

## Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs

15 April 2015

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**Committee members:** Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Patricia Burak, Amy Burnette, Kelly Chandler-Olcott, Shiu-Kai Chin, Tasha Cooper (co-chair); Samuel Gorovitz, Jaklin Kornfilt, Mary Lovely, Ian MacInnes (co-chair), Tina Nabatchi, Harvey Teres, James Watts

**Administrative support:** Esther Gray

The **Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)** addressed the following during the 2014-15 academic year:

**Promotion and Tenure Process:** Committee members continued to discuss the promotion and tenure process, building on discussions that occurred during the 2013-14 academic year. Committee members James Watts and Ian MacInnes met with Board of Trustees members regarding the Trustees' decision on the promotion and tenure process, and continued to discuss the formation of a university-wide advisory committee to the Provost on tenure and promotion.

**Professor of Practice:** In 2011, the Committee was charged with reviewing the category of Professor of Practice positions at Syracuse University. Committee members completed the project this year, working collaboratively with prior members of a subcommittee. They have prepared a summary document and **a motion which will be brought forward in AY2015-2016** (report appended). The Committee thanks Sandra Lane, David Molta, Amanda Nicholson, and Robert Rubinstein for their service on the subcommittee.

**Board of Trustees Faculty Representative:** With the term of the 2013-2015 Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees (Shiu-Kai Chin) expiring in May 2015, the AAC sought nominees from the faculty and is moving through the process of identifying a representative for 2015-2017.

Additionally, Committee members discussed possible future changes to the selection process with Board of Trustees Secretary, Lisa Dolak, and two Board representatives. Discussions will continue with possible changes to be implemented during the 2017 selection process.

**International Program Support:** Recognizing that support of global education initiatives is important, the Academic Affairs Committee (ACC) discussed the needs of international students, faculty, and staff, ultimately supporting the work of Strategic Planning Working Group 4 and proposing changes to the Syracuse University faculty and staff immigration process.

**VPA proposal:** The Committee began review of a proposal from the College of Visual and Performing Arts regarding academic unit changes.

**Provost Search Committee:** Consistent with Article VI, section 2 of the University Senate Bylaws, the co-chairs of the Academic Affairs Committee met with the Senate Agenda Committee regarding the search committee for the position of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost.

**University Scholars Selection Committee:** The AAC is pleased to announce this year's Syracuse University Scholars:

**Maryann Akinboyewa** – Whitman - Marketing Management, Writing and Rhetoric

**Brooke Baerman** - Arts and Sciences - Art History, Philosophy

**Matthew Fernandes** - Newhouse and Arts and Sciences - English and Textual Studies, Television, Radio, and Film

**Alex Ganes** - Visual and Performing Arts - Music Composition

**Jonathan Lee** - Information Studies and the Maxwell School - Information Management and Technology, Policy Studies

**Elizabeth McMahon** - Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School - Biology, Policy Studies

**Natalie Rebeyev** - Arts and Sciences - Biology, Modern Jewish Studies

**Elliott Russell** - Engineering and Computer Science and Arts and Sciences – Bioengineering, Biotechnology

**Bo Stewart** - Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School - Policy Studies, Political Science, Economics, Spanish Language, Literature & Culture

**Emily Tucci** - Engineering and Computer Science - Bioengineering

**Kristin Weeks** - Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School - Biology, Political Science, Sociology

**Mark Zlotsky** – Architecture - Architecture

The Committee thanks members of the selection committee for their service: Peter Beasecker (chair), Linda Cushman, James Dabrowiak, Jenny Doctor, Elizabeth "Liz" Kamell, Michael Nilan, Rodney Paul, James Royer, and George Theoharis.

**Planning for the Future:** Following up on a Senate resolution and request by Samuel Gorovitz, Professor of Philosophy, AAC members met with the Chancellor and Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost on March 27, 2015, regarding the Strategic Plan, participatory governance, and future work of the Academic Affairs Committee. The committee is developing an agenda to work on with the Provost and Chancellor for the 2015-16 academic year. Members of the Senate should feel free to offer specific concerns about academic affairs to the AAC for consideration.

Committee members look forward to continuing to work toward strengthening academic programs at Syracuse University in the upcoming year.

Additionally, members thank Esther Gray, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor and Provost, for the support she provides to the committee.