179th SUNY University Faculty Senate Plenary
Spring Meeting at University at Buffalo
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**UFS President's Report** – Gwen Kay, President University Faculty Senate

1. Campus governance: UFS cannot interfere with local campus governance. UFS can help in other ways. Informal advice can be given—how would one interpret a bylaws interpretation.

   Two processes: consultation and visitation.
   - Consultation process: CGL and campus agree that there is a problem, so the next step would be an email to the UFS president asking for consultation. Two experienced individuals will help the campus. Before they go, the executive committee will craft a charge for the two-person team (budget and time frame).
   - Visitation process is longer. Request from the CGL speaking for governance and the president. Charge developed for team: two from UFS and two from system administration. This can be a year-long process with meetings with many people. If things are not going well on campus-reach out and ask for help early.

2. SUNY budget:
   - Overall decrease for direct state ed; 78.6 million dollars eliminated.
   - Decrease in overall funding for community colleges
   - Total budget 1.5 billion dollars
   - First year that SUNY got more than K-12
   - Capital funding (restricted to existing buildings), hospitals (direct support eliminated-but one time offset of 92 million dollars not clear will exist next year-could be used for behavioral help), 40 percent of SUNY budget is hospital pieces
   - Tele-counseling for mental health (for students); last year was $300,000; this year got $600,000—a pilot based in upstate (Oswego).
   - SUNY asked to rethink the funding formula: not look at FTE but look at floor. Base aid went up per FTE but we are losing students, slight win for community colleges
   - SUNY and CUNY seek to lobby together. No funding for collective bargaining. Cost system 293 million dollars; 93 million in retroactive pay plus 118 million dollars for bonuses, discretions, longevity. 1.5 billion for budget.

3. Resolution update:
   - Best practices for undocumented students: resources are being disseminated across campus and is on the agenda of diversity council.
   - Verification of campus governance on programs: since 2010, all programs have Provost signature, if individual incidences where programs happen without consultation, handle locally or email the President of UFS. A line cannot be added to the form.
   - SUNY post doctorate fellowship: money has been constant over the last 10 years. Would need to have legislative approval. Carlos Medina, head of diversity equity and inclusion: work with graduate committee-to help create SUNY post doc.
   - Advisement for international students: system working with advisers and financial aid across system.
   - Liberal arts definition: concerns from FCCC (need groundswell concern rather than draft resolution because one campus has problems with liberal arts definition—prefers to look at outcomes of what is liberal arts).
   - Faculty governance to work together-with new presidential orientation, to integrate them in shared governance system. Joe Porter will work with new campus presidents.

4. Board of Trustees: micro-credentialing has four committees for implementation. Looking for people to be on each of the four committees. Do not need to be a UFS senator. Open access policy driven in large part by resolution UFS passed: faculty governance should be involved with implementing
the usage of Stony Brook is a good model. Faculty, students and staff are encouraged to use peer reviewed journals to develop local policy. Task for faculty governance will be involved

5. New Provost: Board meeting in two weeks. New Provost will be announced. The process involved presidents from each sector and only one provost, SA and FCCC, UFS presidents, vice presidents and CDOs—14 people plus staff support.

6. Campus policies about campus sexual harassment—in June or in the fall will be a SUNY policy about sexual harassment policy

7. Food and security: driven by student assembly—in January—all campuses have a food pantry. And creation of food insecurity taskforce happened in late March. Most campuses have food pantries. Bad news: most campuses have food pantries for faculty, staff and students. see homelessness and housing insecurity on campuses

8. 2012 board passed tobacco free campuses recommendation. While may have policies on campuses, police will not enforce because it is not a legal issue because it is not legislated. At the local level can decide if this will be student conduct issue. This may affect residential students. Resources and space who would like to quit are needed. Need constant education each semester. Issue for community colleges as they do not have health centers. If building or space smoke free need to be reiterated all the time.

Executive Committee Report – Keith Landa, UFS VP/Secretary

1. Annual UFS/FCCC/CUNY joint meeting: Difficult to come up with a joint statement regarding contingent faculty.
   FCCC: focus is on getting recognition of basic faculty rights and responsibilities across the board and each campus has own contract.
   CUNY: governance and union is more integrated and includes two- and four- year campuses and the contract includes contingent faculty.
   UFS has one contract and there is varying use of contingent faculty across campuses.
   Questions raised: How to give contingent faculty more of a voice in shared governance without exploiting them for uncompensated service?
   How to maintain a healthy faculty that can serve all aspects of the academic program given the differing expectations for contingent and tenure track faculty and given the changing degree of use of contingent faculty?

2. Support for shared governance on campuses: discussed the consultation and visitation process.
   Recent work includes developing the charge and membership for consultation teams and ways to foster climate of good governance in general across the system

Open Education Resources (OER) Presentation – Mark McBride, Library Senior Strategist, SUNY

OER is low cost or free materials compared to publishers.

- McBride provided updates to OER initiative: 2017-2018 SUNY received $4 million – baseline funding: $20,000, individual sections: $8 per student enrollment, all sections of a course: $15 per student. This funding is the most any state has given to general education OER.
- Educational campaign: 12 workshops in fall 2017 and 14 workshops in spring 2018. Openness is a state of mind for higher education in NY State.
- Top enrollment: math, English, first year experience, business, psychology.
- OER will be funded for 2018-2019. SUNY will receive $4 million again.
- SUNY will send out a survey to find out how money is used: stipend for faculty, release time, support help are examples given
**Chancellor’s Report** – Kristina Johnson, Chancellor (via Zoom conference)

The Comprehensive Colleges sector received a response to questions related to her perceptions about the Comprehensive sector:

Question: Across the university colleges, we have unique and common challenges, successes, and stories. We would like to learn within our sector and share expertise. Would you like to meet with UFS senators and CGLs so that sector specific community practices can occur? Can the first meeting convene after the meeting with Chancellor and the Presidents as a buildup to follow-up?

Answer: Yes, she would love to meet.

Chancellor made a few remarks:

1. Theme of plenary is accountability. Easier to blame the person with less power. In all our roles we are in a position of power. Accountability is important. Successful executives are relentlessly reliable. One person cannot do it all. Last few months built a team and built relationships. Accountability has a lot to do with transparency. Types of partnerships: working with non-profit and for-profit. First funded partnership resulted in $600,000 – additional support for students to stay in school. Working with Grace Wong. Next 90 days will announce other partnerships.

2. Safety of students, faculty, and staff is important. What are we doing to address interpersonal violence and active shooting? After action analysis – like a cause and effect. Course equivalencies, seamless transfer, and badges are of concern. She wants to create tools to help faculty to create.

3. Request for help to bring all together to clean up the air at campuses. On websites says clean air but experience is not the case. Will take this to the executive board?

**Provost’s Report** – Grace Wang, Interim Provost & Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Dev.

Provost Wang spoke about Individualized Education.

1. Reminded the Senate about the Chancellor’s four themes: energy & sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship, individualized education, and partnership. Individualized education helps support the other three themes.

2. Allow students the flexibility and capability to learn on their terms and own pace to acquire skills. This will help students with different backgrounds succeed. Personalized education is not used—it is about individualized education.

3. Micro-credentialing: benefits include stackable credit toward degree completion, acquire job relevant skills and competencies, just-in-time targeted professional development, assist traditional and non-traditional learners, complement traditional degree programs, and can be in-class, online, or hybrid.

4. Core principles: should be initiated and developed by campuses, quality is paramount, faculty governance participation is required, meet market needs and be informed by data

5. Policy implementation: formal policy review process to address barriers and opportunities (financial aid), development of readiness assessment tools, define reporting structure in SUNY institutional research information system, and digital transcripts and portability

6. Academic advising: millennials like to be in control, like choices, are group oriented and social, inclusive, practiced users of digital technology, think differently, and likely to take risks.

7. SUNY offers 7,000 degree programs, 4,345 undergraduate degree programs. In 2016-2017 58,000 courses were offered across SUNY.

8. Degree Works-single interactive software solution. Put together academic history and academic goals. And create an individualized academic plan for each student. This is not meant to replace advisement. Degree works usage in 2017: 3.9 million logins, 230,000 users, on 43 campuses
9. SUNY transfer finders: nearly 60,000 students transfer across the SUNY system each academic year. Sixty percent are from two- to four-year campuses. Take academic history, search for programs, and compare individualized academic transfer plans. Will show requirements and credits in terms of percentage completed.

10. Cross registration: matriculated student from SUNY campus takes course at another SUNY campus. Benefits: provide course availability and decrease time to degree completion. New cross registration electronic platform replaced paper-based process. Fifty-two campuses are participating.

11. Re-enroll to complete. Many of the students do not have enough resources to finish degree. Students who withdraw before credential completion are more likely to default on federal student loans. Federal loan borrowers who attended fall 2016 or spring 2017 26,656 (state operated) 29,692 (at community colleges). In fall 2017,
   a. 130,997 received Pell Grants
   b. 11,025 enrolled in EOP programs
   c. 17,000 received Excelsior scholarship
   d. 42 percent of all matriculated undergraduate students in fall 2016 received federal loan
   e. 104,480 SUNY students were offered a TAP grant during 2016-2017

Two-year pilot projected. 29 participating campuses. 1,185 students contacted. Message themes: come back to SUNY, academic program counseling is available, free financial literacy tools and financial aid resources. 260 students reenrolled at SUNY.

Social media and the First Amendment on Campuses Today Panel Discussion — Austin Ostro, SUNY Student Assembly; Wendy Gordon, SUNY Plattsburgh; Brian Masciadrelli, SUNY Fredonia; Joel Frater, Monroe Community College; Lucinda Finley, University at Buffalo; and Sharon Cramer, UFS Parliamentarian

1. Lucinda: Government cannot restrict based on content or viewpoint of speaker even if demeaning, disrespectful, derogatory, racist, or disgusted. Hate speech is protected by the 1st Amendment. The alternative is to give the state or government the power—will lead to more harm and potentially undermine democracy. Faculty, staff, or student cannot be punished. The only exception to this is if speech is considered a threat to an individual or group or deemed to incite dangerous action. This can be punished and restricted.

2. Wendy: Three years ago, at Plattsburgh: incident of cartoon portrayal about EOP on first page of campus newspaper. Student body became diverse—forty percent of incoming class was diverse. Someone shouts racial slurs on campus two years ago. Racist snap chats sent and posted on Facebook. Reignited student fear (same day as Parkland incident). Vote of no confidence of campus president. Speaker called out that teaching faculty were oblivious to racial tensions. Faculty and student meetings occurred—informational (community and campus data involving racist activities). Role of faculty governance: not clear. Events were happening outside of the classroom and in the arena of student affairs. Faculty tend to be out of the social media loop. Faculty need to reassess curricula and own behavior by paying attention to microaggressions. Can this be avoided: every campus needs to develop an environment of inclusivity and trust. Everyone can address even if not in the curriculum (no excuse if teach math, for example). All are responsible to make sure that when students lose interest, we, faculty, do not lose interest.

3. Brian: Fredonia. Years ago when CDO was hired, panel discussion was held about diversity: does it matter and is it really a thing? Two years ago, faculty sponsored a debate: value of affirmative action—placards on the advertisements was a protest of ‘60s image of white officer and dog attacking an African American male. Students were told that certain students should not be there, despite what data said. Debate was not on the website. On Halloween 2017, people in black face off campus. Division concerning response: usage of counsel (some argue—because students were counseled argument was that students were disciplined. Division occurred because feeling that only students of
color are supported. This semester-snap chat video was of student who was being bloodied and get these people off campus. Education and teach-ins were used. Response from president and weekly updates about how these things are being addressed.

4. Austin: national and campus environment since fall 2016 have been politically charged. Students want action and they can sense when action is not taken fast enough. They need to understand the means that they have on campus to address social justice. Use better speech than hate speech. Students need to understand free speech and want faculty to stand with them. Marginalized and undocumented students need to know there is a community on campus that will be there for them.

5. Joel: American campuses are under siege, the uninvited guests, and students in charge are trends in higher education. At MCC: tweet that keeps on giving: catalyst for change, anger, and recovery. Social media posts read: N-word will be white man’s property if Trump wins. College responded to tweet. Racists on our campuses are our students; the racist employee on our campuses are our employees. We have an obligation to all who are invited to our campuses.

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

Community colleges sector asked for operational aid instead of enrollment based (FTE) with maintenance of effort from year to year. This did not happen, though CC received an increase of $100 per FTE. 17 community colleges will see a decline in state funding.

She also discussed the transfer path discussions, course equivalency process, and degree works/transfer finder, general education work force, diversity advisory council, joint statement on contingent faculty with CUNY UFS, and SUNY UFS, and shared governance award criteria.

**SUNY Student Assembly Report – Marc Cohen, President**

Marc Cohen gave his report.

1. Mental health tele-counseling (budget doubled from $300,000 to $600,000 in budget for fall 2018-2019-utilized at Onodaga Community College), funding for community colleges, educational opportunity programs (working with partners; budget restored to 17/18 appropriation levels).

2. Advocated capital investment funding, hospital funding ($78 million was cut but expected to be offset by $90 million federal appropriation for 2018-2019).

3. DREAM Act (SA met with three dozen legislators from both parties in support). SA put out statements opposing an end to DACA and worked with SUNY to lobby members of NY congressional delegation. Federal court blocked enactment of that decision, the case is working its way through the course.

4. SA opposed Prosper Act that would cut higher education programs including the Pell Grant and loan forgiveness program. SA authored a letter jointly signed by system student governments representing over 7 million students opposing these cuts.

5. SUNY Voices Conference to be held June 7-8, 2018. Conference will bring student government presidents and officers together to promote shared governance.

**United University Professionals Report – Jamie Dangler**

Jamie Dangler shared updates.

1. JANUS case (remove the requirement that public employees will be required to pay share of costs when union represents them and other legal matters). New state law will allow NY state comptroller
to collect dues. People will still have the option of joining the union. The union will not have to represent those who are not union members. Nonmembers will have to get their own counsel. Campuses will have to deal with individuals and individual attorneys who may not have experience with SUNY. Post-Janus: nonmembers will still receive dental and vision benefits.


3. Online piracy: students are selling course materials to online companies who in turn sell to other students. Need to educate own members.

**Resolutions**

1. **Announcing the names of those students who hold current US military rank at commencement ceremony. Passed.**
   Chancellor to campus presidents: that graduates with military rank (current or retired) be afforded opportunity for their military title be included if names are announced at graduation or included in commencement program. State op campuses should develop verification processes.

2. **Requesting the Creation of a SUNY Office of Ombuds Services. Sent Back to Committee.**
   Office will be a resource for shared governance and support peace building efforts. SUNY administration, UFS, campus administrations, and campus governance bodies all should have access to Ombuds Services

3. **Inclusion of non-tenured and non-tenure track faculty for the Chancellor’s Award in Faculty Service. Passed.**
   Chancellor adjust eligibility for faculty service award to include full-time, non-tenure track faculty

4. **Inclusion of non-tenured and non-tenure track faculty for the Chancellor’s Award in Scholarship and Creative Activities. Passed.**
   Chancellor adjust eligibility for scholarship and creative activity to include full-time, non-tenure track faculty

5. **Creation of UFS Senate Communications Committee. Passed.**
   Establish the ad hoc communication committee to become a standing committee. Committee will seek to implement and continually enhance methods of internal and external communication in order to disseminate news in a timely manner.