

SUNY University Faculty Senate

192nd Plenary, Fall 2022

Purchase College

October 22, 2022

Purchase College Welcome (President Pena)

President's Report (Keith Landa, Purchase College)

- Winter plenary will be remote and spring plenary will be hosted by Upstate Medical
- *Gen Ed*
 - o GE framework website; Keith went over timeline for new categories, etc.; last update was 1998; website may be useful for guidance regarding implementation
 - o Keith doesn't expect another 20 years before the next update, stated the last update was more collaborative
 - o Memo to Presidents coming out shortly regarding implementation that attempts to answer questions that have arisen over the past year, attempts to clarify some points and clear up some confusion. This draft will go to campus chief academic officers as well and Keith will share with CGL list as well. CGL's may then gather comments from campus to forward to the chief academic officer on campus (Provost).
 - o DEISJ capacity building
 - This has been the most challenging area so 4 new proposals coming (such as creating "diversity fellows" to assist campuses) along with proposals for funding initiatives awaiting approval from SUNY Central
- *Prior Learning Assessment*
 - o Categories of PLA: SUNY's policy in this area has not been updated in quite some time so a new version is working its way through various levels of review. This will attempt to define categories (Keith offered some examples that are already in use on many campuses) of PLA that universities may consider as well as defining credit for other learning.
 - o Attempts to promote consistency across campuses
 - o From a governance perspective, it is important how our voices are heard and shape these policies
- *Student Mobility & Seamless Transfer*
 - o Work in this area slowed during pandemic so will once again review transfer paths, transfer issues, and transfer tools
- *Bigger SUNY Picture*
 - o SUNY focus in State of the State Address (very high prominence and additional funding—for example closing TAP gap, news funds for faculty hires, money for one time projects that promote enrollment, address equity issues, etc.), this money has been distributed to campuses. The hope being that the success from this effort will be such that the legislature will pass additional money next year so it is important that SUNY highlights any and all success in this area.
- Searches and Inaugurations

- Chancellor search is proceeding but Keith could not provide any details; search for a new diversity officer has started; the SUNY provost search will begin once the chancellor search is resolved
- Keith gave an update on campuses search (shout out to Oswego's failed search!); Delhi searching; Buff State president has announced resignation; Potsdam searching; there will be no movement on search for new president of SUNY Poly until its relationship to UAlbany and the nanotech program is resolved (my guess this will be on the new chancellor's plate)
- *Board of Trustees*
 - Keith recommended we examine archives on website

Exec Committee Report & Resolutions Report (Jan Trybula, UFS VP & Sec)

- Exec Committee Mtg
 - Jan gave a brief summary of some of the points they discussed
- Resolutions Introduction
 - See resolutions on Saturday

SUNY BoT Chair – Merryl Tisch (zooming in from her car)

- Gave the usual summary of the chancellor's search; pretty vague and slogan filled
- Discuss inflationary pressures on system, which she describes as "formidable," looking at a pretty significant financial downturn in the state of NY which coupled with inflationary pressures will be problematic
- Tisch predicts a "financial tsunami" for state and nation that will be difficult to negotiate, hence the need for a very good chancellor
- All in all a rather depressing 10 minutes

Q & A with SUNY Chancellor (Interim Chancellor Stanley)

- Opened with some general comments
- *Health Sciences*
 - Staffing and pay raise questions; discussion of poor morale in academic hospital centers; DS basically said her options are quite limited without legislation; she said that these matters have long been dealt with band-aids so a comprehensive solutions are necessary that can be provided by legislature and governor
- Specialized & Statutory Colleges
 - Discussion of specific needs of this sector
 - DS notes that being smaller schools with small enrollment has always been a disadvantage in the SUNY system that used to be better addressed.
 - DS encourages these schools work to better align with other campuses to promote their interests and programs; acknowledged difficulty that several schools in this sector are physically or financially constrained to grow enrollment (place bound, some programs are very expensive); essentially argued for better marketing to help make public more aware these schools offer unique and vital programs

- - (3rd question regarding support for schools with budget deficits)
- - DS argued that SUNY is supporting these campuses right now by allowing them to operate with deficits. DS went back to the need to increase enrollment to help address this issue. Made it clear that additional funds from the legislature not likely.
- *CGL Questions*
 - Question on promoting more shared faculty governance
 - DS discussed her experience and commitment to shared governance
 - Question on declining enrollment, are there ways System can improve communication about various strategies to improve recruitment (campuses hearing different things)
 - DS discussed new SUNY enrollment plan, discussed how novel it is and will be rolled out shortly (free application week, recruitment in NYC, etc.,)
 - DS discussed the discontinuing support for SUNY online program and she emphasized how this will have no impact upon campus online programs. It was not financially viable.
 - Asked for advocacy in getting more civil servant exams and increasing the number of full college board appointments
- *University Sectors*
 - Question on lack of faculty/staff consultation on curriculum between presidents and senates; fears more no confidence votes; also discusses that arts & humanities are being overlooked for funds that are instead going to research positions in the sciences that seem mainly designed to get outside grants
 - DS echoed many of the points she mentioned in earlier questions. Discussed using different techniques to somehow change the dynamic between senates and presidents (webinars, third party groups that help professional development in higher ed)
- *Q & A From Floor*
 - Question on Budget Resolution
 - DS emphasized the importance of she and FS working together to advocate for SUNY. Emphasized the importance having SUNY requests align with governor's priorities
 - Question from Liz on presidential search guidelines & BoT
 - DS generally agreed the guidelines are not working and need another look
 - Question from doctor at Upstate "begging" for help and discussed the dire situation of his institution and other hospitals (critically ill kid from Oswego had to go to NYC because Upstate had no beds and enough nurses)
 - DS listed ways they are attempting to help hospitals and how they are unique and are treated strangely by state laws and practices
 - Question on Upstate-Crouse merger in wake of FTC statement
 - DS argued that more study needs to happen; stated that no hospital in region is doing especially well; acknowledges the competition in Syracuse region is serious

- Provost's Initiatives for Fall 2022
 - o Academic Program Review Process
 - Detailed how her office is attempting to streamline this VERY complicated (convoluted?) process
 - The Interim Vice Provost went through the approval process for new programs and how they plan to remove some steps. It was as exciting as it sounds!
 - Discussed how the reduction of manual entry and emails is very time consuming. They are now using a new software program called *Kulai* that they expect will improve things.
- General Education Framework
 - o Discussed new framework and stream-lining, mainly SUNY System will no longer approve gen ed courses, only recording them. Thus campuses will be the final level of approval.
 - o DEISJ – discussed ideas for further supports including training opportunities, diversity fellows, getting DEI Teaching and Learning Certificates, creating a Diversity in Curriculum Conference, AAS/AOS DEISJ Infusion Peace
- Credit for Prior Learning – Provost discussed the benefits of credit evaluation
- DLE Implementation
 - o Discussion of where different cohorts are at presently; Oswego is in cohort 1 and moving to “full production”
 - o Brightspace training update
- Microcredentials
 - o New milestone reached with over 500 microcredentials on 32 campuses
 - o See www.suny.edu/microcredentials
- Q & A
 - o How are microcredentials stacked? How is the process being assessed or implemented on campus?

SUNY Student Assembly (SA President Alexandria Chun)

- Agenda items: food insecurity, title IX, accessibility issues, increase of mental health resources

Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report (FCCC President Christy Woods)

- Gave an overview of college presidential searches
- Discussed resolutions from their plenary last week
- Lots of the usual issues

CUNY Faculty Senate (CUNY UFS President John Verzani)

- Relatively new president; noted that it seems CUNY is behind SUNY and following in the SUNY trail
- 60-70% of classes are taught by adjunct faculty so of the \$53 million they have received they are hiring lecturers (not TT but better than adjuncts).
- Worried CUNY will be in a very difficult financial position next year without increased funding. Several campuses depend upon federal funding to balance their budgets.

- CUNY also dealing with microcredentials (they are just beginning), increasing online learning, credits for prior learning, etc.
- Tuition revenue were down 10-15% then what was expected, could be covered by federal funds this year but not next. Com College enrollment down 30% over the past 3 years. Due mainly to pandemic and changes in remediation programs. Retention is down as well.
- Mayor warning that CUNY will be cut 30% across the board but he doesn't believe it.

UUP (President Fred Kowal)

- Started their advocacy campaign earlier than ever (visiting Albany, Delhi, ESF, Cortland, Morrisville) in an attempt to get action by governor who he has described as "an ally." Despite a good budget last year, 15 years of a lack of investment has put several colleges in desperate straights.
- UUP emphasizing the significant economic impact these institutions have to their communities as well as their cultural impact. Trying to get ahead of the curve and lobby governor before she makes her budget in January.
- UUP is calling for the expansion of mental health resources, tied it to his visit to Buff State and the recent mass shooting in that city.
- SUNY cannot sustain itself solely upon tuition and fees. It is time to put the public back in public education.
- Contract Negotiations
 - o Have had over 50 meetings with members to get demands organized
 - o Have been at table for several months, atmosphere has been "much more positive" than they had been with Cuomo's people; there have been some suggestions for post-tenure review but nothing specific, more troubling language about hospital employees.
 - o UUP for first time is demanding more across the board increases than CSEA. Very extremely to do (calling for 4% raise in one year where CSEA got 3%). It has only happened once in the past 50 years.
 - o Demanding \$7K per course for adjuncts, in an attempt to build upon last contract
 - o Calling for more regional pay adjustments
 - o Demanding "longevity pay" which CSEA and other units already have
 - o Demanding more protections for telecommuting
 - o Discussed success in getting retention bonus for most health workers; critical retention feature
 - o Kowal "hinted" that Hochul should get our support next month
- Q & Q

Undergraduate Committee Presentation

- A discussion of a survey that was given on the subject of how faculty/staff handled teaching under covid.

Saturday, Oct. 22

Committee Reports

- Various committees gave 5 minute overviews on their goals for the coming year

Resolutions

- **GOV:** "[192-01-1 Amendment to the SUNY UFS Guidelines](#)"
 - To better align the Guidelines with the intent of the SUNY UFS Bylaws by stating that the Fall Planning Meeting shall be in-person attendance and that accommodations for remote access will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - Passed by Executive Committee vote unopposed on October 20, 2022
- **GOV:** "[192-02-1 Amendment to the SUNY UFS Standing Rules](#)"
 - To better align the Guidelines with the intent of the SUNY UFS Bylaws by stating that the Fall Planning Meeting shall be in-person and that the Executive Committee may determine that the meeting needs to be synchronously remote because of health or safety concerns.
 - For: 42 / Against: 0
- **EID/SL:** "[192-03-1 SUNY SLSC handling of college-held Perkins Loan payments and interest during the pandemic](#)"
 - To ask the Chancellor to work with all needed bodies to suspend repayment of state-held Perkins Loans as well as protect credit and allow for opt out, so as to be aligned with the Federally-held Perkins Loans.
 - For: 41 / Against: 0
- **EXEC:** "[192-04-1 State Executive Budget advocacy](#)"
 - To have the UFS President work with SUNY System Administration to advocate the governor for expanded support for SUNY and CUNY"
 - For: 43 / Against: 0
- **SUNY Maritime:** "[192-05-1 Commemoration of Karen Markoe](#)"
 - Recognition of the service of Distinguished Professor Karen Markoe, first woman president of UFS
 - Passed by voice acclamation with no dissent
- **EXEC:** "[192-06-1 Statement on Iran](#)"
 - Asking the Chancellor to support SUNY Iranian and Iranian-American students, faculty, and staff
 - For: 41 / Against 0