

University Faculty Senate 175th Plenary Meeting – SUNY Old Westbury

January 19-21, 2017

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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. *Civil Discourse in an Age of Heated Rhetoric, DACA, and Sanctuary* – Many if not most of our campuses saw incidents, especially (but not exclusively) after the election, mostly (but not exclusively) representing a particular view that is intolerant of many of the differences that we have in our pluralistic society. Many campus presidents and faculty groups have issued statements that emphasize the importance of tolerance and civil discourse, and we in the UFS should be as well.
2. *Free Tuition* – Governor Cuomo announced a free tuition proposal for SUNY and CUNY (Excelsior Scholarships). This would provide full tuition for students with family income up to \$125k. To be eligible, a student must be registered for 15 credits per semester. If a student fails a course, then he/she is no longer eligible for the scholarship. At face value, this would seem to be a boon for middle-income families. But as many commentators have noted, the proposal offers little or no benefit to the neediest students, who already qualify for free tuition from other programs; what they need is help with the other costs of higher education.
3. *Investment and Performance Fund* – Provost Cartwright and his System Administration team have had many conversations with campus teams. These conversations are providing campus leaders with an opportunity to discuss their short- and long-term goals and help System Administration develop System-wide strategies to address enrollment challenges that many campuses are facing. The distribution of about \$56 million in the SUNY Investment Fund will be based on funding proposals that follow from these conversations.
4. *Applied Learning Initiative* – Campuses have been asked to decide by May whether or not to make an applied learning experience a graduation requirement for all students. Some campuses have already completed their work. From a governance perspective, it is of paramount importance that whatever decision is made goes through the proper curricular decision-making process that your campus has developed.
5. *TeachNY* – This signature effort of Chancellor Zimpher's final year is moving forward on two fronts. The Provost's TeachNY Advisory Committee has been working on policy elements designed to improve the educator preparation process in SUNY, which are to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the May meeting. At the same time, the Chancellor and State Education Commissioner Elia have empaneled a TeachNY Roundtable, comprised of members representing a wide range of other education stakeholders, from unions to superintendents to faculty and beyond. This group is focused on strategies to raise the respect for and interest in the teaching profession.
6. *Chancellor Search* – Although this search is a closed process, I think it is realistic to expect that a final candidate will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the May Board meeting.
7. *UFS Communications Strategies* – We're on Twitter and Facebook, and we're working toward preparing press releases when necessary.
8. *Upcoming Events* – There are three upcoming events sponsored in whole or in part by the UFS. A Graduate Research Symposium is being held at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs on March 7 to highlight graduate research from many of our campuses. The SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium (SURC) this year will be held at two locations: SURC East at Suffolk County Community College on April 20, and SURC West at PSUNY Fredonia on April 21. Finally, the third SUNY Voices Conference is being held April 27-28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Suffern, NY.
9. *Budget* – other comments about what has and has not been included in the budget. There is still a "TAP gap" and no funds for negotiated salary increases. The budget did include \$500M for SUNY in capital spending and the Dream Act (undocumented students would be eligible for TAP but not for Excelsior Scholarship).

Ricardo Azziz - Chief Officer for Academic Health & Hospitals Affairs

The Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs (OAHHA) at SUNY System Administration supports the mission, operations, and strategic goals of SUNY's Academic Health Centers (AHCs), the College of Optometry, and the Long Island State Veterans' Home, as well as SUNY's broader academic health and health professions portfolio. The Office also supports initiatives related to SUNY's Healthier New York strategic plan goals. View the full PowerPoint: [http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/SUNY-Academic-Health--Hospitals--1-20-17-\(UFS\)-\(3\).pdf](http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/SUNY-Academic-Health--Hospitals--1-20-17-(UFS)-(3).pdf)

Jinliu (Grace) Wang - Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development Office Report

Dr. Wang has been on the job for a very short time, so the presentation was mostly just an introduction to her and her office. View the full PowerPoint: <http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/Wang---SUNY-Faculty-Senate-Meeting-Janurary-20-2016-Grace-Wang.pdf>

Nancy Zimpher - SUNY Chancellor

The Chancellor first answered questions from the sectors. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including resources for applied learning, the possible effects of repeal of the ACA on SUNY hospitals, tenure and promotion for faculty in interdisciplinary areas, and the relationship between statutory colleges and their host campuses. The Comprehensive Colleges sector asked and received answers to the following questions (paraphrasing):

- Q1. 1. The process around TeachNY and teacher education is of course a high priority for the comprehensive colleges sector, but the status and progress of the process is not well known out in the trenches. We would like some specific feedback on the process that we can take back to our campuses.
- We understand that there will be an opportunity for campuses to provide feedback into the resolution on TeachNY that will (hopefully) be going to the Board this spring. What will be the time frame for this feedback from campuses, will the schedule be set up to allow adequate time for campuses to have conversation on the board resolution, and will campus governance be invited to the table?
 - The Roundtable discussions could result in significant changes in the policy environment for education in New York. What is the status of those conversations, what potential changes in regulations/policy do you see (or hope to see) arising from those conversations, and how might they impact our teacher education programs?
- A1. There are three outcomes we are seeking from the roundtable: 1. Strategic enrollment based on supply and demand to meet the teacher shortage crisis at regional level. 2. We need deeper clinical practice, so we need a new policy at SUNY. Teaching is a practice profession. 3. We need a real statement about professional development and teacher leadership, which will push us to think about clinical faculty differently. investing in Master Teachers, more teachers standing for National Board Certification
- Q2. Starting In 2004, each SUNY campus went through a Mission Review process to determine their distinctiveness, enrollment targets, and strategies. Now in 2017 there are few vestiges of those mission agreements remaining. We've also seen significant shifts in enrollments among and between SUNY sectors over the last decade, as campuses chart their individual plans to manage and grow their enrollments. As the Chancellor of SUNY, what do you see as the benefits and costs of these enrollment shifts among sectors, for SUNY to be able to carry out its mission to the state of New York? At this point, would administration consider reinstating some management of enrollment targets as part of a system-wide strategic enrollment planning process, to promote the optimal use of existing programs, faculty, and physical plant on our campuses?
- A2. The Provost is sitting with campuses on precisely this topic. We need to be more strategic and planful. not just about demographic shifts in traditional age college entrants when over 50% of state is undereducated. We need to consider facilities, campus life, residential models, and digital platforms. Probably the sector that will need to change the most is the comprehensive sector. SUNY wants to help with this transformation.

The Chancellor then made comments about the free tuition proposal. She basically said that it is really too early—let's see what happens. She also discussed how TAP and the private institutions in the State will have a lot to say about the final outcome. She also said that something version of free tuition is likely to remain when the dust settles. The Chancellor also talked about the new SUNY philanthropic foundation, which she envisions raising money from corporations and the distributing sums of money to SUNY campuses based on proposals.

Eileen McLoughlin- Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

The Vice Chancellor gave a report on where we stand in the NY State budget process. The full PowerPoint is here: <http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/McLoughlin--Jan.-2017-Faculty-Senate-Winter-Plenary.pdf>

These are the key points:

- SUNY's ask was not supported operationally, but fairly well supported for capital
- Tuition flexibility up to \$250/year
- Excelsior Scholarships

- Expanded Inspector General oversight of SUNY, affiliates, Foundations
- SUNY Chief Procurement Officer

There is a 30-day amendment process where we can ask for restoration of the following:

- Maintenance of Effort (including new collective bargaining increases)
- Expansion of the investment fund to community colleges
- EOC language change
- Hospital re-appropriation back to 2016/17 levels
- Rockland CC capital match

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

The Provost has completed 35 visits, 70 hours of conversations with campus teams.

- The effect of distinctiveness comes clear in conversations; campuses that are clearest about who they are and who they're going for seem to be doing the best
- Competition among SUNY campuses is real and we need to think about what it means and how to resolve
- Non-SUNY NY and Out-of-State Competition
- Ensure Seamless Transfer is really seamless
- Keeping pace with technology and emerging fields. Broad interest in advanced manufacturing and health professions

The full PowerPoint is here: <http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/Provost-Report---UFS---January-2017-4.NN.pdf>

SUNY Student Assembly Report – *Marc Cohen, President*

Marc Cohen discussed The SUNY budget, especially the tuition increase and the free tuition proposals.

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

FCCC has pending resolutions on Maintenance of Effort, child care, and micro-credentialing. FCCC believes that community colleges need to get away from enrollment driven funding and they are concerned that the Governor wants to close a few campuses.

Resolutions

Resolutions

1. **Resolution on "Petition to Make All SUNY Locations Sanctuary Campuses" Councils** (passed, some dissention)
A resolution that calls on the UFS President sign the petition on behalf of the UFS and called on all faculty, staff, and students to consider signing the petition. The petition is here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeg5BSGsZomjj44wIMu629o5zJjSRRPbmzTPQ4McKsJVG4nng/viewform>
2. **Resolution to Create Transgender Health Care Education at SUNY Campuses** (passed)
Calls on SUNY to encourage transgender health training programs and calls on faculty in health science programs to review curricula and develop guidelines to improve the health care of transgender individuals.
3. **Resolution on Contact Hours** (passed)
The University Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor that the SUNY Policy on the award of credit for Experiential Learning be amended to make it congruent with the current Commissioner's Regulations.
4. **Resolution on Assessment Practices** (passed)
A resolution that spells out current assessment practices.

Endorsements

1. **Statement of Tolerance** (passed)
Affirms the UFS commitment to develop and cultivate campus climates that support and welcome the diversity of our modern, pluralistic society and condemns intolerance and hateful expression.
2. **Joint Statement on Civil Discourse and Campus Climate** (passed)
A joint statement developed by SUNY UFS, the CUNY UFS, and SUNY FCCC that calls on all members of our campus communities to engage in and promote civil discourse.
3. **Statement in Support of DACA and the Pomona Statement** (passed)
The so-called Pomona Statement on DACA has been endorsed by about 600 college presidents, including 8 from SUNY and Chancellor Zimpher. <https://www.pomona.edu/news/2016/11/21-college-university-presidents-call-us-uphold-and-continue-daca>