166th Plenary Winter Meeting  
January 23-25, 2014  
University at Albany

Upstate Attendees  
Senators: Jay Brenner, Kerry Greene-Donnelly, Susan Wojcik  
Alternate Senator: Robert Lebel  
Campus Governance Leader: Dale Avers

Upstate President Search: The chancellor indicated that although she would ideally like to see the search for a new president to begin this spring, it would likely not begin until next fall. She also indicated her desire to reschedule her visit to campus but had no indication of when that might take place.

Downstate/LICH: The chancellor, the president of the BOT as well as the president of the UFS all indicated, although without any details, that the Downstate issues with LICH will likely have a resolution in the near future. There is however some uncertainty as to exactly how much debt SUNY will be in and we were told $300M and $513M. The BOT is currently discussing options as to how to pay the debt.

Future of Health Science Hospitals: The BOT is also discussing the possibility of local governance body for hospitals so that there is some local fiduciary responsibility and to hopefully avoid issues like LICH in the future.

The chancellor and the BOT recognize the difficulties of operating hospitals as well as the importance of maintaining training sites and therefore they are looking at ways to separate the liability of the hospitals from the academic side. The BOT are discussing all possible options including privatization. Everything is on the table.

Academic Health Science Center Sector Meeting: The health science sector discussed the need to draft a resolution to call for a full investigation and release of the information regarding the steps the occurred leading up to the issues as downstate so that if we can learn from the experience and if possible develop systems that may prevent this type of issue in the future at other SUNY campuses. A first draft of the resolution has already been created. A re-draft will soon be sent out to all the members of the sector, then reach a final draft before submitting to the senate exec committee sometime next month for preparation of presentation at the spring plenary.

There was also discussion regarding faculty involvement in curriculum and there did not seem to be any consistent model between campuses or even between disciplines on campuses. We will continue this discussion at the next plenary.

Resolutions:

Seamless Transfer: The full transfer of community college accomplishments into 4-year programs has long been a bone of contention, and its resolution is moving forward.

New York State College of Ceramics: - The University Faculty Senate requests the Chancellor to undertake a study of the relationship between the State University of New York, Alfred University to include consideration of alternate structural arrangements such as the affiliation with another SUNY unit.

Funding Release Time for UFS Vice President/Secretary: Recommendation to increase the contribution that each campus makes for each of its senators by $1,000 to assist in offsetting the cost of Vice President/Secretary half-time reduction in teaching responsibilities and expenses associated with the increased duties.

Approved resolutions can be found on the SUNY Faculty Senate web site:  
http://www.suny.edu/facultysenate/ApprovedResolutions.cfm