

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL

April 8, 2020 – 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

(via Zoom)

MEETING MINUTES

Present: President Havidán Rodríguez (Ex officio); Yu-Hui Chen; C. Fauchon (Recorder, non-voting); R. Gil-Garcia; J.H. Hwang; Provost C. Kim (Ex officio); Z. Lawrence; J. Mower (Chair); K. Rethemeyer (Ex officio); S. Chengalur-Smith. C. Sridar.

Guests: S. Galime, Provost Office; J. Goodall, CEHC; JoAnne Malatesta, Undergraduate Education; A.M. Murray, Provost Office; . Christy Smith; School of Education; Edmund Stazyk, Rockefeller College; J. Stefl-Mabry, CEHC; B. Szelest, President Office; Stephen Weinberg, Rockefeller College; K. Williams, Graduate Studies.

The meeting started with a brief discussion and a vote to allow the meeting to be recorded. Due to the heavy agenda in addition to the zoom format, the Council members unanimously agreed that recording would take place for the sole purpose of assisting with the tracking of the various votes and chat notes for incorporation into the minutes.

I. President's report

President Rodríguez thank the UPPC members for their engagement and leadership and pointed out that although the few past weeks had been challenging as the entire University transitioned to an online environment, faculty, staff and students worked together and achieved incredible accomplishments:

- The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity have been producing face shields using 3D printers and then assembling them together at home for distribution to health care providers.
- The School of Public Health has been contributing to Department of Health-led studies examining potential drug treatments for COVID-19.
- U Albany bus drivers have been transporting meals once a day from the Meals on Wheels kitchen to the Cohoes Senior Center.
- We just opened a drive-thru Covid-19 testing center on the Colonial Quad parking lot In partnership with the New York State Department of Health and just yesterday, 696 tests were administered already. The testing center will eventually have the capacity to test 1700 individual per day.

President Rodríguez announced that Governor Cuomo has commissioned UAlbany to lead the State's research efforts in examining the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority populations. UAlbany will be working in coordination with the New York State Department of Health and Northwell Health. We have already begun assembling a UAlbany team to help with the implementation of this project.

President Rodríguez also reported on the financial challenges that are now affecting higher education institutions across the country. Although the State budget has already been approved, the State Budget Director has the authority to modify the budgets quarterly, so we are expecting that we will be impacted by some budget reductions. We also have to deal with our declining enrollment, including our International enrollment. UAlbany has started the planning for the summer and for next year, working with different budget scenarios. We are currently looking at current and new initiatives to try to increase our enrollment, especially in the Capital Region, such as targeting our graduating students for graduate enrollment. Although we have to face challenges, the President reassured the Council that everyone involved with future planning is working incredibly hard and committed to protect our students, our staff, and our faculty members. The president concluded by asking for everyone's active engagement, support and commitment as we move forward and as we continue to navigate through challenges, and assured the Council that faculty and staff will be kept informed and involved in the decision-making process.

The Council members expressed excitement at the news regarding UAlbany being the Lead Agency on the COVID 19 Disparity Impact study, as the resulting media coverage will help attract students to our University. President Rodríguez left the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

II. Provost's Report

Provost Kim conveyed her pride in the students, faculty and staff's responses to our challenging situation and shared a few additional items regarding UAlbany response and future planning:

- In terms of support to our students: An undergraduate hotline went live on April 6; in addition, to provide some more flexibility for our students, undergraduate students may elect to receive S/U grades instead of A to E grades for the semester.
- We are hoping to be able to provide a full offering of summer session courses. ITS and ITAL will be supporting faculty in transitioning to a remote instructional format, and the University Libraries and ITS have identified hundreds of computers and laptops to lend to students who didn't have adequate technology to continue the course work remotely.
- As for our international and study abroad students, fortunately, we no longer have any students affected by travel bans, border closures or any other special situation. However, we can expect COVID 19 to create challenges for future international study abroad programs.
- As the President explained, we are working on strategies and partnerships to mitigate the impact on our declining enrollments and to also to support our faculty. Jim Mower has graciously agreed to serve as the Chair of a subcommittee of faculty to assess all these programs and resources that have been made available to support our faculty during this COVID 19 crisis. In addition, we have created options for faculty to pause the tenure clock for one semester and to opt out of including Spring 2020 SIFR evaluations in their dossiers.
- In terms of research, we will be sharing COVID 19 related research and funding opportunities, and assist faculty with submitting proposals.
- We held an incredibly well done virtual open house to welcome our future students. It received overwhelmingly positive feedback. We're going to leverage this success by creating a full orientation program that will be delivered remotely for our incoming first year students over the summer.

III. Chair's Report

Chair Jim Mower thanked the Council members for their great work this year, and especially for agreeing to review all the last minutes agenda items that came in at the last minute for this last meeting, at a time when everyone is already working so hard. The proposals being presented in front of the Council today may have a profound effect on the University, on enrollments in the Fall, especially in the case of the nursing programs

IV. Sub-Committee reports

- a. RAPC; Karin Reinhold, Chair**
Nothing to report
- b. UFC; Louise-Anne McNutt, Chair**
Nothing to report

V. Approval of the Minutes from March 4, 2020 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 4, 2020. The minutes were approved without any revision. One member who did not attend the March 4th meeting abstained.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 1

VI. New business

- a. Proposal -BS in Nursing**
- b. Proposal - MS in Population Health Nursing**

Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Kevin Williams and Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies JoAnne Malatesta provided an overview of the proposals for the BS in Nursing and for the MS in Population Health Nursing. Both programs would be housed in the School of Health, and the BSN will become a theater for the MS.

Dean Williams explained that there is a shortage of nurses already, and R.N. is listed amongst the top occupations in the nation in the market analysis we did. In addition, it is expected that a million R.Ns will retire by 2030 and the demand is expected to skyrocket. Both programs draw not only on the strength of the School of Public Health but across the whole University. The proposed BSN program is designed to provide an accessible and flexible pathway for RNs to advance through the completion of an in-person or hybrid BSN program: In collaboration with our community college partners, specifically Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC), UAlbany has designed a program providing RNs the opportunity to seamlessly transition into the BSN program by maximizing transferability of earned credit through comprehensive articulation agreements. The BSN completion program is a 2-year (4 semester) sequence providing students with a robust curriculum including a focus on public and population health issues, and preparing them to practice in a variety of settings and advanced qualifications for leadership positions. The MS in Population Health Nursing program is designed to be a BSN to MS program, providing an advanced degree to RNs with a BSN, and it is being advanced in conjunction with the BSN program. The 42-credit, 2-year (4 semesters) program would provide training for BSN nurses to become Advanced Population Health nurses, and provide career opportunities in a variety of settings. It is designed to address social determinants of health, with a particular focus on

addressing the health needs of vulnerable populations and communities. The program will offer concentrations in (1) emergency management and disaster recovery; (2) health disparities, and (3) population nursing education. It is a distinctive multi-disciplinary program, drawing on faculty strengths from the School of Public Health, the College of Emergency Preparation, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity, and the School of Education. The MS program would be delivered via distance learning, with in-person clinical experiences.

Both programs would rely on part-time enrollment revenues, as we expect that most RNs would go to school part time while working full time.

A motion was made and seconded to discuss the proposals and the guest attendees left the Zoom main online room. Given the current budget situation, the Council members looked carefully at the Projected Impact Form and at the projected hiring plan, and invited Provost Kim to join in the discussion. The members agreed that the competition was not strong for the projected targeted population, the projected enrollment was conservative, and the demand for both programs was expected to be high. Other than some members commenting on the fact that the MSN hiring needed to be in place before the BSN could be fully functional, there was no concern.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposal.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 0

c. Proposal - Minor - Pre-Education (School of Education, School-wide)

Christy Smith, School of Education Assistant Dean for Academics and Assessment, presented the proposal for the Minor in Pre-Education. This minor is a spin-off our current Education Studies minor. It is a better designed minor for those interested in K-12 teaching. None of the courses are new, and advisement already exists in our Pathway into Education Center. This minor would be a low-cost way to attract students to UAlbany, and it fits in with our other programs in our "Great Dane Teacher Program". It will hopefully encourage students to come to UAlbany at the undergraduate level.

A motion was made and seconded to discuss the proposals and the guest attendees left the Zoom main online room. The members did not raise any concern regarding the proposal, and a motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposal.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 0

d. Proposals: Rockefeller College

- 1. Combined Bachelor's Master's program between CEHC/INF and Rockefeller College (BS/MPA)**
- 2. Combined Bachelor's Master's Program between CEHC and Rockefeller College (BA or BS/MIA)**
- 3. Combined Bachelor's Master's Program between CEHC and Rockefeller (BA or BS/MPA)**

Edmund Stazyk, Chair and Associate Professor in Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College, and Michael Young, Professor of Practice, CEHC, presented the three combined proposals.

Each of these combined programs built on combined coursework in the College and would not require the use of any additional resources. The CAC is in full support of all three programs. The Council members asked about the marketing efforts done to support the programs, and Rockefeller College Dean Karl Rethemeyer went over the existing marketing tools used such as targeting eligible students, using the recruitment directors, and direct admits.

Provost Carol Kim and Bruce Szelest left the Zoom meeting at 4:24 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to discuss the proposals and the guest attendees left the Zoom main online room. The Council members invited Dean of Graduate Studies Kevin William to join the discussion regarding the trade-off created by combined programs, as we get more students with those programs but less revenue because of the shorter credit hours. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposal.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 0

d. Proposals (Rockefeller College)
4. MPA program revision

Edmund Stazyk, Chair and Associate Professor in Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College, presented the Master of Public Administration program revision. The proposal would reduce all 4 credit-hour courses to 3 credit-hour courses). This would reduce the number of overall hours from 49 to 36. One new required course (*RPAD 502: Fundamentals of Human Resources Management*) would be added, and we would modify how we offer our professional development and capstone courses. The Department believes a reduction in credits will make courses more accessible to students from outside the department as three credit hour courses are UAlbany norm. Further, the change will allow the Department to pursue new enrollment initiatives that would benefit both the College and the University, such as joint degree programs with other units and SUNY schools. Finally, the reduction in total credits required will make the MPA program more marketable to prospective students as most of our peer competitors have a 36 credit MPA program. In fact, as part of our efforts, we conducted a systematic review of the curricula from 38 leading MPA/MPP programs in the United States, each a direct competitor for graduate students. Of these programs, 34 have curricula structured around 3 (or fewer) credit-hour courses, placing us at a significant disadvantage in our recruitment efforts. Professor Stazyk also discussed possible synergy with the School of Business regarding the HR Management courses. Dean Rethemeyer join the presentation to add that because of the construction of the MPA as it currently exists, almost none of our students actually pay for 49 credit-hours so the apparent reduction in the number of paying credit-hours is not as large as it actually appears.

A motion was made and seconded to discuss the proposals and the guest attendees left the Zoom main online room. The Council members agreed that the change was needed in order for the program to compete with other institutions. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposal.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 0

d. Proposals (Rockefeller College)

5. Nonprofit Certificate revision and distance education format proposal

6. Public Sector Management Certificate revision and distance education format proposal

Edmund Stazyk, Chair and Associate Professor in Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College, and Stephen Weinberg, Clinical Assistant Professor in Public Administration and Policy and MPA Director, Rockefeller College, presented the Distance Education Proposal for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership and the Distance Education Proposal for the Certificate in Public Sector Management. Both proposals seek to register as distance education programs. The Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership could be completed 100 percent online, depending on the electives that are chosen. The Certificate in Public Sector Management has five concentration areas. The percentage of the certificate that can be completed online differs for each concentration area, ranging from up to 60 percent to up to 100 percent, depending on the student's concentration and electives chosen. Both programs build on existing resources and reallocation and no additional resources are needed.

A motion was made and seconded to discuss the proposals and the guest attendees left the Zoom main online room. A motion was made and seconded to vote on the proposal.

Vote: Yes = 6 No = 0 Abstain = 0

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Corinne Fauchon

Minutes Approved: 11/4/2020