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/

Executive Committee Report given by SUNY Faculty Senate Secretary Gwen Kay included a solicitation for nominees for SUNY outstanding service award, highlights of the SUNY budget proposal new requests include $50M master innovators –faculty recruitment (start up costs, labs, salaries), $50M collective impact, $30M loan for innovative teaching technology infrastructure.

The following Resolutions were discussed

- From the Graduate and Research Committee: Resolution for Incentives to Support the Submission of STEM Graduate Research Grant Applications urges the SUNY Research Foundation to establish a pilot program that provides incentives to STEM graduate students to write and submit competitive grant applications to external funding agencies to support research in the STEM fields and that the pilot program be evaluated and if successful expanded to support graduate research in all fields. – Passed without dissent.

- From the Student Life Committee: Resolution in support of the General Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York’s 8 Keys to Veteran’s Success resolution 1415-36 acknowledges that the State University of New York University Faculty Senate supports the General Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University Resolution #1415-36 and asks that campus governance leaders encourage their campuses to review, adopt, and actively participate in, the voluntary initiative, “8 Keys of Veterans’ Success”; and that the SUNY UFS encourages the SUNY Chancellor to ask each campus President to review, and report, to the campus community and the SUNY Chancellor on the veteran specific services provided by their campuses to ensure that our veteran students succeed to the best of their abilities. – Passed without dissent.

- From the Executive Committee: Resolution in Support of the 2015 Budget Request of the State University of New York acknowledges the particularly aggressive Board of Trustees budget request and calls for the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York to strongly endorse and support the 2015-16 budget request of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, and for the UFS to urge faculty and staff colleagues to advocate for SUNY on behalf of this budget request. Passes with, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

Sector Meeting

Report from Buffalo was given by Robert VanWicklins, newly elected senator. They have a new dean of pharmacy, intern dean in public health (search is going well) and the new medical school downtown is underway scheduled to open in 2016. There will likely be difficulty with having Dental and Medical schools on separate sites and has yet to be addressed. Parking and housing for students are issues that still need addressed.

Report from Upstate was given by Dale Avers. Presidential search has been started, in part to the sector questions at the last plenary to the Chancellor. Committee is in place, chancellor is charging the committee
February 6th. Surveys have taken place to establish needs/wants in a Presidential candidate and the state of the University. These surveys were not favorable to leadership. Extensive explanation of the process to fill the search committee took place. The relationship between Binghamton and UMU was discussed. Last plenary it was discussed and left to the decision of how UMU and BU would proceed, after investigating the possibilities, there is no relationship. Conversations with ESF have taken place for shared service.

Report from Downstate was given by Henry Flax. The sale of LICH left $300 million in debt, $160 million is absorbed by DMU, the $140 million from the endowment, we don't know who will cover that. Staff reductions are part of the $160 million savings, it is about 600 positions. Graduate school is having a very difficult time attracting students due to lack of stipends for MD/PhD students and difficulties running labs due to loss of staff. Nursing program has seen a decline in RN to BS due to online programs. There was discussion of how these programs are offered on other campuses and if they have seen any decrease in enrollment. Helen Durkin discusses a new collaboration with researchers at Albany to conduct research in the area of Allergy and Asthma and welcome interest from researchers from other campuses to collaborate in this area.

Report from Optometry was give by Rebecca Marinoff. They are currently searching for new executive director of the Clinic. Down to two candidates, they are coming to campus for interviews next week. There have been discussions of implementing inter professional education in there curriculum however this is difficult due to their singular mission so not really sure how to accomplish this. There has been a trend in other optometry schools to become Universities, with the addition of an audiology, PA etc. Space concerns are increasing, not sure how they can grow in the current physical space. Concerns regarding the lack of faculty involvement have been raised.

Report from Stony Brook was given by Dolores Bilges. The affiliation between South Hampton Hospital and Stony Brook has been approved by the BOT. There are plans to build a new hospital for South Hampton Hospital, this will be funded by South Hampton Hospital not Stony Brook. Stony Brook is looking to work with other hospitals on Long Island in a similar way. Dental Medicine has a new Dean, it was the interim Dean. They have received approval for school of pharmacy, pharmD program. A new building for the children's hospital is under way, completed in 1 year.

There was discussion of the Governors budget that cuts $18 million to the hospitals and calls for a level of authority to spend revenue. SUNY plans to explore additional funding opportunities through DOH budget. Capital for hospitals was not in the in the executive budgets however there were moneys available for underserved areas for restructuring organizations to improve services and financials. $1 billion is targeted for use in Utica and Brooklyn.

There was also discussion if it may be appropriate to as Binghamton to have a senator join the health sciences sector since they have a school of nursing and pharmacy.

**Educational Pipeline update from Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline.** The goal is to have more students’ graduate High School and be college prepared. There are 23 smart scholars early college high schools 20 of them sponsored by SUNY. This program focuses on students at risk of dropping out of high school. 98% of students currently in the program are on track for graduation, without need for remediation. Many are also graduating high school with college credit. There are 27 pathways to technology high schools that Gov. Cuomo started last year. They are a 6 yr model freshman to associates degree, and have place students in jobs with 150 business partners they have developed. Quantitative Accelerated Math program has been engaged at 6 community colleges with an additional 4 moving toward the program. Carnegie Mellon Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching lead by faculty have investigated the success of these programs have decided to move forward with this idea and are looking into transferability to 4 yr schools. There is also a focus on professional development as the state is moving toward common core. Several million dollars dedicated for faculty development, common core standards, teacher assessments, and clinical teacher preparation. Need more faculty involvement since this is a very different
learning model and there are still questions as if this model is better for college preparedness. It looks like younger kids doing better adapting to this learning model while current high school students are struggling with implementation as they are still accustomed to the previous style and just want to know what is on the test. As we move forward we need to think differently about students coming to college educated in this method. Currently there are centers in innovation in education at Cortland, New Paltz, U of Albany and Buff St. as a hub of info on common core, and clinical teacher preparation. The Chancellor wants to see this at every campus.

Elsevier and Open Source Publishing update from Carey Hatch, Associate Provost Library and Information Services. SUNY is going into a 5 yr contract that will include Elsevier Science Direct, Cell, and Scopus. Campus participation is decreasing, Upstate has opted out. Can’t continue to make this work with decreasing support from the state. Likely the last contract like this that will happen. Library funding is inadequate to support current expectations, this is an important higher education issue. The current scholarly publishing model is unsustainable. Newer forms of publishing such as open access need to be supported and enhanced.

Diversity update from Carlos Medina, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Currently a task force is working on preliminary recommendations. The Chancellor would like to see a Chief Diversity Officer at every institution, focusing on 4 areas, undergrad recruitment, retention and graduation, campus climate, structure and relations, recruitment/retention of diverse faculty and administrators. There are many education benefits related to diversity and associated with human difference. We need to learn to recognize and accept difference. It takes diverse talents to fulfill our mission. Diversity creates healthy tensions to learn and grow and expand our world view. We need to be in a position to guide faculty and students to inclusive excellence to insure success. Insure education experience aimed at equipping students to function in an increasingly diverse world. Also looking to implement performance based measurements in diversity. Access is the focus in this area, measure diversity through race, ethnicity, gender, providing access and graduation. Task force working on identifying other measures that might deal with campus climate or success around diversity.

Budget Report from Eileen G. McLouglin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer. SUNY 2020 enabled tuition planning and smooth growth in expenditures. Rational tuition increases, 25% of undergrad tuition supported student aid and 520 additional instructional staff hired. 2015/16 is the last year of SUNY 2020 but will advocate continuation of this plan. The SUNY budget request was outline. SUNY will be relying on the success of SUNY 2020 to negotiate with the House to get back funding that was cut in the executive budget.

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher Responds to Sector Questions
Health Science Center Sector Questions

Thank you: For initiating the Search for the UMU President following the Fall Plenary; For support from the Chancellery for the SUNY budget submitted to the Governor; For the completion of the Stony Brook / Southampton hospitals affiliation.

Questions from Stacey Hengsterman’s January 21, 2015 Initial 2015/16 Executive Budget Summary:

Hospitals and Health Related Activities: Level of authority provided to spend own revenue is under review to ensure it will be sufficient to accommodate planned activities. Direct State support for the three SUNY teaching hospitals is reduced by $18.0M. However, additional funding opportunities are being explored in funding being made available through the Department of Health budget.

Hospitals: Funding for SUNY’s Hospital capital program was not included in the Executive Budget. However, the Executive Budget does include $400.0M of capital grants to hospitals or hospital systems that offer health
care services in an underserved region. The grants are for providers that facilitate mergers, consolidation, acquisition, or other restructuring activities to create a financially sustainable system of health care.

In addition, the Executive Budget provides $1.0B to support projects that stabilize hospitals and make necessary infrastructure investments to access to community-based primary and preventative health services in Brooklyn and create an integrated delivery system in Oneida County.

For initiating the Search for the UMU President following the Fall Plenary;

Although the initial attempt at forming a relationship between Upstate and Binghamton looks like it will not come to fruition, the Chancellor made it clear that there is the expectation that Upstate and Binghamton will collaborate on some level because “partnerships are in the DNA of SUNY.” Any Upstate Presidential candidate needs to understand that.

What is your interpretation of the future and vision of health care based on the Governor’s lack of financial support for the SUNY hospitals and the capital grants to hospitals or hospital systems?

She did not have any information as to the $500M capital in the Governor’s budget for hospitals. She does not know what this means. She did think that the funding for hospitals/health care in Brooklyn seems to be the focus.

Is the statement in the governors’ budget “level of authority…..” reflective of the governor’s endorsement of your previously raised ideas of local financial oversight boards for the hospitals?

She did not have any additional insight to the Governor’s reference to “level of authority.” However, she stated that SUNY is extremely interested in developing local governance boards with fiduciary understanding, if not responsibility. She acknowledged that this is being driven by issues with Downstate’s management of LICH. There is a task force led by Debra Sale to determine the best way to provide oversight of hospitals and the role of hospital boards at all the medical schools, without usurping the role of the Board of Trustees. The report is due in about 1 month. She will ask Pete Knuepfer to bring this to small group of the faculty senate for further discussion. She did mention that there is something along these lines in place at Stony Brook; while their model was good, it is not as explicit as what she would like. She did state that we need our hospitals.

Is there an overall plan to expand health science education programs in light of the establishment of the 2 new pharmacy schools at Binghamton and Stony Brook?

She shared the concern of the Albany college of Pharmacy and Health Sciences regarding the establishment of two new schools of pharmacy in SUNY at Binghamton and Stony Brook. The Chancellor said that there is no intention to add more Pharmacy schools. She said that the intention is to support the needs of our health related programs, as health care is critical to our country going forward, but gave no specifics of future plans for this.

Chancellor responses to other sector questions

Concern regarding the Governors’ budget language referring to a ‘mandate of experiential learning’ and it’s implication of politics mandating curriculum. The Chancellor said that she plans to lobby for changes to remove mandates to curriculum. SUNY has had a framework for experiential learning that includes many areas for a long time but is looking for the state to help support applied learning financially. Not looking at this as mandating curriculum but getting financial resources. She will be vigilant to make sure that this is not interpreted to be a curricular mandate. Curriculum is the purview of the faculty not the governor. She thinks the Governor was trying to help us not meddle in our curriculum. Student experience is out dated and we need to invest in our students. Understand our interpretation and will work to make sure it is understood.

SUNY needs automated course selection tools that maintain TAPP eligibility. Want to look at how this works at all of our campus. Examples online for coaching and teaching advisement on line making the progress they need on campus. Students say more advisement is needed for success. Enhance advisement with some kind of online advising process.
Working on a clearinghouse for SUNY works database for students to access experiential learning opportunities offered by all SUNY works affiliated companies. She is very serious about providing students with experiential opportunities.

Shared Governance consultation with faculty in administrative appointments of Dean and above. We need to have meaningful consultation in compliance with faculty bylaws – time has come with the development of SUNY Excels to conduct evaluations of presidents at state operated campus. Will start 5yr evaluations of presidents with the longest time since last evaluation. The evaluation will articulate questions that surface around shared governance.

Chancellors Presentation
SUNY should play a role in the economic viability of NYS works with our mission to educate. Self sufficiency is important for every citizen. If the state doesn’t get financial sound how can we expect the state to fund SUNY. The state has a surplus so it’s a great time to plead our case for investment in SUNY. Students our best advocates for success of investment in public education. Highlighted student voice by showing video of recent student speakouts she held to get the student voice out since they were successful in leading the charge for rational tuition increases that has been a success. Working on submitting proposals to foundations for additional financial support for SUNY. Private investors know that we are a good investment. Focusing on taking key areas that we have supporting evidence that they work and plan to expand these system wide with additional support from the state with an ask in the budget for $1B over the next 5 yrs to support masters and innovation programs. More degree completion is also a major focus.

Provost Office Report – Alex Cartwright, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
SUNY Excels – Put in place a mechanism that reflects our commitment to continuous improvement with accountability at all levels. Provided BOT resolution endorsing SUNY Excels as the University’s performance system and key drivers for the Power of SUNY strategic plan for the next five years. Developed by a broad group of voices to discuss how the SUNY Excel framework will work. Measure chosen to ensure tracking is manageable and build on existing data collection, designed to drive continuous improvement. Measuring against themselves so institutions understand how they are improving: access, completion, success, inquiry engagement (17 total areas of measurement). Details by institution, Don’t expect every institution should work on all areas. Institutions can have different goals and values. Want to determine best practices and utilize for institutional improvements.

Faculty Council of Community Colleges - Tina Good, President - Concerned that tuition at the Community Colleges is higher than it should be. Need to be aligning programs with what is coming out of the regional economic development committees. Community College need to be the place student go to come out and earn a living wage.

SUNY Student Assembly – Lori Mould, President – SUNY has been reaching out for student involvement and that has been great. The student voice has been welcome on the diversity, applied learning, and personal safety task forces. The town hall meetings held with the Chancellor were amazing. The Chancellor has gotten involved in collaborating with students to get issues and concerns heard while also discussing what is going well. Academic advisement is still an issue and impacting finishing in 4yrs. Meal plans have been identified as an area not accommodating the diversity of students. Textbook affordability and safety lighting are other issues of concern. Talking about importance that students understand and encourage participation in shared governance. Appropriate and inappropriate uses of Yick Ysk are being discussed and how to monitor.

CUNY Faculty Senate – Terry Martell, Chair – New Chancellor making an effort to change culture at CUNY central which has not been faculty friendly. He has seen implication for shared governance and more value of the role of faculty in the University. About to name a University Provost. 4 external candidates bring different perspectives. 14 person search committee 6 distinguished professors on the committee. Enhanced library privileges for retired faculty and can keep email.