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UFS *focus*

A SYNOPSIS OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE'S (UFS) PLENARY MEETING PROCEEDINGS TO INFORM THE BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE SENATE AND ITS WORK

The official UFS post-plenary report and all resolutions are available on the UFS website: <http://www.sunyufs.us/all-docs-183rd-system.html>.

President Kay's Report

General Education – There has been a green paper and a white paper crafted as part of the GE revision process. A new GE committee is currently being organized and will be charged to draft the new SUNY GE requirements. It is estimated the new GE should be ready for implementation on campuses in two years.

Seamless Transfer – Assessment of initial work was completed. Revisions were deemed needed for a third of pathways.

Student Mental Health and Wellness – A SUNY Task Force has been created to address these issues, and initial report is

expected at the end of December 2019.

SUNY Online – The pilot of SUNY Online is underway with concerns from UFS about hasty implementation. While there are currently only nine campuses participating (total enrollment of 243), larger concerns loom that must be addressed as the initiative expands (Sp20 +11; F20 +6).

Presidential Searches – There are eleven searches happening now. UFS has expressed concern about transparency, shared governance, and presidential onboarding and review.

National Council on Faculty Senates – The group is currently organizing itself into existence,



with President Kay's involvement. The NCFS will be involved in national higher ed advocacy efforts and will allow campus governance leaders to discuss issues of common concern.

Advocacy – The NYS legislature thanked and Dr. Kay encouraged UFS and campuses to continue their budget advocacy work.



CHANCELLOR JOHNSON'S REPORT

Chancellor Kristina Johnson updated the UFS body on the 19-20 AY priorities of SUNY (i.e., eleven Presidential searches; the PRODiG initiative; SUNY Online; SUNYAchieve; sustainable hospital operations; energy sustainability initiatives; a new Design Arts competition; growing research capacity; and developing partnerships with industry, government, and NGOs). She also provided updates on the PRODiG initiative, enrollment across the system, the Excelsior scholarship, SUNYAchieve, SUNY Online, awards received within SUNY (e.g., Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham (Binghamton) being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry), and SUNY outreach efforts.



Questions to the Chancellor

UFS is organized into sectors of similar institutional types and each sector is invited to ask the Chancellor up to three questions at the plenaries.

Buffalo State is part of the Comprehensive College sector, along with Brockport, Cortland, Empire State, Fredonia, Geneseo, New Paltz, Old Westbury, Oneonta, Oswego, Plattsburgh, and Purchase. Our sector asked three questions:

A question was asked about senior leadership turnover, searches, following Board of Trustees (BOT) guidelines and involving shared governance in searches, and what SUNY is doing to ensure campus leaders are successfully engaging in mission-centered leadership and shared governance.

Next, a question was asked about how SUNY plans to inventory, assess, and determine the return on investment (ROI) of current SUNY initiatives. Additionally, it was asked if SUNY can assist campuses in conducting similar assessments.

Finally, the sector asked how we could help System and the BOT with SUNY budget advocacy.

[Visit the official post-plenary report online for the Chancellor's answers to sector questions!](#)

The other UFS sectors asked questions about these issues:

University Centers: low faculty compensation, SUNY Online, the Liberal Arts in SUNY priorities

Specialized and Statutory: reorganization, shared governance, and budgeting

Health Sciences: replacing a vacant leadership position

Technology and Agriculture: test-optional admissions, SUNY Online, budget model

Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs) – presidential searches, consensual relationships policy, budget issues re: base allocations

Additional reports and remarks were provided by:

- Board of Trustees Chair Merryl Tisch: Introduction; applaud shared governance; presidential searches; unfunded mandates
- SUNY Provost Todd Laursen: Fall Enrollment Update, including announcing that there is a new Vice Provost for Strategy and Planning to focus on enrollment management and planning; General Education update; International Education Strategic Review is being initiated; Student Wellness Task Force; Seamless Transfer; SUNY Online
- SUNY Senior Library Strategist Mark McBride: Update on SUNY's negotiations with Elsevier
- Student Assembly President Austin Ostro: Federal advocacy priorities (i.e., expanding work study, increasing Pell award amounts and access, reinstatement of Pell for incarcerated students, Title IX amendments, FAFSA simplification), State advocacy priorities (i.e., community college funding, closing the TAP gap, funding mental health resources, EOP funding); SA events—such as a conference 11/15-17/19 and Advocacy Week 11/18-22/19—resolutions; website relaunch: www.sunysa.org
- Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) President Christy Fogal: priorities; resolutions; initiatives; website: <https://system.suny.edu/fccc/>
- CUNY Senate Chair Martin Burke: CUNY leadership changes; online education; charter revisions; website: <http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/>

Please visit the UFS website for the official UFS post-plenary report, full reports to the UFS body, all resolutions, and information about upcoming UFS events.

<http://www.sunyufs.us/all-docs-183rd-system.html>

December 12-13, 2019: President Kay's BSC Visit
January 16-18, 2020: Winter Plenary

Action from the 183rd UFS Plenary

Resolutions

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee:

"Establishment of Standing Campus Senate EID Committees" (passed)

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee:

"Maintaining Welcoming, Inclusive and Safe Campus Environments through Annually Affirming SUNY Diversity and Inclusion Values" (passed)

Operations Committee and Graduate Programs and Research Committee:

"Support for SUNY Negotiations for a fair and reasonable contract with Elsevier" (passed)

Executive Committee:

"Research Misconduct Investigation Policies" (passed)

Floor Action: *"Recognition of 2019 Nobel Prize for Chemistry Awarded to Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science M. Stanley Whittingham"* (passed)

Motions

The University Faculty Senate endorses the 6 June 2019 action of the Executive Committee to pass the resolution *"In Support of Downstate Resolutions on Research Misconduct Policies"* (passed)

The University Faculty Senate endorses the 11 October 2019 FCCC resolution *"Resolution on Open Presidential Search Processes"* (passed)

The University Faculty Senate endorses the 5 October 2019 FCCC resolution *"Resolution in Response to SUNY Online Response"* (passed)

