

SUNY Spring 2022 Plenary (Tarrytown, April 8-9)

1. Introductions by Hosts Campuses (College of Optometry and Downstate Health Services)
2. President's Report (Keith Landa, Purchase College)
 - a. Executive Committee reported out 2 resolutions since last meeting (see website re: budget and Ukraine). Landa messaged it by pushing back against authoritarian movements across the world.
 - b. State Budget
 - i. Hochul's state of the state remarks on SUNY were "very inspiring" and some of the most encouraging in years.
 - ii. Recent legislative response to exec budget tweaks some language but most of the details seems encouraging as well. State leaders now say they have a "conceptual agreement."
 - iii. Board Actions
 1. Presidential appts (Empire State, Alfred State)
 2. Honorary Degrees
 3. Property transfers/program approvals
 4. Transcript withholding for outstanding fees – eliminated
 5. Single use plastics – task force to explore elimination on campus
 6. Student athlete name, image, likeness policy
 7. Health Science Centers discussion
 - iv. Campus searches (presidents)
 1. New Paltz (final candidate about to be recommended), Oswego (recruitment underway), Potsdam (planning discussions underway, committee to be charged in May), POLY (??)
 - v. System
 1. All searches (Provost, CFO, CDO) all frozen until new Chancellor hired
 - vi. General Education
 1. DEISJ issues and concerns
 - a. Went through several system-wide concerns regarding designations, implementation, etc.
 - b. Shows up as a subject/knowledge area course, not an unfused gen ed as originally expected
 - i. This is not diversity training but an academic enterprise, not every instructor or course would be appropriate for this category.
 - ii. SUNY promises resources to help campuses meet this requirement; apparently there is a survey out there in an attempt to determine what is already out there in terms of campus resources; little traction thus far; there are links to resources on the SUNY Gen Ed website on System website—right now they focus more on inclusive teaching rather than creating courses that would meet this gen ed category

- vii. DLE and Brightspace Migration
 - 1. Discussed process thus far; Landa thinks it is going to be a messy, confusing process; etc.
 - viii. Seamless Transfer
 - 1. Standing committee has been dormant over pandemic
 - ix. Campus Consultation and Visitation Processes
 - 1. Landa discussed how pandemic has undercut shared governance processes across the nation; went over the two processes that SUNY FS provides campuses that are experiencing difficulties
- 3. VP President
 - a. Introduction of 3 resolutions
 - b. Possibly 2 resolutions coming from the floor
- 4. UUP Presentation – Fred Kowal (delivered from their delegate assembly in Albany)
 - a. Offered a brief overview of UUP’s budget advocacy and some of the preliminary budget news.
 - b. Budget is better than anything under Cuomo, we might start turning the corner from “austerity budget” of the past 10 years.
 - c. Advocacy must continue for resources (non-budgetary even)
 - d. Discussed the difficulty advocating for a system that is so diverse, spread across the state, and appeals to local constituencies. Different in this regard from CUNY or even some other public institutions.
 - e. Timeline for contract negotiations
 - i. Moving towards finalizing a list of demands to state by end of April
 - ii. He doesn’t know what is on this list as that is not his role
 - iii. UUP has requested meetings with Gov office by April, probably more likely by May (before contract expires on June 30). CSEA has been meeting with Gov office (slowly due to Gov resignation and their own internal issues). These meetings have been irregular.
- 5. CUNY Presentation (Matthew Cotter)
 - a. Discussed enormous turnover in provost, presidents office, etc
 - b. Shared Governance Problems
 - i. Very poor, bitter communication
 - 1. Find out about “innovative” policies after the fact
 - c. Enrollment – “spooky”
 - i. Complete secrecy, no information coming out of administration; threatened with a FOIL claim until the administration responded; 2 days after numbers provided the CFO was removed
 - d. Accomplishments – managed to achieve only through direct work with deans (not provost’s office or presidents)
 - i. Credit for Prior Learning – will be implemented this coming fall; actual faculty consultation occurred
 - ii. FAAB – faculty affairs advisory board – faculty consultation on pedagogy models and implementation

- iii. InfoPortals – UFS can reach all 18,000 faculty at once; this had been blocked by CUNY after 2011 after CUNY retaliated against CUNY for suing them
 - e. DEI
 - i. Academic Freedom Resolution
 - ii. IDEA Committee
 - iii. Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI) – CUNY has received a \$10 million grant regarding this project, no faculty know where the money is and where the money will be direct.
- 6. FS VP – Candidate Introductions – speeches
- 7. Diversity Initiatives – Valerie Dent (Interim Chief Diversity Officer)
 - a. PRODiG – gave some history of program; going back to July 2018
 - i. Faculty Program
 - ii. Fellowship Program (pipeline opportunities)
 - iii. Funded – 34 (8 doctoral; 12 comprehensive; 3 Ag/Tech, 11 from CC)
 - This is out of 45 submissions
 - Broke down number of URM and WSTEM
 - iv. Changed funding model for slots from cohort 1 to forthcoming cohort 3 (recent cohorts pay less first year and increase money in second and third years to incentivize retention).
 - v. Review for cohort 3 will be announced in coming weeks; will be limited to incoming faculty
 - vi. To date, SUNY has 20 Prodig fellows over 13 campuses
 - b. DEI Action Plan
 - i. Summarized some highlights of the 25 points (yes 25)
 - ii. To date 16 out of the 25 points have been completed or are close to completion.
 - c. Chief Diversity Officer Search Update
 - i. National search will launch in May 2022; with committee and a search firm; needs to be aligned with the current chancellor search
 - d. Q & Q
 - i. Some processes have been delayed due to turnover in positions in SUNY Central
- 8. BOT – Meryll Tisch
 - a. Announced lengthy members of search committee and discussed four working groups with 59 members who will be involved; they have discussed approaches with search firm (Atchinson Moore)
 - b. “Document of Interest” to be released today (April 8) to let interested parties know we are looking at applications;
 - c. Tisch spent some time explaining why the last search lacked transparency and was rushed, ultimately attributed to the fact that the 3 search firms she contacted wouldn’t take on the task of leading the search.
- 9. Interim Chancellor (DS)
 - a. Budget – good but not a “windfall” as Tisch described;
 - b. Described her vision for SUNY as an interim chancellor; how she might add value;
 - c. Gov’s State of the State Address

- i. DS touched upon how many areas SUNY could play a role in Gov's vision; governor had well over 100 initiatives for SUNY;
 - ii. Aspects of revitalizing SUNY; DS raised flagship references;
 - d. Q & Q
 - i. CGLs
 - 1. Enrollment challenges; DS discussed early efforts to send state of the art software and hardware to all campuses to improve enrollment management efforts; she will meet with all sector presidents every 3 weeks.
 - 2. Emphasized campuses primarily responsible for enrollment but System there for strategic planning; discussed tensions between sectors in terms of enrollment.
 - 3. Searches w/o consultation at dean level and up; DS mentions the BOT of policies but CGL leader states they are often ignored; DS says she will raise this with presidents;
 - ii. Comprehensives
 - iii. Centers
 - iv. Statutory, etc.
 - 1. 2 concerns re: POLY which DS joked about; about search for presidents and reunification between SUNY Poly and Albany;
 - v. Not much new in other questions

Day 2

- 10. OER Update (Keith Landa filling in for Mark McBride) – open education resources
 - a. A discussion of the advantages of the SUNY OER site for classes where there are few existing textbooks or they are too expensive.
 - b. See SUNY General Education support website
- 11. Committee Reports
 - a. Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity – haven't had a System or student liaison this year which made their work more difficult this year.
 - i. DEISJ – created two subcommittees to assess expertise across SUNY to determine if there existed the necessary expertise to address the then Chancellor's 25 point plan. The other subcommittee was tasked with creating best practices that may be a resource for all campuses. The committee asks for campuses to let them know what is currently happening locally on this front (there is a survey out there).
 - ii. There is a joint subcommittee working on a policy for preferred pronouns.
 - b. Programs & Awards – revised and offered advice to System regarding Chancellor's Award, Shared Governance Award, and Chancellor's Award in Adjunct Teaching. Committee asked for advice as to how to generate more applications for all the awards, particularly the Shared Governance Award.
 - c. Student Life – discussed membership, etc..

- d. President Landa reminded the body that any faculty and professional staff member on our campuses may join these senate committees. The call for new members is coming shortly.
12. Election for FS Sector Rates
- a. Jan Trybula was elected VP of Faculty Senate (22-18)
13. Resolutions & Voting
- a. Health Science Centers Sector of the SUNY University Faculty Senate
 - i. Questions were raised over the cost of creating more administrators to oversee this effort as well as who would have sufficient credentials on a campus to be a wellness officer. Committee member from Upstate made a fairly convincing reply using a tree metaphor regarding health.
 - ii. Resolution passed
 - b. Resolution: Costs of Administration Study
 - i. Debate ensued
 - ii. Passed (37-3)
 - c. Resolution: Recognition of Service to UFS by Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Bringsjord
 - i. Passed unanimously
 - d. Presidential Searches (passed)
 - e. A Resolution Reiterating University Faculty Senate Commitment to Condemn Workplace Bullying and Harassment (referred to committee)