

## UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(via Zoom)

### MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** S. Axley; B. Benjamin; Y-H. Chen; S. Chittur; C. Fauchon (Recorder, non-voting); J.R. Gil-Garcia; H. Horton; J. Hwang; Z. Lawrence (Chair); L.A. McNutt; K. Reinhold; J. Rivera-Wilson.

**Guests:** G. Berg, CEHC; Todd Foreman (Finance and Administration); S. Galime, Provost's Office; J. Goodall, CHEC; J. Kersch, Campus Planning; C. Kim, Provost; J.A. Malatesta, Undergraduate Education; E. Millington, Facilities Management; S. Rafferty, College of Arts & Sciences; B. Szelest, President's Office; J. Stefl-Mabry, CEHC; K. Williams, Graduate Studies; K. Winchester, Undergraduate Education.

#### I. **RAPC + UFC Special Session with Todd Foreman, VP of Finance**

This special session with Vice President for Finance and Administration Todd Foreman, Interim Director of Campus Planning. Jason Kersch, and Interim AVP for Facilities Management Errol Millington was arranged by joined RAPC (Resource Analysis and Planning and UFC (University Facilities) Committee Co-Chairs Karin Reinhold and Louise-Anne McNutt.

Interim Director of Campus Planning Jason Kersch led a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010 Facilities Master Plan update. A number of key projects arose from the 2010 Facilities Master Plan, such as the Massry Center for Business, Liberty Terrace, Casey Stadium, improvement in housing, Campus Center West Expansion, and Hudson Building renovation. In 2018, the UAlbany Strategic Plan was updated and Facilities started a "mini master plan" and then COVID-19 happened. Now, a year after COVID-19 started, the new Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (ETEC) is expected to open this Fall.

Campus Planning Director Kersch went over the goals of the update:

- To look at the current budgetary constraints and at the programs across campus in order to meet the needs of the University – such as planning for the growth of programs at CEHC and CEAS.
- Repurposing Alumni Quad
- Reducing our lease spaces (including the School of Public Health)
- Creating opportunities to bring students back to campus.

Campus Planning will be working on the Facilities Masterplan with off-campus consultants Chiang O'Brien, Scott Page, and Brailsford and Dunlavy. On campus, several committees

have been formed. The internal steering committee, led by Todd Foreman, welcomes new members. At this point, the committees are still gathering data on two parallel tracks. Once the data is gathered the consultants will have a chance to do some analysis and develop some scenarios. There will be multiple meetings with stakeholders, deans, and opportunities for feedback. The completion of the master plan update is projected for January 2022. Vice President Todd Foreman specified that the Facilities Master Plan has been posted online.

Campus Planning Director Kersch invited questions from the Council Members:

- Vice President Foreman addressed questions regarding the status of the former Albany High School building renovations by giving a brief progress report. The building is the planned home of CEAS. Until the building is ready, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and the Department of Environmental and Sustainable Engineering (ESE) will be housed temporarily at ETEC.
- Building 30 (Sciences and Math) is also going to be renovated, but the renovations are not expected to start until May 2022.
- In regards to the Alumni Quad, we do not have plan for it at the moment.
- The Facilities Master Plan will also be looking at the possible relocations of the East Campus.
- The ETEC debt: It is unusual for a campus to go out and take on debt directly but that is something that was decided a few years ago and we are now responsible to pay back this debt.
- Regarding the growth of the private housing around the university, it is a concern for the University as we lose revenue, and there are also safety reasons. However, these private construction projects have a potential to generate millions of dollars in tax revenue for the City of Albany so it is a difficult fight to win.
- The University tried many incentives to encourage students to use our housing. It is still an issue.
- Vaccines for our faculty and staff that are in close contact with students. We have a plan with the County to be our own POD (vaccine distribution point). Volunteers will be needed.

Campus Planning Director Kersch and AVP for Facilities Management Errol Millington left the meeting at 4.00 p.m.

## **II. Provost's Report**

Provost Kim updated the Council on Desire2Learn, the new learning management system selected by SUNY through an RFP process. Our contract with our current learning management system (Blackboard) is expiring in about a year from now, and we will be going through our own RFP process to select a new learning management system, or

select to stay with Blackboard (which will be Blackboard Plus). Provost Kim will be meeting with Brian Heaton and will update the Council once a time line is in place.

The review of the budget metrics and the refinement of the draft budget metrics is currently underway. The steering committee will review the recommendations of the working groups and provide the Provost with recommendations by about the third week of March. The makeup of the five work groups and the steering committee is all posted on the Academic Affairs website.

Commencement ceremonies are being planned, we are considering adding an in-person component to the virtual Commencement. No set plan yet, but we will be providing updates.

The Council discussed the negative Times Union article on UAlbany budget cuts and deficit numbers with Provost Kim and Finance and Administration Vice President Foreman. Our numbers have changed and we are now in a much better situation than what was depicted in the article.

Provost Kim left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

### **III. Chair's Report – Open Access Policy Update**

Chair Lawrence went over the last meeting's discussion of the Open Access Policy, the possible concerns, and explained the opt-out option. The discussion is summarized in the minutes of the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chair Lawrence also went over the cost saving benefit of having this kind of open access space not only from SUNY but from all the other Colleges and Universities that allow access, versus having to pay prohibitive fees to purchase journal articles. The members decided to vote on the approval of the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes first, then to go back and discuss the Senate Resolution in Support of Open Access Policy.

### **IV. Approval of the February 17<sup>th</sup> minutes.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 17<sup>th</sup> minutes. The minutes were approved without revision. Members Bret Benjamin and Sridar Chittur abstained, as they did not attend the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vote: Yes = 5    No = 0    Abstain = 2

### **V. Senate Resolution in Support of Open Access Policy:**

Chair Lawrence discussed the Senate Resolution including the history of the resolution and reminded the members of the vital role of the opt-out option. As there were no question, a motion was made to support the Resolution and seconded. The Resolution was supported with one minor revision to specify the individual University of California Schools or to change "University of California" to "University of California (System-wide)".

Vote: Yes = 7    No = 0    Abstain = 0

Chair Lawrence ended the meeting by reminding the members that the new Learning Management System is going to require a lot of input from the faculty (including opportunities to test whatever platforms are being considered) and that time is of the essence.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 5:40 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by: Corinne Fauchon.*

**Minutes Approved: 3/31/2021**