

University Faculty Senate 173rd Plenary – College at Brockport

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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/Brockportplenary.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. *Advocacy* – The final enacted budget for 2016-17 did not treat SUNY well. The only bright spot was the continuing commitment to provide additional funding to opportunity programs (EOP, EOC, ATTAIN). Presidents have been urged to continue a dialog with local representatives. The Executive Committees of the CUNY University Faculty Senate, the SUNY University Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Council of Community met in New York City in January to discuss issues of common concern. That meeting resulted in a joint statement seeking a State commitment to additional funding for public higher education. This marks the second year of joint advocacy amongst our groups, an important way to show legislators that the faculty leadership of SUNY and CUNY can and do speak together on common issues.
2. *Applied Learning* – Campuses have submitted the first parts of their applied learning plans. The main challenges that await us next year are to examine what our students are actually doing, the potential economic impact of applied learning, and to decide (on each campus, through faculty governance structures) whether or not to make applied learning a graduation requirement.
3. *SUNY Investment Funding* – Campuses have been notified of funding received from the competition for the \$100 million SUNY Investment Fund, \$18 million of which was included specifically in the 2015-16 Enacted Budget. While the Governor included another \$18 million in his 2016-17 Executive Budget, the final 2016-17 Enacted Budget included that funding with the following language: "...this appropriation shall be made available for services and expenses of state operated campuses to be distributed according to a plan approved by the state university board of trustees." This suggests that the funds should be used to support basic operating costs, so whether there will be another round of "investment" funding pulled together from this and other sources remains to be seen.
4. *Presidential Searches* – The Board of Trustees will likely be approving revised Guidelines for Presidential Searches on June 4. The principal changes are improved attention to issues of and a clarification of the timeline for Board of Trustees consideration and approval of new Presidents (trying to minimize the delays). But of significance to us is an increased recognition of the role that the Campus Governance Leader should be playing in working with the Chair of the College Council to empanel a search committee.

FACT2 Panel Presentation – *Open Education Resources task group*

Mark McBride (Monroe CC), Tony DeFranco (Tompkins Cortland CC) and Kate Pitcher (SUNY Geneseo) presented findings and led a discussion on the advantages and challenges of adopting OER course materials. They presented several advantages to OER including: increased success rates in pilot math and psychology courses; substantial cost savings for students; preference of faculty and students for the option to have printed formats available; and rating of OER course materials as good or better than publisher materials by both faculty and students. However, successful implementation of OER projects requires effective internal communication; faculty development support; collaboration with campus bookstores; and support for faculty to deal with copyright, licensing, and accessibility issues.

The Open SUNY Texts (OST) initiative is proposing a multi-tiered support model to facilitate adoption of OER materials by SUNY campuses. OST has 16 open texts available and 10 more in the pipeline.

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/FACT2USF-OER-Presentation.pdf>

HeForShe – *Charles Robbins, Stony Brook University*

HeForShe is a global movement designed to eliminate gender inequality and eliminate gender-based violence. Many of the issues addressed (the wage gap, access to education) are seen as "women's issues" but the campaign seeks to engage people of all genders. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact charles.robbs@stonybrook.edu or hforshe@stonybrook.edu.

SUNY Budget Report – *Eileen McLoughlin, SUNY Chief Financial Officer*

The SUNY CFO outlined several ways to lessen the impact of the dismal state budget. SUNY will ask for a restoration of maintenance of effort. SUNY will also seek more flexibility in the procurement process. Another

option being considered is to implement border state tuition rates. Under such a plan a SUNY campus near a border can charge in-state rates for students from adjacent states.

The impact of the budget won't immediately be felt on most campuses because most still have healthy reserves.

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/Eileen-McLoughlin---UFS-5.6.16.pdf>

Chancellor's Office Report – Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor

The chancellor mainly discussed the budget. The Executive Budget was good for SUNY, but we expected more from the Legislature. She placed some of the blame for the poor outcome on an "outdated public financing model for higher education." There is also a lack political will, referring to the failure to obtain a maintenance of effort (MOE) bill. The next steps will be advocacy for NYSUNY- 2020; the SUNY Investment fund is a high priority, and the Chancellor argued for the breakdown of the barrier between K-12 funds and higher education funds.

She mentioned that teacher education is a serious issue on the table right now. Also, due in part to the efforts of Thomas Mastro, President of the Student Assembly, SUNY has taken on the "Ban the Box" issue.

As usual, the Chancellor answered questions from the sectors. Some of the highlights were (paraphrasing):

- Q: There is concern over unfunded mandates and the staffing level of administrative positions.
A: These concerns align with national scenario. Please provide specifics of unfunded mandates.
Q: What can SUNY do to leverage systemness to help the comprehensive colleges stabilize enrollments?
A: There is a SUNY system initiative on strategic enrollment. In the short term, there is a border tuition proposal to attract students from nearby states and Open SUNY 2.0 to promote online degree programs.
Q: We have heard about TeachNY. Could you tell us what changes in teacher education are coming, and the process by which the comprehensive colleges will be engaged and involved?
A: There will be regional public discussions on the future of teacher education. System can advocate for local school districts to take our teachers in training.
Q: Would you support a collaborative effort to create a system-wide set of baseline procedural standards for both the search of upper-level administrators and periodic review of upper-level administrators?
A: We are currently working on these processes. Would I support you? Yes!
Q: Would you comment on the status of a SUNY-wide LGBT policy?
A: There are still some potholes in the road for a SUNY-wide LGBT policy. The Board of Trustees has a good policy. More work is needed.
Q: Is the data collected by the Student Diversity Survey available for distribution to our campuses?
A: There are some legal issues that need to be resolved before the data can be distributed.

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

The Provost noted that we have a new President of the Research Foundation, Dr. Jeffrey Cheek. He then spent time going over SUNY Excels and the Performance Improvement Plans. His office will be talking to campuses about ways to make strategic plans that focus on continuous improvement. The goal of the conversations is to be able to take risks and realize that initial failures in implementing such ideas will be OK.

The Provost then described the SUNY Micro-Credentialing Task Force and noted that they had already begun their work. Finally, he introduced SUNY PATH (Predictive Analytics Transforming Higher Education)

<http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/Alex-Cartwright-UFS-Plenary---5-6-16.pdf>

Resolutions

- 1. Revisit Amendments to Article VII of the Policies of the Board of Trustees** (passed)
A bookkeeping measure required to finalize the policy changes affecting the Vice President/Secretary position of the UFS.
- 2. Public Statement of Ethical Principles** (passed)
A resolution that indicates the commitment of the University Faculty Senate to adopt the values contained within a Statement of Ethical Principles document as a model for SUNY entities.
- 3. Inclusion of Clinical Faculty for the Chancellor's Awards for Service and the Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities** (passed)
Makes clinical faculty eligible for the two Chancellor's Awards.
- 4. Inclusion of Non-Tenured and Non-Tenure Track Faculty for the Chancellor's Award in Teaching** (passed)
Makes non-tenured and non-tenure track faculty eligible for the Chancellor's Award.