
Not in attendance: A. Bronfman, L. Clemens, J. Dreby, R. Freidman, E. Fretwell, J. Liu, O. Williams

1. Call to Order
   - The meeting was called to order by Chair Chen at 2:47 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for September 11, 2019 CAS Council Meetings
   - Minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed, with one abstention.

3. Chair’s Report
   - Chair Chen attended the Chair’s Council Meeting. Provost Kim attended the meeting. Many Chairs asked about enrollments and strategies for recruitment and retention.

4. Senate Report
   - Vice-Chair Pelosi attended the September 25 Senate Meeting.
   - The meeting included an introduction from President Rodríguez, with emphasis on enrollment and retention. The President discussed restructuring undergraduate education to help with these issues, including “meta-majors” and earlier enrollment (Summer).
   - Briefing on the Middle-States self-study, which can be reviewed online.

5. New Business
   - Presentation by Dr. Kevin Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School.
   - Dr. Williams described the history of graduate offices at UAlbany and the recent centralization of functions in the Graduate School.
   - Dr. Williams discussed fundamental issues for a graduate school: student success, program quality, student funding, diversity and inclusion, professional development, career outcomes, interdisciplinary research and programs, and enrollment.
   - Objectives of the Graduate School: increase and maintain enrollments; promote interdisciplinary research and education; increase diversity in the graduate student body; ensure student success and prepare students for different career pathways.
   - Advantages of a Graduate School: strengthen identity as a research university; create resource optimization and economies of scale (marketing, promotion of programs, integrated and responsive admissions process, market analyses for new programs); build stronger relationships across offices and divisions across the University; coordinate interdisciplinary programs; enhance student programming and development opportunities.
   - Strategic recruitment and marketing plans were also discussed. The goal is to increase graduate student prospects, applicants, admits, and enrollees.
     - Targeting international students (STEM focus)
     - Historically underrepresented minorities
     - Full-time, traditional-aged undergraduates
     - Part-time, working professionals
• Discussion of new initiatives for out-of-state travel for graduate recruitment in addition to regional and on-campus events.
• Graduate Student Ambassadors conduct outreach, meetings, tours, tabling, etc.
• Ongoing social media campaigns and Slate communications tailored to target audiences.
• A councilor asked about whether gender was part of URM targeting. Dr. Williams described it as discipline-specific.
• A councilor asked about updates for financial aid for graduate students. An announcement is expected from the President in the coming days. It should be above the recommendations of the 2016 stipend report, and a floor will be established. A fund for master’s scholarships will be established.
• A councilor asked about number of TA lines. Dr. Williams stated that the number of lines is tied to enrollments.
• A councilor asked about what would have happened if CAS did not meet its enrollment targets. This is in the purview of the Provost, who has suggested consequences for meeting or missing targets.
• A councilor asked whether demand for programs in the new colleges is meeting expectations. Engineering PhD has exceeded targets, masters less. CEHC has few new graduate programs, but inherited information science programs.

6. Dean’s Report
• Dean Altarriba gave the following announcements:
  o New Teaching Award: two awards for graduate students ($500 each) encompassing all graduate teaching roles. Contact Susanna Fessler with questions. Deadline for nominations was October 8, 2019. Winners to be announced at Fall CAS Faculty Meeting.
  o National Transfer Week: Oct. 21-25, 2019. Contact Linda in Undergraduate Education for information on events.
  o Annual CAS Faculty Dinner: Oct. 24th, Speaker is Julia Hormes, from Psychology.
  o Full Faculty Meeting: December 4th, 2:15 p.m., Campus Center West Boardroom.
  o Open House is: October 19th; Julia Singleton is collecting volunteers for Admissions Office.
• Dean Altarriba presented on:
  o Early admission to majors: Some students are admitted without a major in mind and can remain undeclared for some time. Engaging students with subject matter early can improve recruitment and retention. Meta-majors can help with earlier admission to majors. This can help with competitiveness and perception with other institutions. More details on implementation will be forthcoming.
  o Meta-majors: groups of academic majors with related courses. Within each meta-major are degrees and certificates that have related courses. The intent of selecting a meta-major is to help students choose a major and degree based on their interests, skills, abilities, etc. This is a way of admitting a student to an entity, other than the University as a whole. Pathways and connections are made clearer in this model. It is conceived of as more welcoming and encouraging of early engagement by students. It relates college courses and career aspirations, and serves as a “safety net”, as it can help students switch tracks while maintaining progress toward degree completion. More details on implementation will be forthcoming.
  o A councilor commented about whether “tracking” or “channeling” new freshmen is best for their interests. With first-generation college students, they may be less informed of the possibilities of college, and this may narrow options. Dean Altarriba suggested that advising
is important, so that students aren’t pigeonholed too early. Switching directions hurts students financially and meta-majors may reduce this.

- A councilor asked whether there are data about whether students who do not graduate within 6 years do so because they change their major. Does it result in loss of TAP?
- Middle States Self-Study: Part of the accreditation process. This report is available online for review, and feedback is encouraged. Committees were formed in alignment with the 7 Middle States standards. Other compliance and accreditation matters are also part of the report. Recommendations include website improvements, student assessments, replacement of ITS hardware. Suggestions include: assessment for strategic priorities, academic grievance records, graduate assistantships, best-practices for instructors of general-education courses, document educational outcomes, follow-up process with departments. Open fora will be held in October to solicit feedback. External pre-reviewer visit on December 6, 2019; full external review visit in late March-early April 2020.

7. Committee Reports

Nominating:
The Nominating Committee asks that councilors directly contact Chair Chen and Vice-Chair Pelosi in event of an absence. Two at-large council seats remain vacant, and one professional seat is also vacant. The Nomination deadline is October 14. Mehmet Yigit is the new council representative for the Department of Chemistry.

Tenure and Promotion:
The Tenure and Promotion Committee has 30 cases this year, 11 of which are mandatory fall cases. The committee may not get through all the non-mandatory courses this fall.

Faculty Development:
Has received some, but not all, of the FRAP-A files for review.

Academic Programs:
Received 9 Course Action proposals and have approved three. A student grievance was addressed. The committee members wish to thank CAS staff for their help.

Academic Support:
Nothing to report.

8. Old Business
Nothing to report.

9. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.