A regularly scheduled meeting of the University Council was held on May 11, 2018 at the University at Albany University Hall, Room 306.

Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; James Clancy; Mark Eagan; James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; James Mower (Faculty Representative); and Tom Robertson (Graduate Student Representative). John Fallon, Vice Chair and Patricia Caldwell (via teleconference).

Also present were President Havidán Rodríguez; Provost and Senior Vice President James Stellar, Vice Presidents Todd Foreman; Michael Christakis; James Dias; Laura Schweitzer; Simeon Ananou and Fardin Sanai. In addition, Bruce Szelest, Chief of Staff; Mark Benson, Athletic Director; Sheila Seery and Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, Government and Community Relations; David Holtgrave, Dean, School of Public Health; John Giarrusso, Associate Vice President, Finance & Administration; Paul Miller, Communications and Marketing; Alice Oldfather, President’s Office; Zina Lawrence; and Howard Architzel, SEFCU.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the membership present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda items, Clancy moved the motion and Jackson seconded. With no discussion on the consent agenda items, after welcoming the Council’s new graduate student representative, the Chair introduced President Rodríguez for his report.

The President began by thanking both the Council and his leadership team for the support and tireless effort over his first year in office. He introduced new hires: Todd Foreman, Vice President for Finance and Administration and David Holtgrave, Dean for the School of Public Health. He briefly addressed efforts to assess enrollment, determining the optimal size of the student body. The President then highlighted milestones achieved on the campaign, by the athletic program, and then reinforced legislative priorities for the 2018-19 fiscal year. He then shared UAlbany’s Strategic Planning video with the Council. In conclusion, the President invited the members to join UAlbany as it celebrates 3,000+ graduates the following weekend.

Upon completion, the President introduced special guest Alicia Ouellette, President of Albany Law School who spoke briefly about the existing partnership between institutions, academic synergies and research opportunities. Upon completion, the Chair opened the floor for questions. Conversation ensued (Eagan, Stellar).

The Chair then introduced Vice President Foreman who provided an overview of the University’s budget and his division’s efforts to increase financial literacy across
campus. This led into a discussion regarding student tuition and enrollment (Eagan, Architzel, Caldwell, Robinson, and Mower).

Upon completion, the Chair introduced David Holtgrave, Dean of the School of Public Health. Dean Holtgrave provided the Council with an overview of academic programs, research, and shared statistics on the student body. He then discussed national trends, opportunities, and the future of Public Health education.

John Giarrusso, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration provided the Council with an overview of capital projects across the University.

At 3:08 pm, with no new business, Chairman Castellana called for a motion (Jackson) to adjourn, Clancy seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council