The SUNY Faculty Senate met at the SUNY Maritime College over October 24th to October 26th to discuss common issues and meet with various SUNY administrators. The following details the discussions that ensued at the meeting.

Agenda

1. Sector Reports and Questions with Nancy Zimpher
2. UUP Report – Fred Kowal
4. SUNY Shared Services Report – Brian Hutzley
5. Open SUNY – Carey Hatch
6. Provost’s Office Report – Beth Bringsjord, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor
7. SUNY President’s Report – Peter Knuepfer
8. Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report – Tina Good
9. Vote on Resolutions
10. SUNY Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Meeting Minutes

1. Sector Reports and Questions with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher

Plenary representatives from the 64 campuses are broken down according to their sectors. The University at Buffalo, along with Stony Brook, the University of Albany, and Binghamton University are all in the University Centers Sector. Discussion and questions to the Chancellor included discussions on Seamless Transfer and funding for research for graduate students. SUNY administration has submitted applications to the federal government with Michigan and RIT for a $70 million proposal to fund graduate research. She suggested that we have Tim Killean come back and talk with the SUNY Faculty Senate to discuss this further and hear his plans.

The Chancellor would like us to stay the course for Seamless transfer because she would like to find out if what all these people who have been working hard get a chance to try it out. We will have a full vetting to get the kinks out. To stop now, after 400 people have work on this project, is folly. We have to test it out. She further indicated that all the candidates for the SUNY Provost position have said they are drawn to SUNY because of the Seamless transfer project and are all inclined to get it done. She has agreed to make the process transparent.

Discussion came up with the operation of the Hospitals. SUNY administration has no interest in diminishing the management and services of SUNY’s hospitals. This issue has taken up an enormous amount of time of the administration, shared governance leaders, the Board of Trustees, etc. Dr. Williams leadership at Downstate will be considered in February to extend his term as President or not.

We know that we can not afford to run the Long Island College Hospital (LICH). This is just costing us too much. We are in the news daily because of the legal actions that we are pursuing. We are trying to sell the hospital and have a few entities that are interested. We are also examining Upstate Medical and are trying to ensure that we don’t run into the same problems that we had Downstate. This is a very complex
issue without a simple solution and everyone including the governor and the department of health continue to work together to resolve the problem.

The Campus Governance Leaders brought up the question of why SUNY is becoming politicized and corporatized. The Chancellor believes that SUNY is positioned right to help NY grow jobs. Why not promote the assets of SUNY? We don’t want to step away from our mission of Teaching, Research, & Service, but use the mission as a method to help out the State of New York. We have been funded by this governor and the legislature and have its support. Our commitment is paying off. She does not subscribe to the dichotomization of soft skills and the harder skills. That’s why she has protected the gen ed curriculum.

She has stated that she is committed to shared governance and that if we feel that this commitment has fallen short, we need to work harder at it. We’ll keep trying to make it better.

The notion of the corporatization of SUNY is foreign to her. Our fate depends on our ability to work within the political structure without violating our own autonomy as an independent organization with our own Board of Trustees. You would realize that it is a tenuous walk. You have to get the investments that SUNY deserves without selling your soul. She would welcome more specifics to defend or mediate those decisions. Peter Kneufer clarified that many of the SUNY policies announced by the governor’s office. The Chancellor said that is a good thing we have a governor that likes us and likes to talk about us. It’s ok that he’s owning our policies because we have his support. We can find a way to better market these ideas so that it’s more shared.

After the sector questions, the Chancellor spoke about the need to begin writing a new five year strategic directions. We’ve gotten this legislature to support SUNY for a five year window. This hasn’t happened any where in the nation. We want to position ourselves for the next five years. It might mean pushing the Power of SUNY to the next five years. We are looking academic aspirations, innovation aspirations, and our commitment to efficiencies that will allow us to reinvest in the student experience. We need your help in how we balance out strategic enrollment management and meeting the demands of job vacancies in NY.

What will Open SUNY bring to us for enrollment grown and what will it mean? We need to continue to lift up our program excellence. We have asked the Board of Trustees to lead conversations about academic aspirations to get them more engaged in SUNY. We are developing a strategy on getting research funding and decide what are target for research funding will be.

We talked about shared services and efficiencies. We think a conversation of our IT system is the number 1 cost saver. We can not continue to have the band aid systems we have now. We’ll be working with vendors in the future to find out how we can be a smarter university to utilize the data so that we can be a better operating university. We are handicapped with our decentralized systems.

Questions from the Floor:
A question from the floor asked the Chancellor was that you had required campus administrations would take 5% administrative costs and redirect it the academic and student services portion. What extent has the SUNY administration has verified that has been done on the campuses? Her answer was that she would be giving a full report of the progress of redistributing funds and where they have been used. SUNY has hired 200 new faculty members given that we have shifted revenues from duplicate functions to an investment in the academic enterprise.
Can you comment on where the resources will come from that will be need to support Open SUNY such as technical help, etc., as well as how the resources will be divided for the delivery of services and education that place over many campuses? The Chancellor said she is working on a business plan to help with this. They have to settle the financial aid residential issue, how they can offer classes that don’t need to be offered one campus at a time, as well as other issues. We know we need a business plan what it is going to cost us and what revenue comes into the campuses.

2. UUP Report – Fred Kowal
UUP and SUNY Faculty Senate have acknowledged there is a need to work together to tackle the issues of Open SUNY, Seamless Transfer, Start-Up NY or the hospitals. Despite what the Chancellor says these are not great times for SUNY and not great times for UUP. We agree on some core principles. SUNY is our university. We are the ones who have built it. We are keepers of a sacred obligation to defend against those who would alter the mission of SUNY.

We need to connect to the communities where we are; forging political alliances political activists and politicians. We in UUP are willing to work with anyone, but we need to be treated as equals. We can not be treated as consultants after the fact.

Fred Kowal showed a solution from UUP for the Downstate Hospital. You can view this plan at http://brooklynhospitalplan.org/ This is the plan for all Brooklyn Health care needs. This is viewed as a plan to solve all the problems in Brooklyn and Downstate Hospital. This is a physician lead plan.

The rise of privatization is a problem for us. He invited us to do a little research on the McKenzie Group – One of their clients in the past was Enron.

We need to increase state funding. We need a public commitment to a public education. Quality must come first not the number of students.

He took questions from the floor that included:

With Downstate medical hemorrhaging the amount of money that is losing, how can we sustain keeping LI CH open and still not have its monetary problems affect the other SUNY campus? Kowal said it wasn’t sustainable. We are more concerned about healthcare in Brooklyn.

What is UUP’s position on Open SUNY? The concerns center around quality of education. UUP is not opposed to Open SUNY, but there are problems around quality and success rate. UUP is also concerned about professional development and technological innovation that goes with online learning. There are security question of who is actually submitting the work. The faculty member needed to have an IT person on call.

Jim began his presentation with some statistics of NYS unemployment numbers, job openings in NYS, our unemployment rate, and the new jobs that will require a new BA and MA degree. Currently NYS does not have enough educated individuals to fill the 200,000 jobs within NYS.

This law makes all of our campuses eligible to participate and gives the campuses the flexibility to control their own destiny.
Free or unused space on our campus. Wanted to focus on our startup and our students and we want to make sure they hatch into larger business. We have underutilized spaces in our communities to attach to our campuses and make them task free. There had to be a strong academic mission.

Academic mission component. We want a strong linkage between the academic program and the business. We need to link our business sector to higher education through co-op programs, etc. Giving kids an experience through an internship with a company on campus. We want to focus on the core academic competencies of our program. Collaboration is key.

Only a college or university can give a company the right to locate on their space. Additionally, companies are required to support an institution’s academic mission. A company might support this mission by allowing faculty to perform applied research, establishing internship and experiential learning opportunities for students, hiring directly from the campus population or by undertaking numerous other mutually beneficial partnerships.

Milatras encouraged campus governance leaders to address each of their institutions administration and tell them that its the law that they collaborate with other entities. The law requires the Academic Presidents to reach out broadly to faculty, university councils, and the community. Reach out to them. They have to collaborate with faculty and staff to ensure a process to make sure our academic mission is heard, that our academic faculty have a voice. Don't wait. This will not work if it is a unilateral decision. Outreach across the board is critically important.

There’s an aggressive timeline for January 2014. Campuses are trying to come up with a plan and organize for January 2014. We can always amend as we go along. Campuses should come up with their processes including any appeals processes.

Go to the website at http://startup-ny.com. Please check out the competencies and available space that our university submitted. Get involved.

You can read the legislation at: http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/s5903-2013

4. SUNY Shared Services Report – Brian Hutzley –
   http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/SharedServices.pdf

Brian Hutzley reported that there were 1,300 different advertising vendors used throughout SUNY campuses, 438 different industrial equipment vendors used annually, and 9,800 unused licenses for one software program that SUNY had purchased. We are not leveraging our buying power. Shared Services can support SUNY's mission and goals through a more cohesive/coordinated operation.

Challenges facing higher education include:
- Budget pressures – 22% drop in direct State tax spending since 2007-08
- Climbing Tuition – Resident undergraduate tuition has increased since 2007-2008 35% at State-operated Campuses and 21% at Community Colleges.
- More Scrutiny of University Spending – 57% of parents question to value of tuition paid
- Increasing Competition Among Schools – In-state competition from 209 institutions
- Shrinking Applicant Pool – Experts estimate that the applicant pool will shrink 11% by 2005
- Rapid Changes in Technology – Increased demand for online education delivery
They are going through a Shared Services Process Review and are at the point where they are working with campuses to develop refined shared services plans through discussions with campus leaders, aligning select priorities, deciding on processes to develop projects to address select priorities, and develop and agree on principles for working together. In the future, they will design, implement & deliver select activities in a shared environment. This includes creating a central shared services center to coordinate overall initiative, further refine the process, and design, pilot, and expand system-wide delivery & financial model for priority opportunities.

As they go through the process, they are finding that there are priorities where shared services will work. They include procurement, IT infrastructure, Finances, HR, and Academic and Student Support areas such as Admissions processing, financial aid, and student billing and collection.

Brian indicated we are in a good place as far as shared services and think we are hitting the right targets, etc.

Senators expressed their anger of the trial and error phase that caused much pain and agony on many campuses (aka Shared Presidents, etc.). Campus advocacy and shared solutions is the answer and would have saved us time, money, and energies. Cary agreed very much.

On a side note: Brian announced that he will be leaving SUNY to go work at Colgate University. 

5. **Open SUNY Report – Cary Hatch**
   [http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/OpenSuny.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/OpenSuny.pdf)

Cary Hatch gave a review of the activities and feedback from the campuses that we’ve had over the last year.

Degrees will continue to be granted by the local campus. This is not the purview of system administration. It is not about forcing campuses to do this.

We are still working on business models. We are launching a cross-system committee to address these issues building on work to date.

Each campus will have continued faculty curricular control while leveraging our diversity.

They are willing to roll out Open SUNY on a small scale and build on existing programs. They are committed to working through the problems.

He then went through some facts:
- 56% of New Yorkers do not have any college degree
- 2X Unemployment rate of individuals without any college experience versus those with a Bachelor’s degree.
- >30% of higher education students in the US enrolled in at least one online course
- >38% of students enrolled in college over the age of 25
- >12,000 of online sections offered across the SUNY system
- We have 6.9 Million New Yorkers who have at least a high school education, but no college degree
4.2 Million New Yorkers who have an Associate or Bachelor’s degree
.46 Million who are current SUNY students
.86 Million who are currently enrolled in other NYS colleges
.39 Million are juniors and seniors in NYS
There are millions more potential students in other states and around the world.

Open SUNY is focused on enhancing SUNY’s role in supporting students’ access, completion and success.

We need to improve the Access to the internet and courses for students. Other items include financial aid advising, career counseling, tutoring, academic advising, open textbooks, and readiness assessment & exploration courses. For faculty we realize that they need to enhance the quality of instruction for their online students; develop professional development programs; use cutting edge learning tools to improve instructions; and enhance our profile. Supports include a place for online teaching excellence, instructional design support, content development support, learning commons, and 24/7 IT help desk support.

For our colleges and universities we need to support each institution’s unique student offering and experience by expanding reach and student outcomes.
At the state level we need to meet the demanding needs of employers and society by producing graduates capable for the 21st century. We need to engage in funders and partners, marketing for students, revenue and cost-sharing, and IT infrastructures. We really need to develop a business model and compensation model for Open SUNY.

In January we will not have a full set of services available. We will have several, but not all. This is changing on a daily basis.

Had a meeting with campus Presidents. We asked the Presidents to do:
1) Communicate to the campus about Open SUNY
2) Share assets – Gives and gets. We asked campuses to give something and what they wanted to get. For example, a campus might want a give a language program and other campuses might want the language program.
3) Nominate a program on their campus for a degree program.

Website is located at: http://opensuny.org

We have received 61 degree nominations from 29 campuses and 45 asset submissions from 21 campuses. We are in the process of selecting launch programs and assets.


The Provost’s Office continues to busy and she is learning a lot about many of things that are in the middle of implementation. She wanted to talk about what was shared at the Presidents meeting and the CAO meeting. Beth saw a need to strengthen communications between the campuses and Systems Administration. It was evident at the Presidents meeting, that much wasn’t shared by the Presidents at the local level.
We have challenges in enrollment. We've seen a decline in enrollment overall the last several years, and now we are seeing a recovery. The Chancellor has put a challenge out there to grow our enrollment in SUNY. One of our greatest assets is to align our degree program offerings to market demand to fill the unfilled jobs in NYS.

She briefly went over the Data Brief which contained data on campus selectivity, graduation rates and financial aid. She congratulated UB specifically for its efforts to take on retention and graduation rates already by implementing programs.

Finally, she talked extensively about Seamless Transfer and how vitally important it is to SUNY to continue on with this project.

7. **SUNY President’s Report** –
   [http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/presReportFall2013.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/presReportFall2013.pdf)

The new SUNY Faculty Senate President, Peter Knuepfer, released this report on October 16, 2013. In the report he covers topics of Open SUNY, Start-up NY, LICH and SUNY Downstate, CNSE-UAlbany Separation, the Budget, Shared Services, Educator Preparation, Student Mobility initiative, SUNY Voices, and some Presidential Initiatives. Not to provide the entire content of the report here as its entirety can be downloaded for review, there are some items that can be pulled out:

1) Open SUNY – Peter has decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Open SUNY to address the issues of MOOC's and other “disruptive” approaches/platforms, redundancy of online offerings, student support services, quality control, best approaches to help faculty prepare and improve online learning, cross-registration courses, prior learning assessment and competency-based credit.

2) Peter is seeking help from the campus governance leaders in their help in implementing shared governance practices to establish policies, procedures, criteria, and appeals for the establishment of start-up NY companies on their local campuses.

8. **Faculty Council of Community Colleges Report** – Tina Good
   [http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/FCCC.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/FCCC.pdf)
9. **Vote on Resolutions**
The Faculty Senate was presented with two resolutions to vote on.

The first resolution – “Resolution on Failure of Consultation and Shared Governance Regarding SUNY Educator Preparation Programs and the New NY Education Reform Commission” informs SUNY Board of Trustees members that the SUNY Faculty Senate decries the passage of the SUNY Educator Preparation Program without consultation of faculty governance. This resolution was passed.

[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionFailureConsultationandSharedGovernance.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionFailureConsultationandSharedGovernance.pdf)

The Second Resolution – “Resolution on the Board of Trustees Recommendation on the Use of Admissions Criteria for Teacher Education Programs” This resolution calls for the creation of a task force on predictive indicators of Teacher Candidate Quality to complete their work by June 30, 2014. This resolution was passed

[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionRecAdmissionsCriteriaTeachEdProg.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionRecAdmissionsCriteriaTeachEdProg.pdf)

Teacher Educator Preparation Programs Background Paper -
[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionTeachEdBackground.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/ResolutionTeachEdBackground.pdf)

10) **SUNY Faculty Senate Committee Reports** –
[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/CommitteeReportsFall2013.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/CommitteeReportsFall2013.pdf)

**Additional documents of Interest**
Guidance and Talking Points to CGL’s on Issues -
[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/CGLCommFall2013.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/CGLCommFall2013.pdf)

Statement from Robert Haelen, Interim CFO – 2014-15 Budget Request Preview
[http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/HaelenBudReqFall2013.pdf](http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/pdfs/plenary/HaelenBudReqFall2013.pdf)