

University Faculty Senate 175th Winter Plenary Meeting Report SUNY College at Old Westbury (January 19-21, 2017)

To: SUNY Delhi College Senate and members of the Campus Community
 From: Dr. Terry Hamblin, SUNY Delhi University Faculty Senator
 Subject: University Faculty Senate 2017 175th Winter Plenary Meeting Report
 Date: January 22, 2017

Introduction

The University Faculty Senate (UFS) 2017 Winter Plenary meeting took place between January 19th and 21st at SUNY Old Westbury on Long Island. Topics discussed were Chancellor Zimpher's departure in June 2017; the impact of the election of Donald Trump; Governor Cuomo's "free tuition" initiative; micro-credentialing; the fate of DACA students; and the 2017/18 SUNY Budget.

President's Report, UFS President Dr. Peter Knuepfer (Binghamton)

- Discussion of Chancellor Zimpher's final year and the future direction of SUNY. Update on search. New chancellor expected to be announced at the May Board of Trustees meeting
- UFS President term ends at the end of the academic year; election for new UFS President at Spring Plenary meeting in Canton.
- Update on UFS social media and communications, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts
- SUNY Budget Update. Discussion of Governor Cuomo's "free tuition" plan (Excelsior Scholarship) for families earning less than \$125K. Funding mechanism is post-Pell, post-TAP funding? Students must be registered full-time (earn at least 15 credits per semester) to be eligible. HESC will develop implementation guidelines for Excelsior Scholarships.
 - SUNY estimates 15% increase in student enrollment
 - Hidden implications/complications of proposal
 - Request of tuition increase of \$250/year for next four year.
 - No additional funding requested for operational costs
 - Reduction of funding (\$25 million) for EOP/EOC
 - Greater oversight added into procurement
 - Request of \$500 million/year added for critical maintenance for next four years.
- Discussion of Spring Plenary meeting. Sector meetings will take place over dinner Thursday evening in advance of Chancellor Zimpher's schedule Friday morning.
- Discussion of SUNY Voices conference. Topic: "Shared Governance in Times of Leadership Change". April 27-28, 2017. Suffern, NY.
- Update on student research conferences: Undergraduate Research Conferences, April 20-21, 2017 (SUNY Fredonia and Suffolk CC); Graduate Research Conference, March 7, 2017 (Albany).
- Discussion of the impact of Trump presidency on Higher education. Lots of uncertainty, especially regarding federal oversight and support for education. Discussion of DREAM Act; DACA.

UFS Committee Reports

- **Committee on Diversity and Inclusion**-Resolution on Transgender policy.
- **Ethics Committee**-Ethics resolutions
- **Governance Committee**-Update on Governance handbook forthcoming; ready by late spring. Workgroup on best practices for hiring at Dean level and above. Potential bylaws changes to grant CGL executive committee status.
- **Graduate Committee**-Graduate Research Conference (March 7); Resolution for Part-time graduate assistantships
- **Operations Committee**-Accountability for foundation accounts
- **Programs and Awards Committee**-Conversation in the Disciplines CFP revised.
- **Student Life Committee**-
- **Undergraduate Committee**-Potential revision of General Education Plan to meet Middle States standards
- Resolutions on micro credentialing (old policy of awarding 1 credit hour for 45 hours of academic work)
- Resolution on the assessment of applied learning.

Dr. Nancy Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor

- One of the highlights of the plenary meetings is the visit of Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. The Chancellor receives reports from the individual sectors and addresses three questions from each. Below is a summary of the Sector reports, the questions asked, and the Chancellor's response. (Special thanks to Senator Barat Wolfe from SUNY Canton for sharing notes).
1. University Centers
 - a. State Department of Education not a transparent process in reviewing proposals – how can you expedite and help them to do to review proposals (especially if they infringe upon academic freedom)?
 - b. What will you do to promote collaborative research among different sectors and promote graduate and postdoctoral research?
 - c. Faculty with difficulty in PTR process – because they are interdisciplinary. What can you do to help?

Response:

 - a. Backlog is an issue in every state Dept. of Education. I have a great relationship right now. Perhaps we should invite Commissioner to UFS.
 - b. We need to be careful to address the needs of everyone in terms of research. Let's make some recommendations about solutions – Distinguished Faculty Academy should help to do this.
 2. Comprehensive Colleges
 - a. Impact of sanctuary resolution and impact of free tuition?
 - b. Update on TeachNY and who is at the table to contribute to the conversation?
 - c. Enrollment updates – benefits and costs of enrollment changes

Response:

 - a. Will speak to free tuition in presentation
 - b. Will speak to TeachNY in presentation

- c. SUNY Provost is dealing with this. Need to consider balance of residential students with adults who need education. Comprehensives will likely have to change the most – your seat change will be greatest
- 3. Health Sciences
 - a. Financial and budget concerns including potential loss of health insurance. What do we need to do for sustainability of programs?
 - b. What is your vision for health science programs in NY?

Response:

 - a. We have state supported facilities but it is a complex and complicated process to run these institutions.
 - b. NYS cannot live without our medical training programs. Advocacy is all of our responsibility. We are not meeting with other states to have a discussion – Deans from our own schools are, but not at a system-head level from other states. Perhaps we could build coalition.
- 4. Tech Sector
 - a. How has your vision of our sector changed during tenure as Chancellor?
 - b. In light of political changes, what do you see as implications for ag and tech?
 - c. Opportunities for ag and tech?

Response:

 - a. We have many new presidents. We need to partner with Cornell and business and industry. We have a governor who is sympathetic to our sector. The sector is important to our portfolio. Should act in the land grant image. Perhaps we should convene the presidents.
 - b. Need to get organized at the state level.
 - c. Policy articulation is a strength of SUNY. We have been reviewing all the policies we put into place over the last 8 years. We should spend some time in policy.
- 5. Special/Statutory Colleges
 - a. SUNY Poly is encouraged by appointment of new president. What do you see SUNY Poly looking like moving forward and how can SUNY assist in this?
 - b. Suggestions for engagement with Special/Statutory Colleges?

Response:

 - a. Optimism at their evolution. What becomes of everything remains to be seen but leadership choice was correct.
 - b. Will want to connect with the next Chancellor to ensure they engage with the Special/Statutory Colleges
 - c. May want to produce a “briefing book” with all the resolutions organized topically to inform incoming Chancellor
- 6. Campus Governance Leaders
 - a. What have you done to support Presidents and Provosts to attend the Shared Governance conference?
 - b. What supports are there for applied learning and how will you ensure longevity?
 - c. What did you wish you knew when you first came in?

Response:

 - a. They will not come unless they have a role.
 - b. The state is not going to fund applied learning. We are not resourcing beyond investment fund. “Applied learning is being done well”.

- c. Your task is where to start with the new Chancellor – is that a person who has done Faculty Governance or not? Engage new person early and tell them “we are here to help you.” Build the relationship in a personal way
- Discussion of TeachNY initiative.
 - a. NYS will have answer to workforce shortages
 - b. Need for a policy for deep dive into clinical practice – we are doing this.
 - c. Statement of professional development and teach preparation being developed
- Discussion of Governor Cuomo’s Free Tuition initiative
 - a. There is major debate of definition of “free”
 - b. We had Tuition Assistance Program way ahead of everyone else
 - c. Governor’s plan was unique in some ways (\$125,000 and 4 year colleges included) but 15 credits shouldn’t be surprising
 - d. Private colleges get a good degree of TAP funds – questions about what might happen for them with this initiative.
 - e. Question – people withdrawing applications because they think tuition could be free. Is it a rumor? We need to examine this as a true consideration.

SUNY Budget Presentation-CFO Eileen McLoughin

- Discussion of 2017/18 SUNY Funding Budget Request
- Increased funding request for capital construction; EOP cut, funding for community colleges cut.
- Maintenance of Effort sought

Dr. Alex Cartwright, SUNY Provost

- Discussion of Educational Effectiveness and Strategic Enrollment meetings, campus progress on PIP goals, vision for campus in 2025, SWOT analysis, and the ways that SUNY System can support campus goals. Note: SUNY Delhi meeting took place on Friday, January 6, 2017
- 27/30 Community Colleges facing declining enrollments
- Discussion of General Education and the possible need for revision. New policy on diversity and inclusion not reflected in the General Education program. Discussion of new Middle States guidelines.

Nominations Committee Report-Scott Goodman

- Preliminary slate of candidates for next Presidential election, Election to take place at Spring Plenary. Deadline for nominees is March 17, 2017.
- Five nominees for UFS President: Phillip Glick (Buffalo), Chuck Moran (Cobleskill), Edward Feldman (Stony Brook), Gwen Kay (Oswego), Kelley Donaghy (ESF)

Dr. Nina Tamrowski, Faculty Council of Community Colleges

- Discussion of statements in support of strengthening community college governance and support of campus inclusivity and civil discourse.
- New budget advocacy strategy to focus on Maintenance of Effort instead of enrollment driven model.
- Concerned about “free tuition” initiative and impact on community college enrollment.
- CUNY-SUNY-UFS Statement on Campus Climate.

- Spring Plenary meeting at Broome Community College
- Collaboration with UF CGLs on Shared Governance doctrine.
- Work on best practices on placement testing, and prior learning statement

UFS Resolutions, Statements, and Bylaw Changes

- **All UFS Resolutions can be read at:** <http://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/approved-resolutions>
- **Statement for Tolerance on Campus**
 - Statement expressing support for civil discourse and tolerance on campus. Passed with 93% support
- **Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and our Undocumented Immigrant Students**
 - Should UFS be a signatory of the statement endorsed by nearly 600 university and college presidents, including Chancellor Zimpher and 8 SUNY Presidents urging President Trump to maintain DACA program. Passed with 91% support
- **Joint Statement on Civil Discourse and Campus Climate**
 - Joint statement from CUNY UFS, SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges, and SUNY UFS. Passed unanimously.
- **Resolution to endorse “Petition to make all SUNY locations sanctuary campuses”**
 - Action designed to empower UFS President to sign document on behalf of UFS and present the resolution on sanctuary campuses to all campus presidents for signature. Passed 58-42.
 - Provides definition of “sanctuary campus”
 - Individuals can personally endorse statement by visiting:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeg5BSGsZomjj44wIMu629o5zJjSRRPbmzTPQ4McKsJVG4nng/viewform>
- **Resolution “To Create Transgender Health Care Education at SUNY Campuses”**
 - UFS encourages SUNY to provide financial and academic support to campus developing trans-specific training programs; recommended improving health care on SUNY campuses for transitioning and trans-gender individuals; and encourages development of trans-health training initiatives in accordance with existing guidelines.
 - Passed
- **Resolution on Assessment Practices**
 - Resolution codified best practices for assessment of student learning.
 - Passed
- **Resolution on Contact Hours**
 - Support awarding of college credit for experiential learning
 - Passed
- **Bylaws Revisions**

- Motion 1: Formalize role of CGL on UFS and add the CGL Convener as a non-voting voting member of the UFS Executive Committee.
- Motion 2: Amend Motion to make Convener a voting member of UFS Executive Committee.
- Bylaws revision voted on at the Spring Plenary meeting. Bylaws changes require 2/3 majority.

Next Meeting

UFS Spring Plenary Meeting, April 20-22, 2016 at SUNY Canton