

University Faculty Senate 174th Fall Plenary Meeting – SUNY Cortland

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A summary report of the plenary is published by the University Faculty Senate:

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/Cortlandplenary.pdf>

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

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

1. *TeachNY* – SUNY has the ultimate goal “to lift up the teaching profession and to ensure that New York and the nation will have the high quality educators needed for the future” (www.suny.edu/teachny/). The TeachNY Steering Committee will review the wide range of recommendations released in May by the TeachNY Advisory Council; and, with input from a series of listening sessions and speak-outs across the state, will develop a set of policy recommendations for the Board of Trustees to consider. This project is the Chancellor's top priority for this, her final year.
2. *Chancellor Search* – SUNY Board of Trustees Chair Carl McCall has empaneled a search committee to oversee the search process. Peter Knuepfer and Nina Tamrowski, President of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, are the only faculty members at the table. Public statements about the search can be found at <https://www.suny.edu/chancellor-search/>.
3. *Investment and Performance Fund* – SUNY will allocate some \$54 million in discretionary monies available in the 2016-17 budget. Much of this money will be targeted, even to the point that some campuses will be explicitly encouraged to submit proposals for funding. The process includes a meeting between Provost Cartwright and team from each campus on a regional basis. The regional meetings are planned as two-hour conversations to review progress on the Performance Improvement Plans and to identify opportunities for the campuses. Much of the funding will be focused on increasing enrollment and retention, and to help students progress toward completion.
4. *Student Research Symposia* –The cost and logistical headaches of holding UFS research symposia at the Legislative Office Building (LOB), coupled with the very limited attendance by any legislators or staff members, have led us to consider alternative approaches. Thus, the 2017 Graduate Student Research Symposium will be held at a campus and legislators will be invited to attend. The 3rd SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) meeting will be two events this year, one hosted in western New York, the other in the eastern part of the State. The SURC will replace the undergraduate LOB events in the future.
5. *UFS Communications* –A small group of current and past members of the Executive Committee will answer: 1) whether The UFS Bulletin, use of social media, and press releases are appropriate and 2) whether information shared should be independent of SUNY and/or UUP.
6. *Applied Learning* –This academic year marks the culminations of discussions and planning on SUNY campuses. The decision on an applied learning graduation requirement is a curricular decision affecting the entire campus, and as such it must be made through campus faculty/academic governance process.
7. *Presidential Reviews and Presidential Searches* – Chancellor Zimpher continues her reviews of Presidents this year, in a process that is to include feedback from faculty governance leaders, including the CGL and UFS Senator(s). Two Presidents are being reviewed this fall—Empire State and Alfred State. More are likely to follow in the spring.
8. *Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom* – Last spring the University Faculty Senate of CUNY endorsed a Statement on Principles of Free Expression and the CUNY Board of Trustees is now considering a policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct. SUNY Professor Prof. Simona Sharoni at Plattsburgh received intimidation over some of her scholarly work. Inside Higher Ed provides an excellent summary of the situation (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/09/13/professor-who-advocates-israel-boycott-latest-face-demands-records-about-her-career>). UFS President Knuepfer is expected to empanel an *ad hoc* committee to draft a resolution that addresses threats to academic freedom for the Winter Plenary.
9. *SUNY Poly* – SUNY System Administration took quick action to place SUNY Poly President Alain Kaloyeros on unpaid leave and to appoint Provost Alex Cartwright as Officer in Charge. The implications of this situation go far beyond one campus. The potential fallout to the reputation of SUNY as a whole and to the flexibility in procurement that had been granted to SUNY in 2011 as part of the SUNY2020 package is of concern.

Teacher Education Presentation and Roundtable Discussion

Michael Marder (University of Texas Austin), Kimberly Hughes (University of Texas Austin), and Lee Meadows (University of Alabama Birmingham) presented a description of UTeach, a model that is designed to remove barriers to participation and expand degree options for STEM majors; provide preparation tailored to meet needs of future STEM teachers; and provide high quality, clinically-intensive preparation to teach. UTeach is at 45 universities in 21 states with roughly 7000 students and 3300 graduates. A panel discussion followed. The panel consisted of Nancy Zimpher (Chancellor of SUNY), Erik Bitterbaum (President of SUNY Cortland), Thomas O'Brien (Professor Binghamton University), Angela Pagano (Associate Professor SUNY Cortland), and Dennis Showers (Distinguished Service Professor SUNY Geneseo).

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/161021SUNYUTeach.pdf>

Chancellor's Office Report – *Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor*

The Chancellor answered questions from the sectors. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including presidential searches, tobacco policy, assessment, gender and race salary inequities, the importance of shared governance, and faculty membership on local College Councils. The Comprehensive Colleges sector asked and received answers to the following questions (paraphrasing):

Q1. The comprehensive colleges sector recognizes the importance of the TeachNY process, and will provide feedback as the process goes forward and promote conversations on our individual campuses. We plan to propose a Conversations in the Disciplines proposal. Will you commit to supplement beyond the funding from CID?

A: If people want to get together to solve problems across SUNY and need funding, the answer is “Yes. Yes.” It’s a small price to pay.

Q2: What progress has been made on developing system-level strategic enrollment management, and how will campus-driven and system-driven enrollment efforts be coordinated as we go forward?

A: Conversations with the Provost have convinced the Chancellor that a focus on the completion agenda means we must also focus on recruitment, otherwise we will decrease our student enrollments.

Q3. We have discussed the potential to have a conversation about what makes all of our campuses distinctive. Have you had any further thoughts about this topic, and if so, what role our campuses, along with system, can play?

A: There are going to be similarities across the comprehensive campuses. "We didn't go through Seamless Transfer for nothing!" We need, as a collective, to think about how our work is different.

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

The Provost shared that there needs to be a focus on educational effectiveness and strategic enrollment in order to be purposeful about where and how to grow enrollment; about how best to meet the academic needs of the students arriving at the campuses; about ensuring that increasingly diverse student body feels welcome, respected, and supported; about strengthening completion programs and infrastructures; and about eliminating gaps in completion across student groups. He shared changes in NYS and in Higher Education. Some of the changes include declining high school population, decreased funding for higher education, and the demand for and competition around expanded credentials. As a system, we can re-establish the enrollment/resource connection; create and/or modify plans/policies/ resource strategies that eliminate barriers to greater performance; eliminate the perceptions and reality of unwarranted internal enrollment competition; leverage our connectedness to better meet the needs of applicants on a regional and system-wide basis; and facilitate conversations about mission creep/distinctiveness.

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/Provost-presentation-UFS-Meeting-October-2016---ANC-NN.pdf>

SUNY Student Assembly Report – *Marc Cohen, President*

Marc Cohen discussed safety and mental health awareness. The Student Assembly reflects the diversity of students in SUNY. Marginalized communities are included on committees. The Student Assembly wants to promote and progress equality.

Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report – *Nina Tamrowski, President*

Nina Tamrowski discussed seamless transfer. Community colleges feel like did heavy. Many are agitated when students do not get all credits when they transfer as juniors. CUNY graduates will not go to SUNY if they cannot get all of earned credits. FCCC does not want to go to the legislation as this is the third year in a row of hearing that students are not getting all credits. FCCC is looking at how micro-credentialing and assessment will be transcribed. Best practices on placement testing, trigger warnings, AAUP standards of excellence, and early college high schools were discussed

CUNY University Faculty Senate Report – *Katherine Conway, Chair*

Operating at 2009 levels of resources. CUNY will ask for continuation of rational tuition plan. One thousand new faculty were hired – fifty percent of courses are taught by contingent faculty. CUNY will look at the adult education market. Discussed online education and experiential learning—will track it and encourage more of it. Katherine Conway shared that a developmental task force will look at a non-algebra pathway—statistics math and quantitative. Ideally with this pathway, students will get math. Eighty percent of the students have difficulty passing math. She also discussed conflict of interest policy-statement about textbooks and freedom of expression and conduct

UUP Report – *Jamie Dangler, Vice President*

Jamie Dangler shared that UUP wants the campus administrations to know what members want. Visible campaign will help. Wear red Fridays. UUP expressed concern about pushing to expand SUNY courses for credit in high schools. There needs to be oversight on the quality and on the number of courses taken by the students. Departments need to work collaboratively with teachers in the high schools. UUP expressed interest in policies related to intellectual property and online education. UUP will produce a know-your-right document. UUP is concerned that many do not know about the need to take a look at Labster. Members are saying must explore ways to increase experiential learning yet seem to reducing experiential learning in context of courses. Is there a contradiction? Simulated learning may have good uses; however there is the fear of faculty losing control of curriculum and teaching and pedagogy. UUP is an advocate for teacher education programs and educational faculty involved. Declining enrollment and teacher certification exams are a problem. UUP's position is that there should be options. UUP has serious concerns about report and recommendations made in Teach NY.

Resolutions

1. **Faculty and Professional Staff Membership on College/University Councils** (passed)
A resolution that seeks governance leaders of each SUNY campus to become ex-officio and non-voting members of their councils and boards.
2. **Implementation of Applied Learning** (passed)
Ensures that faculty has the responsibility to set the degree requirements, to assess student learning outcomes, and to assign grades.
3. **SUNY Ethics Review** (referred back to the Ethics Committee)
A resolution about the role the Chancellor and Board of Trustees have in developing and conducting periodic ethics review of SUNY campuses, SUNY-related nonprofits, and of System Administration.
4. **Full Complements on College/University Councils** (passed)
A resolution that seeks expedited appointments of members to vacant seats on each campus' University or College Council.
5. **Faculty Oversight of Micro-Credentials and Other Emerging Learning Experiences** (passed)
Ensures that faculty governance processes are followed in the consideration and approval of all initiatives.
6. **Wording Change to the Criteria for Awards for Conversations in the Disciplines** (passed)
Conversations may also include examination of related curricular innovations. Proposals that include discussion of instructional matters must have participation by the appropriate disciplinary departments.