170th Plenary Spring Meeting  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
April 24-25, 2015

Upstate Attendees: Jay Brenner, Kerry Greene-Donnelly, J C Trussell, Susan Wojcik

This is a summary of activities that took place during the plenary. Committee reports (Diversity, Ethics, Governance, Graduate and Research, Operations, Programs and Awards, Student life, Undergraduate) and passed Resolutions can be found at the SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary Meeting web site.  [http://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/](http://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/)

Re-elected SUNY Senate President Peter Knuepher (2015-2017) ran unopposed

**Presidents Report** - The Chancellor is planning to not physically attend all SUNY faculty senate meetings in the future. She is making an attempt to cut back on her travel this coming year. Will attend through electronic means. There was much discussion regarding the inappropriateness of this and Peter will bring the Senates concerns to the Chancellor.

Presidential review process – Chancellor is conducting reviews, moving forward rapidly, specifically for long serving presidents. Main reason is salary related issues, Newly hired Presidents are at higher salary rates then long standing ones. No bargaining unit. No salary increases. Still looking for a metric. SUNY submitted question on sliding scale eval interactions with faculty gov. and president. Too faculty centric. 10 campuses, expanded to non-faculty. Identifying people for questionnaire to be sent. 360 faculty, students, senior executive and other staff. Happening next month into June. Not intended to be punitive. What about issues with Presidents, mentoring program not seen as effective.

- Stony Brook conducts internal evaluation of upper level staff annually and share the report. Nice to have leadership approval but not necessary to conduct reviews by the faculty.

**Seamless Transfer and Degree Works Updates** – Dan Knox, Director of Student Mobility – Undergrad degree 2012-1013 – 44% to transfer students. 61,230 transfers, half within SUNY. General Education, course in the major, credit cap areas determined. Initial discussions resulted in 37 transfer paths (highest traffic programs). Round 2 additional input 22 tracks added. On tract for students entering Fall 2015. 52 transfer path disciplines, 2100 academic programs covering over 95% of all transfer students within SUNY. Database of courses (32,000) being compiled. Interest in developing new transfer paths (24 new requested). Degree works 58 campuses (undergrad campuses) 32 live, Training and scribing complete. Transfer finder network testing. Fall 2015, implementation continuing(45), Transfer finder network live (search for programs across the system, degree audit between current and transfer campus model of how courses will transfer) fall 2016 remaining campuses live,

**Intellectual Property** – Heather Hage, Senior director innovation and partnerships, SUNY RF, Elise Puzio, Assistant General Counsel SUNY – Modernize paths to patent office, SUNY system IP management issues, Intellectual policy leads to missed opportunities. No flexibility on
who owns the IP. Working on system wide best policy of IP. No overall policy, patent and invention side, copyright. These changes only address P&I. 1959, 1988 last amendment. Challenges in commercializing IP, ambiguity on own time inventions and COI, stents and employees are treated the same, no acknowledgement of nonpatentable research materials and program income requirements, strict language regarding nonassignment of royalty, rigidity in industry partnerships, 40:60 split of gross royalties.

Changes, ownership of IP, scope of employment substantial vs. insubstantial use of university resources, Remove barriers to contracting with industry, max flexibility in contracting with partners, business judgments made locally. Promote student innovation and entrepreneurship, carve out for students ownership of IP, students many choose to work with the university, income related to nonpatentable IP, distribution of income determined locally. Disclosure of extra-institutional inventions, one page disclosure. Royalty distribution, gross to net calculation, enables faculty to assign or waive royalties. Purpose is to have a policy that is enabling to faculty. Change by October. Simplicity of this policy. Set broad parameters for campuses to conduct business. Only applies to patentable inventions.

Research at the Comprehensive and technology campuses: What can we do? – Dr. Richard Burke, President Fellow RF – Students and parents are very outcome focused. The way we teach needs to change. How does this impact research and service. Economic development is the new service. Teaching colleges will build collaborations to research universities, applied research rather than fundamental research. Research is going to become more important. Applied research fits well with SUNY excels. Focus on real problems. Centers of community and industrial application. Directly related to economic development.

Budget Report – Eileen McLoughlin – Budget enacted still advocating for SUNY 2020. Session ends in June. Did good job with legislators need to gain more influence with the executive. Wants performance metric will have a better chance next year.

Provost’s Office Report – Alex Cartwright, Provost – Get away from apologizing. As good as better then other state system and approach some private, should have more pride. SUNY Excels affirms commitment to continuous improvement, provides structure for accountability at all levels, provides a structure for evaluating SUNY leaders, helps SUNY better tell its story in support of further investments. Working toward presidential requirement, review, and development. Seamless transfer should be proud of. Comprehensive of all systems. Student mobility committee to review appeals. Online learning, OPEN SUNY, OPEN SUNY + operational. Online teaching excellence, educator support infrastructure in place. What else can we do around open access, specifically publishing. SUNY applied learning umbrella, SUNY Works, Serves, Discovers moving forward working on a planning process for evaluation. Going to BOT in May to implement applied learning. Diversity Task for focus on student enrollment retention, faculty appointment and retention, creating welcoming climate, leadership and structure. Higher Ed benchmark better than national public close to national privates. Always striving to be better. Thinking about research and innovation through The NY academy of sciences, SUNY networks of excellence, Start up NY, SUNY Undergraduate research conference. Recruiting vice chancellor of research and economic development. A champion dedicated to research excellence in all disciplines and the advancement of graduate education.
Building a new business model for the academy Meeting in October 19-21, SUNY as a national thought leader. Solve the problem the way we want to.

Health Science Sector Question and Response

While NY-SUNY 2020 has had a positive financial impact for most SUNY campuses, for Health Sciences sector campuses, with our small student populations, it nets a relatively small financial gain for our campuses;

With largely graduate-level student populations, which are no longer eligible for TAP/Pell funds and for whom subsidized loans are no longer available; these students carry a greater financial burden for these tuition increases;

In addition, these tuition increases have a negative impact on the recruitment and enrollment of New York, in-state financially disadvantaged candidates for admission. In this increasingly competitive environment, private institutions have the ability to offer greater financial incentives to enroll these students.

In addition to the request to extend NY-SUNY 2020, what plan does the Chancellery have to either:

- request increased state support for our campuses?
- provide increased financial aid on the system-level to support this student population?

- What may look like a large amount of money for most campuses is actually a small amount of their total budget (not really unique to HSC). I agree, there is a challenge of financial burden on (form) tuition. Of course we will continue asking for continued support. SUNY asked for increased support to cover cost of living increases in addition to 100 M funding for an expand best practices and another 50M for master innovators to increase research funding and connections with industry.
- Students have made a statement in this area-- they’ve invested over the last several years and it is time for NYS to invest as well. Students are in favor of continuing to increase their investment if the state will step up their investment. SUNY hopes that next year we make a stronger case for increased investment from NYS for all campuses.
- Increases in financial aid is a dilemma. How do we have increased support at the system level with a capped budget. Where would the money come from….the campuses!. It’s a delicate walk; we need to balance system and campus resources.
- We did get some increases. EOP continues to be a standout program. We have a tremendous track record and this program should have been awarded doubled the money and we would have used it well.
- There is recognition that disadvantages students should have every opportunity, especially for more expensive programs. Need to send the message to legislators.
Student Senate Representative, Lori Mould - SUNY speaks up event in Albany, interface with legislature and staff about SUNY student issues. A good deal of effort was put into learning and teaching students about RAT and SUNY 20/20. SA supports SUNY 20/20. Started town hall meetings to increase SA communication with students and faculty. Students largest concern was academic advisement. New officers are in training and will assume responsibilities this summer.

Community College Assembly, Tina Good - Good deal of work done with SUNY Voices, collaboration between SA, Cc assembly and SUNY Senate. Nina Tomrowski is new president. Lots of focus and work on seamless transfer and 6 credit cap. Caused a lot of tension with in campuses working on meeting the cap. Received a $100 per FTE which isn't what they asked for, but was something. Also received $400,000 for child care centers. Working on legislative process now, a year earlier than usual. hoping this will allow for more advocacy and better results next year

CUNY Faculty Senate, Terry Martell - new provost is in place, process went very well and academics pleased with their level of involvement. Collective bargaining has begun, better climate than in the past, faculty is feeling hopeful for raises and other asks. Operating budget will lose 3% this year, very concerning to faculty and staff

UUP, Fred Kowal - A good deal of traveling to campuses getting information out to the members. Need for a strong front on the SUNY senate and UUP for students and faculty. So far we are doing a good job and it seems to have been somewhat effective this year with the legislature. Proposed cut to hospitals was avoided, but still below where we were a few years ago. The turnover in the legislature had required a great deal more in terms of educating them and getting support. Maintenance of effort is still a strongly supported initiative. Benefits, raises, and interest payments. Deficit Reduction funding payback starts next year, it will be a cost to SUNY, we are asking that it comes from the State, but that is an ask. It may fall on the campus. this is addressed by the Maintenance of effort.

Resolutions – Approved Resolutions can be found at http://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/plenary-meetings/approved-resolutions/

- Joint Statement on Shared Governance Faculty Council of the CC, CUNY Faculty Senate and SUNY Senate adopted unanimously by Executive Committee January 8, 2015. Endorsed by Senate.

- Renew NYSUNY2020 – Calls for establishing a commitment to a true Maintenance of Effort by the State for the entire SUNY system; reauthorizing rational tuition plan; renewing the tuition credit for TAP-eligible students. - Approved

- Applied Learning – Calls for all experiences to be a responsibility of appropriate faculty, have specific learning outcomes. - Approved
• Support of Undergraduate to Graduate Research – Encourages SUNY administration to offer Chancellor’s graduate fellowships. - Approved

• Resolution on Open Access Publication – Encourages exploration and support of alternative to publishing scholarship with commercial publishers. - Approved

**Open SUNY, Ken Obrien** - hope was to have one system without competition between campuses, being more effective, with more students. We have some pieces of the puzzle. Using a metric to determine campus readiness, SLN is being used as a resource. Work continues on all fronts with Open SUNY.

**New Business**

**Resolutions Introduced**

• Funding of the National Science Foundation – Urges Congress to reject the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015. - Approved

• President Evaluation - Participants in the evaluation process be provided on one month from the data of their notification of return response, that the Chancellor establish a process including campus governance leaders and University Faculty Leadership to review the current process and recommend changes for future Presidential evaluations - Approved

• Family Medical Leave Act - Moved to Operations Committee for further discussion and development to be brought to the Executive Committee for vote on behalf of the Senate in June.

**Health Science Sector Meeting**

**Attendants:** Flax (Downstate), Feldman (Stony Brook), Trussell (Upstate), Wojcik (Upstate), Brenner (Upstate), Greene-Donelly (Upstate), Mozlin (Optometry), Marinoff (Optometry), Van Wicklin (Buffalo)

**Reports**

**Buffalo:** The Medical School is moving downtown, the steel going up this week, scheduled for Fall 2017 opening, still need $200 million raised, have $125 million of total $400 million. The Dental School, Diversity increased to from 5%-20% for minorities matriculated Majority women. The Pharmacy school has a new building and applications are down. The Law school applications are down 50%. The School of Public Health Interim Dean has been named Dean. The Nursing School, US News ranked it as one of the best online programs

**Downstate:** College of Medicine Dean search coming to a close. President is supposed to come to faculty and staff biannually. He came in the fall and answered questions, but then left without giving any state of the medical center report. In response to whether he is distancing himself from shared governance, he said that he met with Rinnert (CGL) and Flax (Senator and Health Sector Rep). There was discussion regarding frequency of
Senator/President meeting as well as issues with that have occurred as Stony Brook and Upstate regarding nontenured faculty being admonished by supervisor for asking a poignant question or having a different point of view. It was noted that similar issues have been recognized at Upstate and “at will” employees are reticent to speak out. This issue has been raised and is being addressed in the academic freedom resolution. New academic building scheduled for Spring 2016. Not clear what it will be used for.

Optometry: Update on hiring executive director. Shuffled positions around so that there is an interim executive director and still searching for a chief medical officer. Obtaining a new EMR (Nest Gen), Last replaced 2005. Going to expand after hours care. Facing similar problems to UB pharmacy with reduced applications, perhaps secondary to increasing optometry schools across the country. Trying to increase Upstate student applications. About 50% of the students are from NY and low tuition helps attract better students. Concern has been raised regarding the Optometry website which seemed to discourage community college credit, and administration has been approached and fixed the problem. Advise that we should all check web language to make sure we don’t have the same issue.

Stony Brook: Children’s Hospital is going well. Health Sciences has 5 schools: Social Welfare, Allied Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing. Dean of Social Welfare has been there for 30 years, no meetings, only 3 tenured faculty, and was threatening suicide at a public meeting. She is African-American and has threatened to shut down the campus with protests if she was fired. The Dean chose to promote her to Associate Vice President of Diversity, which she accepted. Dean decided to keep the School of Social Welfare and start a search for a replacement, in part because of a DSRIP grant that it received. Any search at the Dean’s level or higher requires University Senate representation. Southampton Hospital is moving forward. Approved by BOT. Still needs approval by DOH. Will lease staff. One residency program will start and others would follow. May be followed by Pohonack and Eastern LI Hospitals. But Pohonack (in Riverhead) went to North Shore/LIJ, which is geographically inconvenient (2 hours).

Upstate: President Search - Firm has met with individual members. Job posting has gone out. Faculty well-represented on the committee. Airport interviews in June. Dean of College of Health Professions Search underway. Past-President issues - Local media reported on lack of transparency of CAO fund reports. SUNY-Central finally agreed to release the reports. Interprofessional Education - Debate continues regarding administrative structuring and financing. Culture Report - Faculty Council has an expanded executive committee addressing a response. New academic building opening soon. SUNY-2020 may raise tuition too high for us to serve our mission. May decrease high-quality students. May decrease minorities acceptance of applications.

Health Sector Representative: Feldman nominated Marinoff, Wojcik seconded, unanimous approval.