UFS President's Report – Gwen Kay, President University Faculty Senate

The President’s report covered a wide range of topics affecting SUNY and faculty governance:

1. General Education – The General Education will be a three year process. During the first year, the general education committee will generate a white paper after reviewing current and best practices within SUNY and the Middle States’ standards. In the second year, a system-wide task force will recommend specific revisions. In the third year, recommendations will be finalized and the general education program will be implemented.

2. Provost Search – The search for the next System Provost of SUNY has begun. Provost Search Committee Chair is Dr. Samuel Stanley who sent out a call for nominations. Only names and current institution or organization of potential candidates are requested. This information is to be submitted to ProvostSearch@suny.edu. The Search Committee will contact those nominees who best meet the criteria and will invite them to submit their CV if they are interested in the position. For more information about the position and application process, visit http://www.suny.edu/provost-search/.

3. Charter Schools – Resolution put forth by the Executive Committee in response to the Regulatory Action Taken by the Charter School Committee of the SUNY Board of Trustees. New legislation has authorized charter schools to develop their own teacher certification process. UFS urges the Board of Trustees to exercise its authority to alter, amend, revise or repeal the provisions that allow Charter School teachers to have different criteria to practice to teach. See press release written by Joe Marren.

SUNY Student Assembly Report – Marc Cohen, President

Marc Cohen discussed access and affordability: excelsior scholarship. The Student Assembly has a robust agenda. Focus will be on supporting DACA/Dream Act, food security, mental healthcare, and maintaining and strengthening shared governance partnerships.

Special Guest – Bruce G. Wilson Jr., The Conversation US

The Conversations US brings together the academic and journalistic worlds. Editors work with academic experts to bring knowledge to the public in readable, accessible articles. The goal is to eliminate jargon and focus on what is interesting, and explain complicated issues clearly. They publish eight to ten articles daily in politics, science, technology, health, arts, culture, society, education, environment, energy, business, ethics, and religion. Each article is 800-1100 words and based on the author’s research. The Conversation US works with AP, WGBH in Boston, Wisconsin Public Radio, and Community Newspapers. See http://theconversation.com/us/team for more information.

Chancellor’s Office Report – Kristina Johnson, SUNY Chancellor

The Chancellor answered questions from the sectors. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including vision of state-owned Academic Health Sciences Centers, initiatives and innovations, increasing the resources available to SUNY, and diversifying faculty. The Comprehensive Colleges sector asked and received answers to the following questions (paraphrasing):

Q1. Given SUNY’s mission to provide broad access to high-quality academic, professional, and vocational post-secondary programs to the people of New York, what is your view of the role and value of the comprehensive colleges sector in carrying out this mission? Where does our sector fit into your vision for SUNY?
A: Many of you have heard me talk about the importance of the mission of the university, and its role in passing on culture to the next generation. This is a core, concentrated mission for your sector (not that other sectors don’t contribute). It is very important that campuses in your sector be robust as a place for CC students to continue and for your graduates to move on to UCs and health science centers.

Q2: The Comprehensives Sector fully supports the resolution that’s coming before the body on charter schools, not simply because teacher preparation is a core, indeed foundational, value of our sector, but also because we value equity in educational opportunity, expert knowledge, research-based policies, and shared governance. We plan to advocate for the repeal of the Charter School Committee instructor certification process and regulations, as they are inconsistent with the SUNY values listed above. How can our sector support you in upholding the values and mission of the State University of New York?

A: On charter schools, you know we’ve been sued and I’ve been named as Chancellor in the suit. So I can’t comment at this point.

Upon completing responses to sector questions, Chancellor Johnson gave her report.

- Summarized her goals for her first months in office: building the administrative team, building relationships across SUNY and developing a robust budget. She seeks development of a shared vision for SUNY, enhancing funding, and developing resources to carry out the vision.
- Composed new cabinet of Vice Chancellors and three governance leaders (UFS, FCCC, SA). The cabinet is smaller than previous cabinet
- Shared her view of SUNY’s mission: to serve local communities while addressing global issues. Example: sustainable village in Haiti, 11 SUNY campuses. Wants ideas for SUNY in Puerto Rico.
- Shared her key values: access; excellence; innovation (notes that arts often overlooked); outreach; and productive life for citizens/graduate.
- Discussed benchmarking the state of SUNY compared to other systems. SUNY research expenditures are the highest among our peers. The limited number of full-time faculty limits total external funding. SUNY has the lowest percentage of full-time faculty in most sectors than national averages. One approach to increase the percentage could be bridging faculty: identifying top undergraduates, helping them achieve doctorates (whether at SUNY or elsewhere), bringing them back as SUNY faculty. This may be particularly helpful in recruiting faculty from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Discussed her goals: creating dynamic individual academic pathways growth in research and facilities; growing endowments on campuses and for all of SUNY (including focus on alumni), and being sustainable (SUNY doing well reducing greenhouse emissions).


- Of the 605,000 resident undergraduate students at SUNY and CUNY, 192,000 are part-time and do not qualify for Excelsior Scholarship Program. Subtracting those who do not take 30 credits a year and whose families earn over $100,000, and those who do not receive an award as their tuition is fully covered, a total of 31,000 are eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship Program prior to income requirements.
- The estimated cost from SUNY to the State, combined Excelsior Scholarship (from the State) and Excelsior Tuition Credit (from the campuses, to be reimbursed by the State), is $27M to $28M this year, probably growing to $30M as complete information comes in. This is roughly half what had been anticipated.
- Performance Improvement Fund Community of Practices were broken into four areas: high impact practices, academic technologies and infrastructure, diversity and inclusion, and critical workforce needs
• 185 PIF proposals were advanced. Award notifications will be sent out by the beginning of November


• Communication: Face to face meetings are critical. Interim Provost Wang desires to put communication mechanism in place.
• Nationwide the public institutions have seen enrollment increase; SUNY has seen flat enrollment. Percentage of high school graduates in NYS is expected to be less than 5 percent increase through 2026. High school students by race/ethnicity - by 2025-2026 the minority students will be the majority. SUNY’s enrollment is currently 25 percent of underrepresented minority.
• Program Proposal Statistics: Last year, SUNY received 495 proposals. SUNY took an average of 54 days to respond, campuses took an average of 26 days to respond back to SUNY, and NY State Ed. took an average of 154 days to respond. Currently, there are 183 programs pending at NY State Ed.
• Task Force for Micro-Credentialing: drive the enrollment of non-traditional student population

Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report – Nina Tamrowski, President

Nina Tamrowski discussed the Charter School proposal, Guided pathways, performance-based funding, and micro-credentialing without faculty awareness or governance. Initiatives include mentoring new delegates, improving communication techniques, conducting a survey on local general education, reviewing services for student veterans, researching national general education models.

Resolutions

1. To Recognize the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day (passed)
   (a) endorse the SA assembly resolution, (b) recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day instead of Columbus Day, (c) engage in discussions with indigenous peoples, and (c) request that the UFS president bring this matter to the UUP and SUNY Board of Trustees asking that the name be changed on SUNY calendars. This is not a request for the state to rename the day but for campuses to use Indigenous Peoples’ Day on their calendars.

2. To Provide Free Access to Menstrual Products at All SUNY Campuses in All Restrooms (passed)
   SUNY develop and fund programs to provide free menstrual products in all campus restrooms.

3. Recommendations for Academic Advisers Related to Financial Aid (passed)
   (a) campuses should make clear that academic decisions may impact financial aid, and (b) SUNY develop and deploy an automated financial aid system that would be customize students’ financial aid situations

4. Recommendation on Broad-Based Fees (passed)
   (a) broad-based fees be appropriately scrutinized to ensure that they are appropriate, and (b) that they are implemented and administered in line with current policy and guidelines.

5. Attendance Policy Accommodation for United States Military Drills and Training (passed)
   (a) a policy be created such that military obligations are treated as excused absences according to campus policies, and that (b) SUNY adopt a policy that any obligation that cannot be fully accommodated be eligible for a non-penalizing military withdrawal while preserving educational status and financial resources.

6. Resolution in Response to the Regulatory Action Taken by the Charter School Committee of the SUNY Board of Trustees (passed)
   Condemns the action of the Charter School Committee and that the UFS urges the BOT to use its authority to amend/alter/repeal the provisions.