



Winter 2017 Plenary

SUNY Old Westbury

January 20-21, 2017

Stony Brook Senators in Attendance: Edward Feldman (Immediate Past VP/Sec'y), Executive Committee, Dolores Bilges, Frederick Walter, and Pamela Wolfskill

Others from Stony Brook: Norman Goodman, Co-Editor *Bulletin*, Executive Committee

Agenda:

- The President's Report—Peter Knuepfer
- Chancellor's Report with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher
- Sector Reports—with Chancellor Zimpher
- Jinliu Grace Wang – Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development
- Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs with Dr. Ricardo Azziz, Chief Officer
- Eileen McLoughlin – Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
- Provost Office Report—Alexander Cartwright, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
- Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report—Nina Tamrowski, President
- SUNY Student Assembly Report—Marc Cohen, President
- Resolutions
- Committee Reports

The President's Report: Highlights include:

Civil discourse is important in an age of overheated rhetoric.

The Governor has been pushing his Excelsior Scholarship program. It is not the panacea it may at first appear to be. It is a middle class benefit that covers the last dollar – after Pell, TAP, and all other scholarships. It does not cover fees or room and board. Students are required to carry a minimum of 15 credits each semester. Should a student lose eligibility, they can never get it back. It will be costly to the colleges and universities because the amount of the scholarship is pegged to the tuition rate when the student matriculates; if tuition rises, the university loses out.

The Governor's budget provides both good news and bad news. The budget again does not include critical maintenance; no provision is made for the ongoing contractual negotiations. The Governor has underfunded the hospitals, and reduced spending for EOP-AIM, apparently with the expectation that the legislature will once again restore these funds. On the positive side, there is more oversight for procurement, which was relaxed under the provisions of NY-SUNY 2020). There is increased oversight of "affiliated entities" such as the Research Foundations. And the budget for critical maintenance is increased to \$500M/year (up from \$200/yr) for 4 years. SUNY estimates they need \$800M/year for 4 years to catch up after years of neglect.

The SUNY Board of Trustees request that campuses be allowed to increase tuition (on a sliding scale, from \$0 to \$300 per year) did not make it into the budget

The search for the new chancellor is making progress, with an announcement expected in May.

The UFS needs better communications strategies. The UFS now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

Campuses have until May to decide whether/how to implement applied learning.

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher addressed the Senate:

The Chancellor acknowledged that SUNY needs to better communicate its Teach-NY plans.

The Chancellor appeared skeptical about the Governor's "free tuition" promises, but noted that it was an important statement about the importance of public higher education. There are concerns about where the burdens will fall – there may be pressure on the community colleges – especially if increased numbers of students are not offset with increased numbers of faculty.

The chancellor noted that 60% of TAP funds go to private colleges, and not to SUNY students. For lower income students it may make more sense to revise the TAP limits than to fill the tuition gap through other means.

SUNY plans an Investment Fund. There are concerns about competition with the campuses research foundations. The investment fund will consider support for state-wide initiatives only.

There is a concern that some students may be deferring admissions until the "free tuition" plans take full effect.

The Chancellor is a signatory to the Pomona statement calling on support for and continuation of DACA (<https://www.pomona.edu/news/2016/11/21-college-university-presidents-call-us-uphold-and-continue-daca>), and she has also endorsed a letter from the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) urging President-elect Trump to maintain the program. Even though these haven't been done with a specific SUNY press release, in my opinion these endorsements meet the general intention of the resolution.

Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor Cartwright reported on Building the System Performance Improvement Plan

His key areas of discussion included a Vision for Campus by 2025, SWOT Analysis and How can System Support your Goals?

(Provost Cartwright PP Buffalo State Plenary can be found at <http://www.system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/Provost-Report---UFS---January-2017-4.NN.pdf>)

Dr. Grace Wang, the new Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development was introduced. Her full presentation can be found at: <http://www.system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/Wang---SUNY-Faculty-Senate-Meeting-Janurary-20-2016-Grace-Wang.pdf>

She also attended the University Centers section meeting and was asked why it takes SUNY and the State Department of Education so long to process new programs (some 250 new programs await approval). (We also asked this of the Chancellor and she stated the problem of backlog is inherent with the State Ed Department. She recommended UFS invite the Commissioner to attend a UFS plenary and talk about the program review. Continue to build that relationship. Be instructive about the fragmentation of the review.)

Dr. Wang spoke of the compelling needs to address societal challenges. More complex research questions that require multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, and multi-institutional research.

Seeking Your Input

- What large-scale opportunities--that align with our research strengths--might we pursue?
- What are the major challenges facing graduate education?
- How might we increase sponsored program activities in comprehensive and technology colleges?
- How might we cultivate entrepreneurial thinking among our students?

Initial Goals

- Catalyze research collaborations
- Identify new research opportunities
- Stimulate innovative and entrepreneurial thinking
- Provide dynamic and energetic graduate education
- Communicate our research and economic development efforts with the public

Dr. Ricardo Azziz, Chief Officer for the Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs was introduced. His report can be found at: [http://www.system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/SUNY-Academic-Health--Hospitals--1-20-17-\(UFS\)-\(3\).pdf](http://www.system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/SUNY-Academic-Health--Hospitals--1-20-17-(UFS)-(3).pdf)

Eileen McLoughlin: Chief Financial Officer report on the 2017/18 State Budget, the SUNY request, and the year-to-year changes in Direct State Support. Her full report can be found at: <http://www.system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/winter-2017/McLoughlin--Jan.-2017-Faculty-Senate-Winter-Plenary.pdf>

And see Addendum A.

Other Items in the Executive Budget

Tuition Plan	•The Board of Trustee is empowered to raise undergraduate tuition by maximum of \$250. The Board of Trustee has this authority from 2017/18 to 2021/22
Excelsior Scholarship	•Program to allow resident undergraduate students who have a household income under the threshold to receive free tuition from SUNY or CUNY
DREAM Act	•Would allow students without lawful immigration status (that meet certain criteria) to be eligible for the TAP program and other scholarship programs.
Inspector General	•Expand the Inspector General jurisdiction to any organization or foundation formed for benefit of or controlled by SUNY
Foundation Oversight	•The Inspector General would oversee implementation and enforcement of financial control policies at SUNY and all affiliated nonprofit organizations and foundation. Failure to comply will result in ineligibility of state related support or grants.
Chief Procurement Officer	• Governor would appoint an overall Chief Procurement Officer for all of NY State who will be tasked with oversight of all state procurements.

Sector questions

The Statewide senate is organized into 5 sectors including University Centers, University Colleges, Health Sciences, Technology, and Special/Statutory. Each sector meets separately to discuss issues pertaining to their sector and to develop questions to bring to the Chancellor based on separate sector needs.

University Centers Sector Report: *led by Walter Little, University at Albany, University Center Sector Representative asked the Chancellor the following questions:*

- 1.) In the State Department of Education, there is a backlog of academic proposals under review. Additionally, it is analyzing proposals at the level of reading lists, assessments, and other minute details, which can undermine academic freedom and stifles innovations, because it is not a transparent process. What ways can you help expedite the Department of Ed's review of academic program proposals or what would you recommend that SUNY can do to help move the process on?
- 2.) Given the complexity of the contemporary life, what strategies and initiatives would you recommend to encourage the SUNY administration and the Research Foundation support for small individual and large multi-disciplinary collaborative research, including the both fostering of collaborations among SUNY institutions from community colleges, comprehensive colleges, and research centers and, additionally, the expansion of graduate research, postdocs, and visiting scholar experts?
- 3.) Recently, some faculty hired to do interdisciplinary research have run into difficulties in the promotion and tenure process, in part because their research does not fall neatly within departmental boundaries. In the interests of fostering interdisciplinary and collaborative research at SUNY, what can you do to encourage individual campuses to accommodate interdisciplinary faculty, whose lines are split between disparate schools and colleges, in the promotion and tenure process?

The Chancellor acknowledged that SUNY was partly to blame for the delays in review of academic programs, but also noted that such backlogs were common in other states. She stated that relations between SUNY and the State Dept. of Ed were best in history. She suggested that the UFS might want to invite the commissioner of the State Department of Education to meet with the UFS. Building relationships can be a good thing. The chancellor basically punted on questions 2 and 3, suggesting that these might well be considered by the SUNY Distinguished Academy.

Four resolutions passed. Complete information can be found at:

<http://www.system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/>

- 1) To make all SUNY Locations Sanctuary Campuses,
- 2) Create Transgender Health Care Education at SUNY Campuses
- 3) Contact Hours: Resolved that the University Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor that the SUNY Policy on the award of credit for Experiential Learning be amended to make it congruent with the current Commissioner's Regulations.
- 4) Assessment Practices: Be it resolved that the University Faculty Senate recommends the following framework of questions and goals as the basis for all academic assessment: As part of assessment of student learning, the faculty will: 1. Identify the student learning outcomes at the course, program, General Education and institution level. 2. Establish a method to determine that students can demonstrate the indicated outcome apart from any assigned grade. 3. Determine whether or not students can demonstrate what the learning outcome describes or lists. 4. Document the findings of the assessment, analyze the results and take steps necessary to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. 5. Assess the

effectiveness of actions taken in step #4 (i.e. did the actions work and what data or evidence is used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the enhancement)

There were three endorsed statements:

- 1) On Tolerance; 2) Civil Discourse and Campus Climate; and 3) in support of DACA and the Pomona Statement

All information can be found at <http://www.system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/>

Addendum A:

Governor Cuomo's 2017-18 Execute Budget Proposal

Talking Points

Biggest Wins – Tuition, Completion, Capital

- We are thrilled with Governor Cuomo's proposal. It is one of the strongest starts for public higher education we have seen in many years. We will be advocating to see nearly all of it included in the final budget.
- College access, affordability, and completion are front and center – we couldn't be happier with that focus as it aligns perfectly with SUNY's own priorities. (references **Excelsior, tuition plan, investment fund**)
- The five-year **\$550M Capital Plan** for our existing facilities is a huge win for SUNY and for New York.
 - SUNY owns and operates approximately 40% of all state facilities – more than any other entity.
 - 35% of SUNY's academic facilities are more than 50 years old, and 65% are more than 40 years old.
 - 45% of SUNY's academic facilities were built between 1965 and 1975. The average age of these buildings is now 46 years.
 - The term "critical maintenance" could not ring more true. These facilities are critical to our ability to provide a quality education.

Tuition

- Governor Cuomo continues his commitment to predictability for our students through a **five-year tuition plan**. This plan is a gateway to long-term affordability, affording our students and their families the ability to plan for the full cost of their education without the risk of unexpected hikes. (note: Cuomo also included this last year, and has always been a supporter)
- We would like to see **Maintenance of Effort** put back into the plan, so that our institutions are also able to plan, and to maintain the accomplishments and investments we have made since 2011.
- The costs of new **collectively bargained salary contracts** will still need to be addressed. Once negotiated, if these contracts include an increase as anticipated, we must ensure that campuses remain properly positioned to offer students the courses, services, and opportunities they need to graduate on time.
- The **Excelsior Scholarship** is a level of tuition-free opportunity that goes beyond what any other state in the country offers students.
 - It has the highest income **eligibility threshold** at \$125K.
 - In addition to community colleges, it includes our **four-year institutions**.
 - It acknowledges that zeroing in on **access is not enough. Completion is key.**
 - It requires **full-time, 15-credit enrollment**, a proven game changer in completion.

Emphasis on Completion – Supports #SUNYCompletes

- Governor Cuomo has again allocated \$18M to our Completion Agenda, through the Performance Investment Fund. This will enable our campuses to keep scaling their best programs – those that support degree completion – throughout the system.
- If students don't leave college with a degree, the investment – whether it comes from students or the state – is not worth it, resulting only in debt. The Governor has woven a commitment to completion into his budget throughout - this ensures greater student success and protects New York's investment.

- A high school degree isn't enough anymore – we've moved the finish line. Less than half of all adults in NY hold a postsecondary degree of some kind, and 70 percent of job here will soon require one. That's an astonishing gap, one public higher education is best equipped to address.

Community Colleges

- The governor has proposed no new funding for our community colleges at a time when this sector needs it most. While we will, of course, be advocating at full strength for an increase in the funding received by these institutions, at the very least, we want them to receive the same amount as last year.

- The model used historically to fund community colleges – base-aid, per FTE – is outdated and no longer serves the best interests of our colleges or our students.

- As currently proposed, 27 of our 30 community college would receive less money than they got last year; and the remaining three would receive only a fraction more.

- Community colleges should no longer be funded based on enrollment.

Chief Procurement Officer, Inspector General

- In 2016, following review and approval from the state comptroller and attorney general, the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted the strongest guidelines for Campus Foundations in the history of SUNY. We are confident that these new guidelines put us in a strong position to comply.