

University Faculty Senate 169th Plenary - SUNY Farmingdale

January 22-24, 2015

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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 Excels* – System Administration is moving forward with the SUNY Excels initiative with using the performance-based program to leverage new State funding. The plan was reduced to 17 “metrics”, which were approved by the Board of Trustees on January 13.
2. *Sexual Violence* – A task force was tasked with developing a uniform sexual assault/violence policy for SUNY by late November, which has now been approved by the Governor and is now a series of new SUNY policies. <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/>
3. *LICH* – The sale of the LICH property was formalized in early October. The sale, for \$240 million, will cover some but not all of the costs associated with SUNY’s exit. The latest numbers:

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| <i>State bonds</i> | <i>\$120.0 million</i> |
| <i>Operating losses at LICH since BOT decision to close</i> | <i>\$169.4 million</i> |
| <i>Pension liability</i> | <i>\$ 45.0 million</i> |
| <i>Loan made by SUNY</i> | <i>\$ 75.5 million</i> |
| <i>Othmer Fund (may or may not have to be reimbursed)</i> | <i><u>\$140.0 million</u></i> |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i> | <i>\$549.9 million</i> |
| <i>Less purchase price</i> | <i><u>\$240.0 million</u></i> |
| <i>Outstanding balance</i> | <i>\$309.9 million</i> |
| <i>Balance after Downstate absorbs operating losses</i> | <i>\$140.5 million</i> |

So the potential cost to the System boils down to whether or not SUNY is obligated to reimburse the entirety of the Othmer Fund, a donation that was spent down principally by the previous operator of LICH.

4. *SUNY Diversity Task Force* – Chaired by Provost Cartwright and Chief Diversity Officer Carlos Medina, this group has been meeting to examine a range of issues related to diversity across the SUNY system, including faculty/staff hiring and retention, student access and completion, and campus climate.
5. *TeachNY* – This joint initiative between SUNY and State Ed. is meant to develop new policies for teacher education in the SUNY System. The target is to complete work by the end of the Spring. The Chancellor’s view is that this project will fundamentally change the way that teacher education is delivered in SUNY. At the same time, controversy has erupted over the decision by the State Education Department to release campus-by-campus results of teacher preparation exams taken by those seeking certification in 2014, ostensibly in response to UUP’s FOIL request. Pass rates dropped significantly as the new tests were administered—it is clear that many intended teachers either will have to pay to retake exams or seek alternative careers. <http://www.suny.edu/teachny-council/>
6. *SUNY Budget* – The Board of Trustees passed an ambitious budget request. The request includes an increase in tuition (\$300 for in-State) for a fifth year of rational tuition increase, totaling an additional \$155 million; \$131 million to cover all negotiated raises, including those from past years; \$50 million for a “Master Innovators” program to attract big-money faculty; \$50 million for a “Collective Impact” program (SUNY Excels); a \$30 million loan mainly to expand Open SUNY; and \$2 million to fund the System Administration budget shortfall. In addition, SUNY is seeking a \$4 billion, 5-year capital plan, with ¾ of the request toward critical maintenance and the rest for new projects.

The Governor’s budget did not include all of these items, although there is \$18 million for SUNY Excels (with strings attached-see below). The hope is that some of SUNY’s requests will be restored through the upcoming negotiation processes.

Diversity Report – Carlos Medina, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor

There was a SUNY diversity conference in November that was co-sponsored with the University Faculty Senate. Almost 400 people were in attendance. The Taskforce on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was created last year and one key initiative is to have a Chief Diversity Officer at every institution. The Taskforce is continuing its work on student recruitment and retention, faculty/staff recruitment and retention, the campus environment, and the structure relative to diversity offices.

Educational Pipeline Report – *Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline*

- Early college high schools. There are several of these, and we believe they are successful in producing students for SUNY that don't need remediation.
- P-TECH. 27 of these partnerships between HS and Community Colleges are now funded. <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/scholarships/PTech.htm>
- Carnegie Foundation accelerated math (Quantway and Statway). Math is the number one remediation problem. Six community colleges are engaged in this program and more are coming online. These programs have a good success rate less time. We are looking at implementing in 4-year school. <http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/in-action/pathways-improvement-communities/>
- Faculty development in Common Core standards, clinical teacher preparation, and best practices is under way. New Paltz, Cortland, Albany, and Buffalo State are involved in a significant way and are intended to be regional hubs for information on Common Core.

Elsevier and Open Source Publishing – *Cary Hatch, Associate Provost for Academic Technology & Information Services*

- New, 5-year agreement with Elsevier is complete.
 - Science Direct cost \$7.99M last year. We will pay a little more for more access. We will have Cell Press and Scopus access for a total of \$8.16M next year. We will probably opt out of these when we are able in 2018.
 - Most campuses will see significant increases this year and next, then flat rates the last few years of the contract. We are working to smooth out cost bumps created by usage variations.
 - SUNY will give \$600K from University-wide funds on an ongoing basis. We will provide \$2.5M additional the first year, but then nothing beyond that. By 2021, the cost will be all on campuses unless something dramatically changes.
- Open access publishing. This needs to be supported and enhanced.
- Library funding is currently inadequate to support all scholarly expectations.

Budget Report – *Eileen McLoughlin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and CFO*

SUNY submitted an ambitious budget that included funding for several new programs, new spending authority (tuition increase), funding for negotiated salary increases, a loan for Open SUNY, and funding for SUNY Excels. The Governor had just come out with his Executive Budget, so SUNY was still analyzing the situation, but we certainly didn't get what we asked for from the Governor. Some important features of the Governor's Executive Budget include:

- Addition of \$18.0M in direct State tax support is provided to campuses, pursuant to a methodology approved by the Board of Trustees, following completion of "Performance Improvement Plans". (SUNY Excels). Such plans:
 - **Will require 10 percent of annual direct State tax support to be held back from campuses until their completion.**
 - Will serve as the basis for performance funding allocations in future years.
 - Shall include but not be limited to:
 - Improving access, completion, academic and post-graduation success, research, and community engagement,
 - **Experiential learning as a requirement for graduation,**
 - Establishment of a Master Researchers program in partnership with the Research Foundation,
 - **Provide for financial incentives to presidents who provide proven leadership resulting in commercialization of research through START-UP NY.**
 - Will be due to the Board of Trustees by December 31, 2015.
- Creation of the "Get On Your Feet" Loan Forgiveness Plan. This would allow students who meet certain criteria to have the first two years of their student loans paid by the State.
- Establishment of the NYS DREAM Act.
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.50 (\$11.50 in NYC).
- Capital: \$200M in critical maintenance funding. The Five-Year Capital & Financing Plan provides \$200M in each of the subsequent four State Fiscal Years, for a total of \$1.0 B over five-years. However, appropriations for the final 4 years are not included in the Executive Budget and would be subject to the approval of the Legislature each year.

Chancellor – *Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor*

As usual, Chancellor Zimpher took questions from the different sectors. Previously that same day, in her State of SUNY address, the Chancellor had stated her support for the Governor's proposal to require applied learning/internships of all SUNY graduates. The tone established at the UFS was that an internship

requirement was a curricular issue, it should not be legislated, and the Chancellor should not be supporting any such attempt. Chancellor Zimpher has been a strong supporter of “experiential learning”, but she definitely walked-back her support of an “internship mandate” once the discussion was framed in terms of curricular control.

Other questions to the Chancellor covered many topics, including SUNY Excels, open access journals, the Elsevier contract, hospital oversight, TAP, and administrative reviews on campuses.

The Comprehensive Colleges (our sector) asked the following:

Q: It’s been reported that in your State of SUNY address that your goal is to have internships for all students, can you define what you mean by internships?

Q: An internship mandate is a curricular/gen. ed. issue, but so far there seems to have been limited faculty involvement in making that decision?

A: “In terms of experiential learning, there is some of this in the 2010 strategic plan and we have been acting on the notion that finding real world opportunities is something we should consider.... Half of our student body always engages in required clinical experiences, so we are looking at students who want more but are part of programs that don’t necessarily provide it. Applied learning experience is everything: volunteerism, service learning, internships, laboratory work, and StartUp NY. We can’t ensure this without getting the governor’s support. To the degree that we need insurances the quality is there, we expect supervision, product, evaluation, fits with curriculum. The resources are the oversight to make all of this available to our students. The person leading the conversations is from Binghamton and there is a lot of support for this idea.”

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

Provost Cartwright mainly discussed the SUNY Excels plan. SUNY Excels provides a framework that allows us to measure what we are doing in mission critical and widely inclusive. Areas. There are five priority areas: Access, Completion, Success, Inquiry (previously Research), and Engagement. There are 17 individual metrics now (from over 200 originally). Each institution will have different targets related to these metrics, and some metrics may not apply to each institution.

The next step is defining and setting targets. We do not know how any new funding will be tied to this system yet. SUNY Excels will also help us tell SUNY’s story—adding clarity to our communications about current performance, path to improvement, and accountability. Moreover, we will use SUNY Excels to help hold Presidents accountable for performance at their institutions.

Community College report – *Tina Good, President, FCCC*

They are concerned about several new proposals from President Obama and Andrew Cuomo related to Community Colleges. They are asking that we stand with them for academic freedom and quality.

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

She discussed sexual violence policy, advisement, campus safety, and Yik Yak (app).

CUNY report – *Terry Martell, Chair, CUNY Faculty Senate*

He reported that the new CUNY Chancellor is making a good effort to change the culture. A new Provost will be hired soon after significant faculty input into the process.

Resolutions

Three resolutions were considered, amended as necessary, and passed.

1. Graduate Fellowship Incentive Program for STEM Students

A resolution from the Graduate and Research Committee that encourages the SUNY Research Foundation to create an incentive program for STEM graduate students to write external grants.

2. Veteran Success

The resolution encourages campus governance bodies to review, adopt, and actively participate in the voluntary initiative “8 keys to Veterans’ Success”, an idea delineated in a resolution passed by the Student Assembly in October 2014.

3. SUNY Budget

A resolution from the Executive Committee in support of the SUNY budget request for FY 15-16.