

University Faculty Senate 176th Plenary Meeting – SUNY Canton

April 20-22, 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. *New Chancellor* – SUNY's new chancellor, Kristina Johnson, Was announce shortly after the plenary.
2. *Budget* – New York's commitment to operational support for SUNY continues to fall short. The budget authorizes the renewal of maintenance of effort in terms of no cuts to SUNY's budget for the next four years and authorizes the Board of Trustees to raise tuition each year by up to \$200/yr for State-operated campuses over the same four years. The language does NOT close the TAP Gap or provide funding for operational cost increases. On the other hand, the Legislature restored funding increases to opportunity programs, and there is additional funds for open educational resources. There is also significant funding for capital investments and improvements.
3. *Excelsior Scholarship (free tuition plan)* – There are a number of “catches”, both for the students/families and for SUNY. For students, they must complete 30 credits per year and enroll for at least 12 credits in any given semester to retain the scholarship. In addition, they must remain in New York after graduation for as many years as they received the scholarship. For SUNY, the availability of free tuition could well increase enrollments. On the other hand, Excelsior covers only \$5500 of SUNY tuition, and campuses must provide a tuition credit for the remainder. Furthermore, campuses can only charge the current tuition (\$6470) for the next four years to these students, which means that as tuition rises Excelsior students will not be providing any extra revenue. Fortunately, the State has agreed to cover the cost of the tuition credit out of the general fund as part of the maintenance of effort provision.
4. *General Education* – Provost Cartwright has begun the process of examining the nearly 20-year-old GenEd policy by convening a group of faculty, students, and administrators to brainstorm about what it is we wish to achieve in a 21st-century Gen. Ed. program. The group will adhere to the work that campuses have done in revising their GenEd programs, supporting the goal of seamless transfer, and being mindful of the expectations that Middle States has for GenEd. This meeting will occur on April 26th.
5. *TeachNY* – A draft resolution for the Board of Trustees has been circulating for comment; it would establish policies that will implement many of the recommendations made by the TeachNY Advisory Council.

UFS President Election

The first order of business was election of a new UFS President. Peter Knuepfer's final term is ending on June 30, 2017. There were five announced candidates vying for the position. After several ballots, Gwen Kay (SUNY Oswego) was elected.

Budget Report - *Eileen McLoughlin, Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer*

The Vice Chancellor gave a report on the outcome of the NY State budget process and answered numerous questions about the Excelsior Scholarship. Important points from the presentation regarding the enacted budget:

- Direct support was flat except for \$4M extra for open educational resources (OER)
- Maintenance of Effort will provide flat support through 2020/21 and cover Excelsior Tuition Credit up to \$20M.
- Investment Fund stays flat
- Several University-wide programs (e.g. EOP) were restored in the final budget.
- Included \$550M for SUNY in capital budget
- Predictable Tuition Plan will allow up to \$200/year tuition increase for 5 years. “TAP Gap” remains.

The following points about the Excelsior Scholarship were made:

- Students from households with AGI under \$100,000 are eligible in 2017. This rises to \$125,000 by 2019.
- Must be in an approved program, leading to an undergraduate degree at SUNY
- Must attempt at least 12 credits per semester
- Must complete 30 credits (or equivalent) in one year, includes summer and winter session
- Tuition frozen at \$6,470 for recipients, until 2021/22

- After graduation, the student must live in NY for the number of years he/she received an award.
- After graduation, the student must work ONLY in NY; cannot work in another state.
- If the post-graduation requirements aren't fulfilled, the award will be converted to a loan.

Provost's Report - *Alexander Cartwright, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor*

The Provost discussed what he has learned, both common strengths and challenges we face, from his discussions with representatives from every SUNY campuses. The Provost discussed data showing overall improvements in 4-year graduation rates, but also highlighted the significant achievement gap still present between female and male students and non-URM and URM students at SUNY schools. To illustrate one of our many challenges, the Provost showed that we will face increasing competition from neighboring states, where HS graduation rates are forecast to fall dramatically over the next 10-15 years. He then presented his rationale for what he is calling the "Educational Effectiveness and Strategic Enrollment (ESEE)" strategy:

- 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.

He used his last few minutes to present his plan to start looking at revising the SUNY General Education program.

Open SUNY/Credentialing/Competency Education - *Carey Hatch, Associate Provost for Library and Information Services and Kim Scalzo, Executive Director of Open SUNY*

Associate Provost Hatch presented on the cost of college textbooks and Open Educational Resources (OER). He pointed to several SUNY degree programs that use only OER. SUNY and NY State are investing in OER. SUNY has now created SUNY OER Services: <https://textbooks.opensuny.org/suny-oer-services/>.

Director Scalzo provided data on Open SUNY and suggested that there were opportunities to develop new on-line professional master's degrees and bachelor's degree completion programs. She also briefly discussed microcredentialing. She spent much of her time after that presenting the Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence (OS COTE), which is an Open SUNY faculty development community and the associated resources. <https://commons.suny.edu/cotehub/>

Chancellor's Report - *Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor*

The Chancellor first answered questions from the sectors. The questions were primarily designed to allow her to present her vision to us as we move forward with a new chancellor, and provide the concerns that we would like her to convey to the new chancellor during the transition. The Comprehensive Colleges pointed out the following to the Chancellor:

- We play a critical state-wide role in meeting SUNY's mission to provide "*a geographically distributed comprehensive system of diverse campuses which shall have differentiated and designated missions designed to provide a comprehensive program of higher education*"
- We have "right-sized" campuses that have good resources, equipment, and opportunities for students while still maintaining direct access to faculty expertise.
- We are the best positioned sector to show the value of liberal arts education.
- We strive to strike a balance between workforce training and liberal arts education.

Chancellor commented that there is pressure on liberal learning and professional development. She sees the opportunities on the horizon. Teach NY will have a ripple effect on education. There is the potential to develop a true 21st general education so we can revitalize our mission. The goal is to promote a virtuous cycle and not vicious cycle. The goal is to train students for their final job and to help them be adaptable and engaged citizens

SUNY General Education Middle States and Institutional Learning Outcomes - *Deborah Moeckel, Assistant Provost for Assessment and Community College Education*

The Associate Provost made a presentation detailing the differences between all-college SLOs and Institutional Core Values. She then compared SUNY-GER to Middle States general education requirements.

SUNY Student Assembly Report – *Marc Cohen, President*

Marc is reelected to a second term. The student body is in support of the excelsior scholarship. Funding for mental health awareness & services for students is a priority.

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

Child care funding and GAP funding was restored in the budget. FCCC is concerned about the impact of Excelsior. Will the requirements for minimum credits and GPA disqualify most of the students? Will developmental courses count? Nina elected for second term.

Resolutions

A very large number of resolutions were considered for passage or endorsement:

1. **Appreciation of Nancy Zimpher's Commitment to Shared Governance** (passed)
Bestows the Friend of the Senate award, highest honor to a non-member of UFS, to Chancellor Zimpher
2. **Joint Statement on Shared Governance** (already approved by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the Student Assembly). (passed)
3. **Contingent Faculty Involvement in Shared Governance** (passed, some dissention)
Five resolved clauses regarding contingent faculty participation in service and shared governance. Basically, it calls upon campuses to include contingent faculty in shared governance and to be mindful of the fact that service is often not part of their job description, so compensation should be considered.
4. **Administrative Searches at the Level of Dean and Above (Excluding Presidents)** (passed).
Calls on all campuses to include consultative search procedures within their by-laws.
5. **Part-time Assistantships** (passed)
Encourages the SUNY System Administration to eliminate any restrictions on the use of funding for assistantships for part-time students
6. **Development of a SUNY Postdoctoral Research Fellow Recruitment Program** (sent back to committee)
7. **Consider Impact of Broad-Based Fee Increases** (sent back to committee)
Recommends that SUNY consider the impact of broad-based fees on enrollment and graduation outcomes.
8. **SUNY Open Access Repository Policies** (passed)
Urges individual campus faculty governing bodies to develop and adopt open-access policies and recommends that the Stony Brook policy be used as a guide
9. **Nomination and Selection Process for Distinguished Professorships** (passed)
Aligns the criteria and selection process for all 4 Distinguished Professor ranks.
10. **Length of Service for Distinguished Professorships** (passed)
Requires 5 years to elapse between attaining Full Professor and Distinguished professor. 3 years of full-time service are required at the nominating institution.
11. **Revise Liberal Arts Credit Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree Programs** (passed)
Recommends that the Chancellor modify a 1976 policy to remove the limitations on the number of credits allowed in the major (B.A. 36, B.S. 44) or in any single discipline (B.A. 50, B.S. 60) for a SUNY undergraduate degree.
12. **Changes to Bylaws and Associated UFS Procedures** (passed)
Establishes the CGL Convener as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee
13. **Changes to Bylaws and Associated UFS Procedures** (failed)
Establishes the CGL Convener as a voting member of the Executive Committee
14. **Support of Stand-Alone Unit Head for College of Ceramics at Alfred University** (endorsed)
Calls on the President of Alfred University to re-institute the position of Associate Vice President of Statutory Affairs as a full-time and autonomous position within the university structure