171st Plenary Fall Meeting
SUNY Buffalo State
October 23-24, 2015

Upstate Attendees: Robert Roger Lebel, J C Trussel, Maria Wheelock, 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/

Peter Knuepfer – SUNY Faculty Senate President

- Teaching Faculty should oversee all applied learning experiences whether or not they are for credit. Guidelines for development of campus applied learning plans will be distributed in November.
- SUNY Student Assembly Executive Committee passed a resolution calling for limits to non-paid credit-bearing internships. University Faculty Senate should not endorse the student resolution as many programs could not locate enough paid internships to meet their program requirements.
- SUNY Task Force on social media responsibility has prepared a set of recommendations to the BOT that includes wording implying a uniform curriculum in which students would address social media responsibilities, which would appear to be an intrusion into faculty control over curricular matters. The Executive Committee agreed that this is inappropriate and should be changed. The Task Force has posted a web page that invites comments.
- It is SUNY System’s objective of being the most inclusive System in the world.
- Theme of this plenary was diversity. The Executive Committee attended a pre-plenary workshop where the new SUNY policy on diversity and inclusion was explained. It requires each campus to appoint a Chief Diversity Officer and develop and implement a diversity and inclusion plan.
- The legislature passes a true maintenance of effort bill. It has yet to be forwarded to the Governor who is expected to veto.
- SUNY is looking into ban the box. A panel is being created to look into the issues that would be created if this requirement is removed.

Carlos Medina – Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associated Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- New York State is incredibly diverse but it is incredibly segregated. NYS is experiencing a major growth in Latino population (137% in 10 yrs). NYS white population will decline 9% in the next 10 yrs. SUNY employs 8% white and only 4% Latino even though the Latino population is 18% in NYS
- SUNY Diversity and Inclusion Policy requires: Chief Diversity Officer on each SUNY campus, SUNY wide Chief Diversity Officer Network, Strategic/Diversity/Inclusion Plans, Faculty/Staff mentoring network
Faculty broke into small groups to discuss a set of questions on how faculty can work to facilitate the retention of students of diverse backgrounds and recruit and retain diverse faculty and staff.

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher
- SUNY has been and will continue to be a driver of economic development.
- SUNY spent $70 M on remediation. Students are spending $90 M in tuition for remedial course work.
- SUNY has a goal of being the economic engine of NYS. – Start-Up NY initiative
- SUNY has a goal of access/completion and success. Accomplished by moving toward 150,000 annual degrees. – SUNY Excels to help achieve this goal
- SUNY is focused on diversity and inclusion. Asking for a comprehensive investment package in the Governor’s executive budget.

1. Please update the Sector on the current Board of Trustees plan for health science center/hospital governance?

She does not know at this time where the BOT is on governing boards. They are still examining alternatives. Likely looking to develop something that would remain internal to the BOT, but they recognized that they need to identify individuals with the knowledge and expertise to operate our hospitals. Not likely to include the campus presidents as they are not hired for their expertise in running a hospital. Implementation is not right around the corner. Also there are plans to increase support from SUNY central to coordinate academic health centers and hospitals with a new vice chancellor to be funded by the 4 academic health centers.

2. The idea of divorcing hospitals from universities has losing currency. Please share your current thinking on this for our SUNY hospitals.

Medical students need clinical placement sites. She would be happy if we didn't need hospitals for these placements. She will keep an eye on making sure that we have the necessary clinical placements. She will negotiate with the state for the hospitals to remain with the academic centers. She doesn't know why the state doesn't want to invest in hospitals. She is also aware of the issue with offshore medical schools taking up sites because they are willing to pay more and are getting preferential placement.

Alex Cartwright – Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
- Strategic Agenda
  - SUNY Excels consists of access, completion, success, inquiry and engagement
  - Diversity and Inclusion is infused in all metrics
  - SUNY generates $900 M in research now. We have a goal of $1.5 B in 2025
  - SUNY completion is defined as 150,000 graduates in 2025. To be achieved by increasing retention and graduation rates, increasing credentialing (consists of certificates/accelerated degrees), increasing both new and transfer enrollment and growing online enrollment.
Resolutions

- Resolution on Academic Freedom – urges each SUNY campus governance organization to have an open discussion and to perform a comprehensive review of all campus documents to determine that any statement on academic freedom are consonant with precepts of academic freedom and consistent with action items from the campus-wide discussions.

- Family Medical Leave Policy – requests that SUNY System Administration work with union representatives to address the implementation of FML in a system wide and uniform way and to advocate for paid FML that promotes retention of valuable employees and increases employee morale while addressing issues of equity. UFS senators and Campus Governance Leaders are urged to advocate for support of this resolution on their campuses.