University Faculty Senate 172nd Plenary – Stony Brook University

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A summary of each plenary is now published by the University Faculty Senate:
http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/stonybrookplenary.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. *Performance Improvement Plans (PIP)*– The PIPs were submitted by the campuses in October. Staff from the SUNY Provost's office reviewed the submissions, and all were approved by the end of 2015, in accordance with the 2015 legislative mandate. All of the campus plans are available publicly via the SUNY website: http://www.suny.edu/excels/performanceplans/.

2. *SUNY Investment Fund* – SUNY announced the first phase of "winners" for the $18 million Investment Fund, coincident with the State of the University address. Besides individual campus and collaborative awards across several campuses, the Chancellor is committed to funding 5 areas common to many proposals:

   · **Early Alert Software** – expanding the use of early alert software, which notifies advisors and faculty when students are falling behind, so that interventions can be made to keep students on track for degree completion.

   · **Quantway/Statway Implementation** – leveraging a recent $1.8M grant from the Gates foundation, SUNY will invest the remaining funds necessary to make these remedial math pathways available to students across all SUNY campuses interested in participating.

   · **Data Collection & Utilization** – programs to improve the collection of data by campuses throughout SUNY and to bring uniform student success analytics to scale.

   · **North Country Initiatives** – programs for which SUNY campuses in the North Country region of the state will collaborate to build stronger connections with the local community.

   · **Smart Track Re-Enroll to Complete** – more than 25 SUNY campuses will collaborate to proactively engage with students who have withdrawn and encourage them to return and finish their degree

3. *Executive Budget Proposal* – The Executive Budget seems a more positive starting point than in past years. The Governor continued funding for the Investment and Performance Fund at $18.0M and maintained funding levels for programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)/ATTAIN. In addition, new programmatic funding has been provided for a Clean Energy Workforce Opportunity Program ($15.0M total, $10.0M State-operated / $5.0M community colleges). Finally, 2011's NY-SUNY 2020 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and Predictable Tuition Plan has been extended, which would provide for continued resident undergraduate tuition rate increases (subject to certain conditions. There is a lot of work to do in order to embed a *true* MOE into the budget for this year and into the future.)

4. *Applied Learning* – Communication went out to campuses from the Provost with final guidance for criteria to be used in determining whether or not existing and future applied learning activities are "approved", along with a template to complete a compilation of current approved activities (due February 15). Further guidance will be sent to campuses to assist in the preparation of additional parts of the plan due this academic year. These initial campus plans are due to System Administration by April 15 to be incorporated into a System-wide Applied Learning Plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May to fulfill the 2015 legislative mandate.

5. *Governor Cuomo actions on SUNY* – Governor Cuomo vetoed the Maintenance of Effort bill. The Governor finally signed the bill that provides the same retirement benefits to SUNY police as to other State police. He also announced that SUNY employees will see their minimum wage rise to $15/hr by 2021. The Board of Trustees passed a resolution formalizing this for all non-unionized SUNY employees. SUNY estimates this will affect 30,500 employees, most of whom (95.5%) are work-study or other student assistant workers. The total incremental cost would be $29.5 million annually by the time it is fully implemented, *assuming no cut in hours*. The original announcement made it clear that this would be absorbed in the SUNY budget.

Budget Report–Peter Knuepfer (for Eileen McGloughlin, Senior Vice Chancellor)

Details on the Governor's proposed budget were presented and discussed.

http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/172-McLoughlin-Jan--2016-Faculty-Senate-Winter-Plenary.pdf

H. Carl McCall–Chairman, SUNY Board of Trustees

The Chairman of the BOT gave a speech providing his perspective on three issues facing SUNY
1) SUNY was founded to be an open, inclusive institution. SUNY has a new system-wide diversity plan.
2) SUNY cannot continue to grow based almost entirely on tuition increases. McCall is reluctant to continue to increase tuition without the State providing more funds. The students have already done their part.
3) SUNY is engaged in a continual effort to promote shared governance and make it work.

The BOT Chairman then answered questions about fee increases (he's concerned), the lack of attention to the Comprehensive Colleges (he was unaware of the issue), support for hospitals (he said experts from outside the BOT are needed going forward), and budget (concern about CUNY cuts and the impact on the SUNY budget).

High Impact Practices and Applied Learning

A team of scholars and administrators gave short presentations and led discussions on high-impact practices, such as applied learning. Individual presentations: http://www.system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/#w16

Chancellor's Office Report – *Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor*
The Chancellor (via video conference) answered questions from the sectors.
Some important topics in the Q&A session were (paraphrased):
Q: Concern over the lack of consultation with governance when developing PIP targets.
A: The Chancellor suggested that a "minority report" describing the process from a faculty governance perspective might be a good idea in the future.
Q: The comprehensive sector is experiencing a drop in enrollment. Is SUNY considering a system-wide rational, strategic enrollment plan that would reduce inter-sector and intra-sector competition?
A: We need a system-wide plan; it is a good idea. Enrollment is a strategic opportunity, so we are turning our attention to this idea. SUNY should be less competitive between campuses, more stable, and more diverse.
Q: Enrollment and support are naturally going to decline with declining teacher education enrollments. How will SUNY support teacher education programs so that the programs can maintain excellence?
A: We have tried to say that teacher education is an across-the-board effort. Education schools need to work more closely with schools of arts and sciences. The colleges need to pay more attention to market analysis—we overproduce teachers in some areas and under-produce in others.
Q: We have heard much about certificates, badges and layered credentialing. What do you see as the role of the comprehensive colleges in this discussion?
A: There is a task force now exploring what "unbundling a degree" means; is it based on time? competencies? Then you should work with community colleges and Empire State College to figure out the implications.
Q: We understand the Governor has proposed $15 M to use in the development of the Clean Energy Workforce Improvement program. How will the $10 M targeted for the state operated colleges be distributed to the campuses?
A: We have not been mandated on how to distribute those funds. We are imagining a competitive process, similar to the SUNY Investment Fund distribution process.

Provost's Report – *Alex Cartwright, SUNY Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor*
The Provost (via video conference) discussed several issues with the Senate:
o SUNY Excels. He provided statistics comparing the established goals with national averages.
o Reaching 150,000 completions by 2025/26 is a high priority goal for SUNY.
o The Provost discussed "microcredentials" and answered related questions.
o Open SUNY 2.0 (Optimized, Personalized, Education Network). Is it possible for a student to attain a degree by taking classes at several different campuses (possible a mix of online, hybrid, and traditional)?

Resolutions
1. **SUNY Wide Implementation of Preferred Name and Gender Identity Applications on Registration, Email, ID cards, and other Identification Systems** (passed)
   Preferred names and gender identities to be used on campus, legal names used for other business.
2. **SUNY Wide Implementation of Gender Inclusive Spaces** (passed)
   Urges the Chancellor, Campus Presidents, and others to create gender inclusive spaces on all campuses and at System Administration where there are currently only male and female designated spaces.
3. **Service Learning (Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee Report)**
   Adopted the report entitled "Service- Learning in SUNY: Current Status and Strategies for Implementation"