



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY  

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Academic Governance Meeting Minutes 12/12/2017

***In attendance***

**Faculty:** Neal Abrams, Tom Amidon, Susan Anagnost, Collin Beier, Eddie Bevilaqua, Gregory Boyer, Russel Briggs, Margaret Bryant, Biljana Bujanovic, John Castello, Avik Chatterjee, Siddharth Chatterjee, Paul Crovella, Douglas Daley, Janine DeBaise, Theodore Dibble, Klaus Doelle, Kelley Donaghy, Martin Dovciak, Mark Driscoll, Joanne Ellis, Danilo Fernando, Melissa Fierke, James Gibbs, Jose Giner, Ivan Gitsov, Ann Godfrey, John Hassett, Robin Hoffman, Thomas Horton, Dawnelle Jager, Donald Leopold, Karin Limburg, Mark Lomolino, Huiting Mao, Robert Meyer, Sharon Moran, Douglas Morrison, Rafaat Morsi-Hussein, Lee Newman, Christopher Nowak, Andrea Parker, Roxanne Razavi, Rebecca Rundell, Kimberly Schulz, Theresa Selfa, William Smith, Stephen Teale, Mark Teece, Jane Verostek, Timothy Volk, Alexander Weir, Benette Whitmore, Ruth Yanai (Total Count 55)

**AG Staff:** Caroline Bailey, Christopher Baycura, Brian Boothroyd, Debbie Caviness, Anthony Chefelo, Laura Carndall, Danette Desimone, Casey Duffy, Claire Dunn, Heather Engelman, Terry Ettinger, Sophie Gublo-Jantzen, Kevin Guerin, David Kiemle, Aaron Knight, Karen Moore, Jonathan Owen, Joe Pagcaliwagan, Aaron Rounds, Susan Sanford, Katherina Searing, Mark Storrings, Mary Triano, Heidi Webb ( Total Count 24)

**Student Reps:**

**GSA** - Ryan Scheel, chelby Kilheffer, Rea Manderino, Taylor Patterson (Total count 4)

**USA** – Jackie Gier, Ben Taylor, Ryan Hicks, Richard Monaco (Total Count 4)

**Guests and MC:** Quentin Wheeler, Maureen Fellows, Susan Nevills, Anne Lombard, Ragan Squier, Tina Limpert, Marlen Braun, Malika Carter, John Turbeville, Jordan Brinkley, Kurt Favenhagen, Tom LeRoy, Amelia Hoffmann (Total Count not voting 11)

The meeting was called to order at 11:07

**Minutes of November 14 meeting** were approved.

Housekeeping – Microphones will be brought around to speakers, please wait until they arrive to speak. GSA – Ryan announced a GSA letter was on the back table and asked attendees to consider signing the letter in support.

**President's Comments – Dr Wheeler**

- Thanked GSA for the letter they prepared and indicated he had signed a SUNY Trustee letter similar in content.
- Recommended not supporting the resolution up for discussion at this meeting as
  - He wants a positive image and positive communications to show outside of ESF.
  - The problems would not stop if he left, they still need addressing.
  - The reserves have been rebuilt.



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-Hiring at UUP and Faculty levels have recommenced.

-Visibility campaign is critical and going forward.

-ESF is positioned to lead SUNY in sustainability efforts.

But, more work is still needed because:

-Faculty Salaries and Student Stipends are not competitive.

-We have chosen to grow our way out of the problems as opposed to cutting.

-Enrollment is one of the few dials we can turn to add revenue. The projected student increase will be a mix of all sources including: new, transfer, BUCT, and increased out of state.

Dr. Wheeler believes it would be more productive to sit down and talk through our problems versus formalizing our disagreements.

#### **Academic Governance Resolution**

This resolution was sent out to the campus starting two weeks prior to the meeting and is on the AG website for the last week. Lengthy discussions are summarized below.

- Ted Dibble spoke in support of the resolution, reviewing the data sources he had been able to obtain and analyze. These include executive communications, logs and updates, town hall meeting, and leadership council notes. Specifically relative to the enrollment boost an evaluation of the costs and economic impacts was not found by the reviewer.
- Doug Daley made a request for the floor that the AG Executive Committee explain the basis of its decision to forward this to the full body of AG. The question was repeated in an effort to obtain more insight. Klaus Doelle explained the nature of the discussions and that multiple inputs went into putting the resolution together. "Effective consultation" was a specified need. This comes up again later in the meeting and at that time Doug reviews the points item by item.
- Andrea from ES indicated that item 5 is not appropriate as it implies that ES as a department supports it and that is not so. Significant discussion ensued which included that the implication was not clear to some and that any change to the resolution would disenfranchise the offsite votes already received. A vote of 34:10 to call the question ensued, and at greater than 2/3 it carried. Point 5 was retained after a vote to retain of 34:6 with 5 abstentions was taken. The original point (Andreas's that ES was not consulted about referring to it and it was upsetting to be used in this way.) was reinforced a short while later in the meeting.
- Two speakers Rafaat and Sid indicated, in addition to other points, that the process leading to this resolution was not as consultative as it could have been. Other points relating to leaderships need to act and avoiding negative approaches and crisis creation were also not in favor of the resolution.



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- Ruth spoke in support of the resolution as a way to seek help in an area where help was clearly needed.
- Ted Dibble made it clear that he does not have any personal animosity toward the President, and reminded people that his analysis was a data-driven effort.
- Janine reinforced the context that top down communication is not meaningful conversation and that is a critical difference leading to this resolution.
- Doug reviewed the resolution point by point with comments on each point. He wanted the Executive Committee to explain why efforts to build communication have failed. The summary comment was that we need to be more pro-active in developing a workable model to achieve the communication needed.
- Klaus added that the resolution was asking for a consultation process to be developed, including asking for outside help to figure it out. He indicated we need to develop consultation plan and to roll that plan out so people know we have one. Klaus indicated sympathy with the intent of the resolution but wanted to focus on the changes needed to respond to the tectonic changes going on in the Academic world. We will have to become better and quicker at communicating.
- Rafaaf commented that an emphasis on consultation was in the resolution. External visitors will make recommendations for the Administration to implement and we will need a model to be able to implement. Sid reinforced that we will have to work out the model and will need some harmony to do so.
- Heidi commented that the Sears report happened and had consultation included in it. Today at AG was an actual debate which is more often heard at AG meetings than at AGECE meetings.
- Ryan indicated that the Leadership council is not an AG component but that it is a discussion forum.
- Brian – indicated that the link in point #1 (SUNY Trustee Link) does not work. On point 3#, the CIO search, there were comments from Heidi and Scott that the Administration had some AG and Technology committee input prior to the search starting. On #5 the comment was that the procedures for reappointing as specified were /was not followed.
- There was a vote of 34:15 (yea/nay) to extend the meeting.
- The question was called and by a vote of 46:3 (yea/nay) was carried. Ballots were distributed and collected by Sgt. at Arms and of campus votes received were also entered in the ballot box by Sgt. at Arms Meyer. The results were 59 yea 21 nay and 8 abstain. The resolution passed.

**Sophie Gublo-Jantzen on NSSE/COACHE/Student surveys/ABET and similar issues report:**

- Compensation moved from want to be comfortable to want to be able to pay my bills.
- NSSE. Last was in 2014 (every 3 years). Similar but one missing piece was a supportive environment as strength.
- SUNY – Internships, support services, preparation for classes, diverse perspective similar to 2014. Consistently high engaged, prepared for class, culminating experience, and work with faculty. Low-First year insufficient emphasis on non-academic challenges.
- Both Coach and NSSE – Quality of students and class preparation and student knowledge strength. Also positives on student participation and in-service and research opportunities.
- Low on helping students to manage non-academic needs.
- Our culture is appreciated and recognized.



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- PDF will be up on AG website and Sophie and Nosa will discuss about what we can do to improve. There will be more about this in the future.

Mark Teece – Masters of Engineering degree was reported out of committee and was approved without dissent.

Lee Newman –The survey has been sent and participation is much appreciated.

Old business – None

New Business:

Ruth moved to request that a UFS visit be requested and indicated that an electronic ballot procedure was part of the motion.

- There was discussion including about the right time to do this and a possible request to delay this. It was reinforced that an electronic ballot was part of the motion. There was a comment that this might be a two-step process and we might be jumping to step two first.
- Kelley reviewed the history of the background for this process and how that relates to the motion at hand. AGECE pursued the visitation route to SUNY and Provost Cartwright did not agree to the visitation. Outside help was supported at first but then became too costly.
- Klaus suggested an amendment to “Hold a special AG meeting prior to a vote to discuss and inform the electorate.” A second was made. Some discussion and then the question was called and by a vote of 12:3 (Yea/Nay) carried. The vote on the amendment was 7:11 (Yea/Nay) and the amendment failed. The motion was then voted on and by a vote of 13:8 (Yea/Nay) carried.

**Adjourned at 12:40**

Draft Submitted by Tom Amidon, Acting Secretary Academic Governance

Revisions made 16 February 2018, by Colin Beier, Secretary, Academic Governance