will provide to the council. Dr. Delano remarked that the structure of proposal was unclear as to how much UAlbany would be identified with this program. Dr. Koslowski responded that while the program is Rockefeller College at SUNY Center, UAlbany would be APSIA member.

The program will be built with a core of Rockefeller faculty – may reach out to other units, campuses later. Dean Straussman has budgeted a certain number of adjunct instructors. Dr. Arsic asked if the program will have full faculty. Yes; they will commute from Albany, which is included in the budget. 11 faculty members have indicated an interest. Courses would be held weekly or on the weekend. Dr. Lenart inquired how many lines would be added for the MGA. Dean Straussman envisions launching the program without new lines. Dr. DeBlasi asked if the program initiative originated from UAlbany. Yes. Dean Straussman has conversed with SUNY Central – Mitch Leventhal very supportive of program. This idea was generated by Dr. Koslowski back in 2006. The program does not draw resources away from faculty.

Dr. DeBlasi queried how UAlbany thinks about resources in relation to relationship with SUNY Central. Does this help our position? Dean Straussman responded that the program dynamic is not driven by that relationship. The Levin Institute has ups & downs – we approached them with the idea. Dr. Delano asked what about 15% decline – don’t we need our limited resources to bolster existing programs instead of a new one? Dr. Koslowski replied that Rockefeller enrollments are up 2009-2010. Dr. Lahiri inquired about the Rockefeller Institute. Dean Straussman responded that the institute focuses on federal us domestic programs. The Center for International Development (CID) is mainly a non profit contract shop; it’s doing more academic work and may be a resource. Dean Bangert-Drowns indicated his support for the concept, but would like to flesh out the Letter of Intent, with program costs for institute in table form, etc. Conversations with SUNY Global Center – Curriculum development committee includes outside participants who are with SUNY Central. Is there a requirement to have letters of support?

Dr. Delano thanked Dean Straussman and Dr. Koslowski for their input.

OLD BUSINESS

University Budget Data

Kim Bessette presented budget data requested by UPPC at previous meetings. She distributed historical information back from URPAC days (04-05), updated to current year. The chart showed the distribution of state tax/tuition support by unit from 2001-02 to 2008-09. Ms. Bessette reviewed the document with the council and answered questions. She cautioned that the chart does not show an
apples-to-apples comparison because of reorganizations over the last 5 years. Dr. Lahiri asked about why the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) is not shown on the budget sheet. Ms. Bessette explained that the state funding for CNSE is provided separately and is not in the ‘pot’ of our regular state allocation; their state allocation goes directly to them. Dr. Lahiri asked which CNSE buildings are heated by the university; since some of the buildings are rentals, how have the utility costs come back to the university over the last several years? The council would like to look at how the utility costs have been distributed across the campuses over the last several years. State support data from our peer institutions was also discussed – Ms. Bessette will acquire that data from SUNY Binghamton for the last ten years. Ms. Bessette offered to come back to do Budget 101 presentation for UPPC at a future meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn at 5:22 pm with Dr. Delano’s thanks to all in attendance

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Stern