

Report of Governance Committee for the *Winter 2009 UFS Plenary* at SUNY Morrisville.

2008-9 Governance Committee members:

Sharon Cramer, Chair (Buffalo State)*; Tom Barthel (Herkimer CC; Community College Liaison)*; Susan Camp (Oswego); Nan Carroll (Albany); Melody Eldred (Cobleskill); Marti Ellermann (System Administration liaison)*; Deborah Firestone (Stony Brook); Jim Grillo (Alfred State; ex officio member of committee as Convener of the Campus Governance Leaders, or CGLs and member of the Executive Committee); Fred Hildebrand (System Administration Liaison)*; Joe Hildreth (Potsdam)*; Eric Johansson (Maritime); Yoav Kaddar (New Paltz)*; Shelly Mozlin (Optometry); Adam Ryburn (Oneonta); Dennis Showers (Geneseo). Garret Komariski, Student member, (Buffalo State).

*: Committee member for all of 2007-8

Charge to the Governance Committee:

The Committee shall concern itself with University-wide governance and shall provide guidance on matters of campus governance. The Committee shall interact with local governance leaders of the University.

The committee is responsible for the publication of the Governance Handbook and will review and update it every four years (next will be 2011-12).

Since the Fall Plenary, the University Faculty Senate Governance Committee met via conference call twice (11-21-08 and 1-16-09) as a full committee, and work has also been completed by subcommittees. Two additional meeting dates/times have been scheduled: Feb. 27, at SUNY System, and April 30, in advance of and/or following the webinar described below in Section A. The committee continues to be guided by its charge and the need for affirmative answers to three questions from Joe Hildreth, past President of the University Faculty Senate, and member of the Governance Committee:

- Is there a powerful, evident need for action?
- Is there a high likelihood that the proposed recommendation to address the need will take place?
- Is it likely that the recommendation can be sustained beyond the participation of those currently addressing the problem?

All identified initiatives for 2008-9 have affirmative answers to these questions. The initiatives center primarily around the topic of “Leadership” which has been of interest to the University Faculty Senate for some time. The initiatives are:

- **Section A: Webinar for University Faculty Senate Senators and Campus Governance Leaders** focused on the pragmatic skills associated with effective leadership at the committee level. *Scheduled for April 30, 2009, in advance of the Spring Plenary in Buffalo. UFS Senator Shelly Moslin identified Dr. Lynne Hellerstein as an experienced presenter who can provide both*

inspiration and practical advice to UFS members, CGLs and members of campus governance units. A phone interview by a sub-committee of the Governance Committee with Dr. Hellerstein took place prior to the 11-21-08 conference call, and based on feedback to the full committee (and approval by President Wiezalis of the cost of the presentation) the program was planned. Further exploration of cost savings via a UUP grant is being undertaken by UFS Senator Moslin, along with assistance from SUNY Liaison Fred Hildebrand.

A separate flyer announcing the event and encouraging early arrival for the UFS plenary is being distributed separately.

Section B: Resources for Governance Leaders and Future Leaders Note that these guides and materials will be available on the UFS website, incorporated into the next edition of the Governance Handbook, as well as being published as separate documents:

- **Orientation Guides for new University Faculty Senators** Eric Johansson created an annotated PowerPoint, received feedback on it on 1-16-09, and intends to have a subsequent draft for the 2-28-09 meeting. As part of this activity, Yoav Kaddar is creating a “family tree” for SUNY Governance, to enable new UFS Senators (as well as new CGLs) to understand their “roots.”
- **Orientation Guides for new Campus Governance Leaders:** Progress on this has been completed in terms of a draft outline by Susan Camp, along with subcommittee members Jim Grillo, Dennis Showers, Melody Eldred (elected mid-year to serve as CGL of Cobleskill) and Adam Ryburn. Joe Hildreth plans to make use of this for the UFS Senators.

Further discussion will take place at the 2-28-09 meeting, with a goal of completion of a full draft in advance of the Spring 2009 Plenary for review by CGLs. It was agreed that there would be a section of Guide that would provide suggestions about seeking out/using campus expectations, and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

- **PowerPoint directed at newly tenured faculty members** (about the University Faculty Senate) Deferred until 2009-2010. President Wiezalis will pilot a communication with newly tenured faculty during his visit to Buffalo State on March 13.

Section C: Recognizing “shared governance” role models

- In-depth interviews with several SUNY presidents who practice informal and formal “best practices” related to shared governance Nan Eldred, Deborah Firestone and Yoav Kaddar are members of the subcommittee working on the interview guides. An intended pilot of the in-depth interview was not able to take place as scheduled prior to the 1-16-09 conference call: it is hoped it can take place prior to the 2-28-09 committee

meeting. A single interview will take place in 08-09, with the goal of creating/posting on the UFS web site additional interviews during 2009-10.

- Providing support for a panel of SUNY presidents (a representative nominated by each UFS Sector) to discuss this topic at the Spring 2009 UFS Plenary. Thanks to discussions at sector meetings at the Fall Plenary, and subsequent follow up by sector convenors, the Presidential panel has been identified. The list of presidents is provided under separate cover. This panel will present at some point during the lunch hour at the Spring 2009 Plenary. John Clark will serve as the moderator, using questions developed by the subcommittee.

Section D: Establish supports for/outreach to Parliamentarians for UFS Campus Governance

Organizations, including inviting them to participate in the CGL-sponsored web-cast of Ed Alfonsin's presentation on Parliamentary Procedures (taking place on 10-16-08), and establishing a list serv for campus parliamentarians

Project deferred overall until 2009-10 with two small goals to be achieved this year:

- It is hoped that Joe Hildreth and Walt Conley (Potsdam) can work on the development of a Parliamentary Procedure PowerPoint with Ed Alfonsin (UFS Parliamentarian, Potsdam), in time for the Fall 2009 Plenary. Newly elected CGL Melody Eldred will work on this, as will Fred Hildebrand.
- **Posting of the Roberts Rules link on the UFS website** TBD, when time permits. Link is www.robertsrules.com

Making use of the names of Parliamentarians gathered in Potsdam to create a listserv

Defer until 2009-10

Section E: The Governance Committee was also asked to review the current Guidelines for Presidential Searches, which will be done during this year. Committee members Adam Ryburn, Joe Hildreth and Deborah Firestone volunteered to work on this. Timeline TBD.