

**UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
2017-18 CHAIR –JAMES COLLINS**

**February 21, 2018  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** J. Boyle, R. Bromley, S. Chrittur, J. Collins, M. Leventhal, L. McNutt, C. Parker, K. Reinhold, J. Stellar, J. Van Voorst, D. Wharram

**Guests:** Jon Bartow, Graduate Education  
Ann-Marie Murray, Provost's Office  
Dayna Newton, School of Education  
Celine LaValley, Undergraduate Education  
Bruce Szelest, President's Office  
Kim Bessette, Finance & Administration

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**Approval of the Minutes from January 31, 2018**

Revisions: The apostrophe on Collins' is in the wrong place on the bottom of the first page. Intuitions needs to be updated to Institutions on the second page. The official name is Advisement Services not Advising Services. Typo also on President Rodriguez. Lastly, an extra period at the end of the document.

Approval, 5; Abstention, 3; Opposition, 0

**Provost's Report**

Provost Stellar is in the midst of the Strategic Planning roadshow, many of the roadshows have occurred and it is believed that they are holding a lot of value and helping to create a culture. The plan will be rolled out in April and alignment plans will follow that will be tactical in nature. The alignment plans will be nuanced by the department that creates them. The next step to work on is how the plan will be implemented, the first strategic investment is what we are currently working on, and then we will look to the alignment plans to help take us where we want to go. There have been 30 roadshows to date and the feedback has been great. In the Provost's Office itself we are doing budget alignment plans for all the Academic units. The School of Business Dean search is still ongoing, the new Dean for the School of Public Health will be arriving on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and Darrell Wheeler will be departing in June as School of Social Welfare Dean. We will be looking for an interim Dean for the School of Social Welfare and then a search will be launched.

**Vice President for Finance & Administration Report**

Associate VP Kim Bessette gives budget updates on Executive budget, NYS budget, and the campus budget process. She and Vice President Van Voorst met with RAPC last week and gave them an in-depth

status report. The Governor came out with the budget last month around the 16<sup>th</sup>, and we are currently in the “silent phase” also known as the advocacy period, where 30 day amendments are being worked on. There is no additional tax support in the budget for SUNY despite SUNY’s request of an additional \$72.8 million dollar increase. What was in the budget though was an increase in tuition spending authority, along with a potential increase of \$200 for undergraduate resident students, this does not mean that there will be necessarily be a \$200 increase to our undergraduate resident students, the Board of Trustees will need to meet and vote on this. There were the typical cuts such as EOP, every year it gets cut and then placed back in the budget. There will be an increase in the Excelsior family limit cap, going to \$110,000 this year and the following year it will be raised again to \$125,000, expanding the group of individuals that are eligible. On the capital budget side of the house \$350 million of critical maintenance has been approved, resulting in a \$250 million dollar reduction from last year and we are hoping that this will be restored to the \$550 million. We have been flat since 2011 with the maintenance of effort agreement. We are advocating for funds for Albany for the Schuyler Building, NYSTAR Center for Excellence, critical maintenance funds, EOP funding, expanding the DREAM act, Small Business Development Center and continuing to keep in front of the contract settlement negotiations. On Campus we are using the Compact Process to identify efficiencies in the budget, in anticipation for the budget shortfall. \$3 million of budget targets have been assigned, and the VP units are working with the departments to identify their efficiency. The targets are due on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the process will then continue with the VP’s and the compact team meeting to go over what their proposals are. Sometime after April the Senate will be invited to discuss this process going forward.

### **Chair’s Report**

Council and Committee Changes: Professor Sanjay Goel of SB has resigned from UPPC, because of scheduling conflicts. We thank him for the years of service. Professor James Hargett of CPCA has been removed from the UPPC listserv, where he was erroneously placed last semester. Professor Sridar Chittur, has stepped down as Chair of the Facilities Committee, but will remain on the Committee as a Member. Professor Ray Bromley has been elected Chair of the Facilities Committee.

Website: Council Agendas and Minutes have now been uploaded to the Senate Website for last semester and will henceforth be done after each meeting. There has been considerable delay in support staff gaining access to the website. There is something odd occurring with the website as an opportunistic portal for volunteers. I have received two email requests, one to join the council, and one to be granted access to the Council Shared Drive. Each requested seemed to come from the Shared Drive portal. I continue to investigate this.

The Senate and UUP Forum on Gender Equity and Inclusion was held on Tuesday the 13th. There was a small audience, slightly more than twenty, staff and faculty except for one student reporter. After two sets of two presenters, there was a lively discussion about the incidence and University response to sexual harassment and violence, and about pay equity and family leave policy.

The next Senate Forum is on the role of the Arts and Humanities in our changing university, it will be held on March 21, 3:30 till 5:30.

On February 7th, Chair Collins wrote to Dean Williams of the Office of Graduate Education about the RAPC recommendation regarding the recruitment of International graduate students. No response. I will

inquire again. Should I ask Dean Williams or his designee to come and discuss the recommendation with the Council?

On February 5, Chair Collins reported the Council's work on incoming freshmen and transfer students, including our focus on EOP, LLC and Honor's cohort, and on Academic Dismissals. A Senator who had taken part in earlier working groups on retention questions suggested that we separate gender on Academic Dismissals. As you will see from the data we have obtained on academic dismissals, there are significant female/male differences.

Two items of substance

First, as a member of Senate leadership, Chair Collins was a co-signer, along with leadership from United University Professions, of an open letter criticizing Strategic Planning and raising concerns about its implications. The letter was distributed to various constituencies on February 5-7, and on February 8, Immediate Past Chair Collins, Chair Reinhold, and Vice Chair Mower of the University Senate, and Vice Presidents for Academics Paul Stasi and Professions Tom Hoey of UUP met with President Rodriguez, Chief of Staff Bruce Szelest, and Vice President Michael Christakis discuss the letter and the Strategic Planning process going forward. After some clearing of the air and establishing context, we had a productive discussion in which President Rodriguez agreed that there should be a place for the Senate and UUP as organizations in designing the process for implementation and taking part in budgeting discussions. That being the case, it is important that the Senate, and especially this Council, take seriously their responsibility, articulated in the Senate Charter, to be actively involved in policy and planning, and in budgeting groups at the University. We will discuss that more fully below under Agenda new business item A.

Second, a long-standing Senate, Union, and Administration commitment has been to improving the conditions of contingent and part-time faculty. There appears to have been a long hiatus in the work of implementation groups for contingent concerns, but there are clearly presented 'draft' reports concerning pathways to continuing appoints for contingents and step systems for part-time lecturers. This Council and the Senate need to begin a wide discussion and debate of these proposals. We will discuss that more fully below under Agenda old business item B.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

For the Facilities Committee there was no report. Ray Bromley was newly elected to serve as the Chair and raised questions about committee membership and the timing of the meetings. A discussion on absent committee members occurred and the process for addressing the individuals that do not attend the meetings.

For the Resource Analysis and Planning Committee, the report was brief, since it reviewed the budget report that Associate VP Kim Bessette had earlier presented the Council, and there were no action items or recommendations.

## **Old Business**

Data on Academic Preparation and Performance of freshman and transfer students: The council had received data on particular groups. It discussed that EOP students did well on perseverance and graduation rates. It then then looked at other groups, such as the Living Learning Communities, and the academic dismissal rates. Institutional Research was unable to provide comparable data on the Honors College as a special cohort. Chair Collins recommended establishing a working group to look at these concerns and write up a report on the results. The goal would be look at the different scales of available reporting across the university. It appears that we have had no change in academic preparation – but dismissal rates appear to be increasing on an absolute numbers basis, and males seem to be dismissed at a higher rate than women. Council members suggested requesting data on when students are being dismissed, whether in their first or second years or later, and if the dismissed students are declared majors or not. They also suggested obtaining data on withdrawal, in order to see if individuals are withdrawing rather than facing dismissal, especially within the group of women. Chair Collins proposed that the Council continue to discuss these at UPPC but that we establish a working group of 4 to 6 individuals that meet and discuss these issues in depth and write a brief report on their findings that can be brought to a full University Senate meeting. Chair Collins and Council members Cathy Parker, Louise-Anne McNutt, and Kajal Lahiri were nominated to make up the working group.

Draft Proposals on Contingent Faculty Concerns: There are two documents, one for teaching intensive faculty members with full time contracts to move towards a permanent appointment and one a step system in lecturer positions and how both groups move towards more stability. The proposal is to write a resolution and bring this to SEC and Senate. Next, is the salary step proposal document which we will also write a resolution on and bring forward.

Modify Campus Impact Form: Tabled till the next meeting, since the individuals who would speak to this issue were absent.

## **New Business**

University Budget Process and Implementation for Strategic Plan: This is important and will be even more important as the new Strategic Plan is rolled out. Chair Collins would like to find out how the current process is being completed and if it is being completed using the Compact Budget Process. The processes of implementation remain unclear, so knowing the timeline of actions will be crucial. The Senate should have role in the design of processes of implementation. The roadshows are focusing on the general topics now, when it gets to the implementation of the strategic plan, it will be crucial that UPPC is involved.

Proposal to Link BA in Human Development to MS Programs in Counseling Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Special Education: Dayna Newton from the School of Education presented the proposal to the Council and answered questions. The Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology has a Human Development major with four concentrations that would be linked to three of the Department's MS programs. There are no resource implications, since the proposal is to link BS/MS programs within the same department. Ms. Newton discussed how linking programs it will help spread out the workload

of some undergraduate students, since it will enable them to take 12 credits of graduate credit while being an undergraduate. The combined program GPA requirement will be set selectively at 3.5. The department does not anticipate increased enrollments, but the link of BS/MS will encourage some of the academically best undergraduate students to pursue graduate studies at UAlbany. The department hopes to begin new degrees in the Fall of 2018. The motion is to approve the linking of the programs. Approval, unanimous.

Digital Forensics and Legal Studies: Tabled because supporting documents arrived too late for consideration.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting ends at 3:50 pm.