University Senate

September 25, 2019
2:45PM – 4:30PM
CC Multipurpose Room

Zina M. Lawrence, Chair

MINUTES


Meeting called to order at 2:45pm

I. Approval of University Senate Minutes - February 25, 2019 and May 5, 2019

Vote: 23 in favor; 0 opposed; 6 abstentions

II. President’s Report – Dr. Havidan Rodriguez

• President Rodriguez thanked the Senate.
• He introduced Provost Carol Kim and provided some background on her experience.
• He introduced other members of the leadership team at UAlbany.
• President Rodriguez shared that he is continuing his “Listening and Learning Tours”
• He shared updates, including:
  o He drew attention to the 2018/2019 Annual Report that was distributed and thanked members of the University for the work that is highlighted there.
    ▪ We had a strong research year, including large NIH grants
    ▪ Best fundraising year yet, including significant contributions from faculty and staff
    ▪ US World and News Report; #27 among national universities for the social mobility of our students out of 380 universities.
    ▪ Recognized nationally for our outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion by Insight Into Diversity Magazine
    ▪ He mentioned the Middle States Report that is available online
    ▪ He mentioned progress in the area of contingent faculty in support of the findings of the Blue Ribbon Commission
      • A career promotional ladder will be implemented this year
      • Established a $4,000 floor per course
• Increasing PhD stipends to $18,000; $20,000 in the sciences
  ▪ He indicated that an International Travel Insurance Policy is in place to protect faculty, staff and students when they are traveling internationally
  ▪ He shared that we did not meet undergraduate or graduate targets, and that we are 2.2% lower than last year, and 2.6% lower than our targets. CAS, CEHC and SPH either met or exceeded their targets. He indicated that this is a major issue that we need to confront as an institution, in both the areas of recruitment and retention.
  ▪ Recruitment and retention initiatives:
    • Next round of accelerator grants will focus exclusively on recruitment and retention
    • StAR grant will be focused on recruitment and retention
    • Increasing PhD Stipends
    • Redesigning, restructuring, and funding a 4 year advising model
    • Taking a comprehensive look at marketing
    • Focusing on direct admission of undergraduate students
    • Focusing on the development of meta-majors
    • Continuing to deepen relationships with K-12 students and institutions, including through the University in the High School program
    • Focus on enrolling graduate students earlier in the summer or in late spring.
    • The Strategic Enrollment Management committee is working on these strategies and others, led by Provost Kim and VP Christakis.
    • He quoted the Chronicle of Higher Education regarding enrollment trends and strategies, emphasizing that all members of the University community are responsible for enrollment.
    • He indicated that we are readjusting our 2019/2020 budgets to accommodate the shortfalls.
  ▪ Priorities:
    • Reverse the retention trend
    • Strategically increase enrollment
    • Continue to grow our research portfolio
    • Continue to build on our fundraising campaign
    • Continue to build our international recruitment/profile
  ▪ President Rodriguez shared that as he begins his third year at UAlbany he is very confident about the future of the University.
  ▪ He thanked the senators, encouraged them to be ambassadors and share the issues and challenges, and provide the leadership to move forward.

The President answers questions about the transition from community colleges, the acknowledgement of our commitment to diversity, and PhD pay floors for RF students.

III. Senate Chair’s Report – Zina Lawrence
The Chair shared that she hopes to make the sharing of reports more efficient moving forward. She indicated that the Senate will be involved with the following areas this year:

1. Enrollment and retention
2. University website development and maintenance
3. The Graduate School

She provided updates on the Consensual Relationship Policy, faculty concerns about UAlbany’s website, the Five-Year Planning Calendar, and the University Faculty Senate President’s Visit and the UFS Plenary.

IV. Old Business

a. Vote to approve updates to Council and Committee Rosters
Deborah LaFond indicated that there are new members; those will be voted on in the next meeting.

Vote: 40 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

b. Resolution on profit from sale of course materials
Chair Lawrence suggested tabling the resolution until the University has a policy.

V. New Business

a. UA Emeritus Center Presentation – Dr. Ram Chugh
Ram Chugh presented on the importance of Emeritus faculty. Presentation attached.

b. National Center for Faculty Development Membership – Dr. Christine Wagner
Chris Wagner presented on the Center. Presentation is attached.

c. Middle States Report – Interim Deans Jason Lane and Jeanette Altarriba

VI. Council and Committee Reports

a. SUNY Senators’ Report – Kabel Stanwicks, Diane Hamilton, Sammy Axley
   i. Soliciting questions for the forum.

b. Graduate Student Association Report – Ajay Raghavendra

c. Student Association Report – TBD

d. Council and Committee Chair Reports:
   i. CAA – Istvan Kecskes, Mary Ellen Mallia, Co-Chairs
      1. Reminder of an upcoming forum

   ii. CAFFECoR –

   iii. CERS – Michael Leventhal

   iv. CoR – Jesse Ernst

   v. CPCA – James Hargett

   vi. GAC – George Berg
vii. GOV – Sean Rafferty
viii. LISC – Lenore Horowitz
  1. There will be a University Senate Forum on “The Future of
     Openness at UA: A Panel Discussion” The event will take place on
     October 17th from noon to 1:30 pm
ix. UAC – Jennifer Goodall
x. ULC – Deborah LaFond
xi. UPPC – James Mower

VII. Adjourned at 4:30pm