

University Faculty Senate 168th Plenary - SUNY ESF in Syracuse

October 23-25, 2014

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UFS President's report – *Peter Knuepfer, President University Faculty Senate*

The President report covered a wide range of topics affecting SUNY and faculty governance:

1. *SUNY Personnel Changes* – The most significant is that there is a new SUNY Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Alexander Cartwright. He comes to System from the University at Buffalo, where he had been Vice President for Research.
2. *Strategic Planning* – The Chancellor is trying to tie new state funding to performance measures. This plan is being called SUNY Excels.
3. *System Administration Budget* – There will be a new financial assessment to campuses in order to support the operations at System Administration. The BOT is concerned about the methodology proposed by System and by the size of the System budget. So the BOT has approved the increased assessments to campuses for this year, but has demanded more justification and an examination of alternatives before moving forward in future years.
4. *Seamless Transfer* – The 2015 transfer paths were updated last spring, and we are now in a period of considering if adjustments to programs might be necessary to make this work. Most requests for program waivers have apparently been denied. Some faculty are questioning if they are being told to change major requirements for the first two years.
5. *Open SUNY* – The second wave of “Open SUNY +” programs—existing online programs with enhancements—has just been announced. There are 56 programs from 17 campuses in this cohort of new additions to Open SUNY. System Administration is working with interested campuses to evaluate campus readiness for (expanded) online programs, and there is also now a business tool available to help campuses evaluate the short- and long-term costs/benefits of online programs.
6. *START-UP NY* – Some 50 SUNY campuses have approved plans (or soon will). Companies have been announced at a number of campuses.
7. *LICH* – SUNY has a contract to sell the Long Island College Hospital site. What will be the financial impact on the rest of the SUNY campuses? The Board of Trustees will be delving into this question now that we know the details of the sale, but there is no answer yet.
8. *Budget* – With the final year of NYSUNY 2020 and the end of “rational tuition” and “maintenance of effort” looming, System is consulting with the Presidents and the BOT about whether to request a new round of tuition increases to actually bring us to 2020. SUNY will also be making a hard push to convince the governor and the legislature that “maintenance of effort” means covering mandated cost increases. The SUNY Excels matrix will form the basis for seeking new funds. Finally, SUNY is seeking additional bonding authority for both critical maintenance and selected new construction projects.
9. *TeachNY* – The Chancellor has established the TeachNY program in conjunction with the State Education Department, with an advisory committee to offer guidance on how to improve teacher education and K-12 quality and success. Nationally recognized experts as well as SUNY faculty (and union) leadership are working together to advise the Chancellor on next steps for teacher education, particularly how to improve the effectiveness of our teacher education programs.

Q: How much is the LICH bill?

A: Final approval is still pending for the sale. The 3rd proposal (Fortis) was the one successfully negotiated. \$240 million is the final sale price. It is estimated that the costs will be about \$540 million.

Q: Will there be an investigation of LICH ?

A: The Senate Executive Committee met and had a vote on calling for a special investigation. The vote was tied, so no decision was reached.

Q: Regarding the System Administration budget, how much has SUNY paid for consultants for various new initiatives?

A: We have heard \$7 million

SUNY Budget Report – *Robert Haelen, Interim CFO and Josh Sager, SUNY Budget Director*

The presenters started with the upcoming State budget process and finished with a preliminary look at SUNY's "ask" for 2015. SUNY definitely wants the State to cover negotiated salary increases. SUNY wants a multi-year capital plan that includes some money for the hospitals. SUNY is also conscience that NYSUNY 2020 sunsets soon, so they are strategizing on this issue. Otherwise, a standard 2% growth increase is about all we can expect. There is a one-time State budget surplus, but this money is probably as good as spent already.

The topic was then changed to the new SUNY administration assessment on campuses to cover their budget gap. SUNY central currently has \$27 million per year in outlays but only \$22 million in revenue. The State has not increased SUNY administrations funding in many years. The difference is made up in recharges, assessments, and overhead charges. This is not quite doing it any more. The BOT approved \$2 million more in campus assessments for this year, but SUNY will need to go back next year with a new plan if they want more.

Research Foundation – *Tim Killeen, RF President and Vice Chancellor for Research*

Tim Killeen made a progress report on the SUNY Networks of Excellence. The 4 original Networks (Health, 4E, Brain, Materials) are functioning, have many faculty involved, and funding awards are going out. The 5th (Humanities) is just getting going and the 6th and newest (Education) is being established.

Provost's Office Report – *Alex Cartwright, Provost and Vice Chancellor*

Provost Cartwright is very new to the job, so his presentation was mostly focused on introductions and how much he doesn't know yet. He went through a list of issues that he is familiarizing himself with: seamless transfer, SUNY Excels, Open SUNY, TeachNY, Networks of Excellence, the diversity task force, sexual assault prevention,

SUNY Excels Presentation – *Nancy Zimpher, Alex Cartwright, Beth Bringsjord, and Tim Killeen*

A line up of heavy hitters in SUNY administration gave a tag team presentation on SUNY Excels, the system of performance metrics that is being discussed for delivery to the BOT for approval in January. Some key points from the presentation:

- The SUNY Report card is already on line—we already use data to report out our progress.
- Now we need to tether new funding requests to our data by developing a reward system. This performance based funding initiative is now called "SUNY Excels".
- Next we need to bargain with the State. If we enhance certain areas, can we be rewarded with more funds?
- The metrics will also be used to evaluate campus Presidents.
- The legislature may do this for us if we don't do this ourselves. So we need to develop this.
- We have settled on 5 priority areas: Access, Completion, Success, Research, and Engagement
- 200+ metrics have been discussed in these 5 areas. We really need something like 8.
- We want to finalize this for approval by the BOT in January.

Questions and answers:

Q: How often will these metrics be measured? **A:** Yearly

Q: Will this be "one size fits all"? **A:** No, we need to think at the sector and campus level.

Q: How about quality vs. quantity? **A:** We need a proxy for quality.

Q: Is there a deal with the State already? **A:** No, we need to be ready in case the money is available.

Q: Is this about rewards or improvement? Will the rich just get richer, and the poor get poorer? **A:** We think that if we do this right, this system will protect against that. We will all have basic completion metrics—there is no way to avoid that—but the campuses need to identify other areas where they can improve so we can raise all boats.

Q: What can we do? **A:** Take it back to the campus. The details how this will work are all very mushy still.

*Note to Senators: The UFS is looking for faculty governance input on the SUNY Excels plan from each campus by **NOV. 18, 2014**. Specifically, a response to the following questions is being sought:*

1. Which metrics would be appropriate for your campus?

2. Which metrics would be inappropriate or problematic for your campus?

A process is being developed by President Carson and your two UFS Senators (Marren and Goodman), but time is short.

Chancellor – Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor

As usual, Chancellor Zimpher took questions from the different sectors. These questions covered many topics, including SUNY Excels, research support, the Elsevier contract, the unhappy relationship between Alfred Ceramics and Alfred University, presidential searches, Open SUNY, growth of administration, and possible new relationships between medical schools and research universities (Upstate/Binghamton and Downstate/Albany).

The Comprehensive Colleges (our sector) asked the Chancellor to comment on her vision for our future and how SUNY Central Administration might engage with us in a frank discussion on our sector's issues (enrollment, budget, mission creep, homogenization, alternate credit delivery, etc.). One part of her response was particularly telling:

“We provide you with tools to deal with your issues. Look, we all knew that this enrollment problem was coming. Perhaps your sector needs an enrollment decline to see that the world is changing and to figure out that you need to do something about it.”

Community College report – Tina Good, President, FCCC

She discussed resolutions on base aid increases to the community colleges, child care funding, seamless transfer waivers, and exemption of AAS programs from seamless transfer requirements.

Student Assembly report – Lori Mould, President, SUNY Student Assembly

Discussed some resolutions coming from the student assembly.

CUNY report – Terry Martell, Chair, CUNY Faculty Senate

He reported that CUNY has a new Chancellor with a new attitude and they are hoping for positive changes. CUNY has begun a search for a new Vice Chancellor/CAO.

UUP report – Fred Kowal, UUP President

On the budget front, UUP is trying to promote changes that emphasize what our campuses really do. UUP wants increased State funding, expansion of successful programs (e.g. EOP), a cap on student loan interest rates, and investment in new faculty.

Resolutions

There was a very large number of resolutions considered, and all ultimately passed after the amendment process:

1. Sexual Assault Prevention

Endorsement of the SUNY initiative on sexual assault, already passed by the BOT

2. Programs to Support LGBT Athletes, Coaches, and Support Staff

The resolution requests that SUNY work with campuses to develop systematic programs on each campus to support LGBT Athletes, Coaches, and Support Staff by AY 2015-2016. During discussion, the Diversity Committee was charged to look at developing a broader resolution on LGBT support and rights.

3. SUNY Excels

Support of the SUNY Excels program by the University Faculty Senate is contingent upon the following: that governance at all levels must be involved in all aspects of the program development

and implementation, that any metrics implemented must be campus-specific, that the impact of implementation be assessed, and that a review and amendment process be adopted.

4. Textbook Affordability

A resolution to support the Student Assembly's resolution on the affordability of textbooks and to encourage faculty to adopt open textbook sources when possible and to increase faculty awareness of these options.

5. Opposition to the New Limitation on Student Assistant Work Hours

Student assistant work hours were recently limited to 29 hours/week by the State. The UFS urges SUNY to work with the State to remove this limitation.

6. Support of Undergraduate Research

We support expanding SUNY undergraduate research and creative endeavors.

7. Naloxone Availability

A resolution from the floor that requests SUNY administration ensures that all SUNY campus police and first responders have access to Naloxone and are trained in its use.