SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS)

160th PLENARY, Jan. 26-29, 2012, Cornell University

Summary Report for UB Faculty Senate:

1. **Shared Governance**: President Kenneth O’Brien co-chairs the SUNY transformation team for shared governance. The chancellor will review and clarify shared governance with campus presidents at the spring 2012 president’s meeting.
   a. Program review leading to elimination should follow the local policy governing the approval process in reverse.
      i. Local issues require proactive communications to UFS to trigger involvement of the UFS.
      ii. The revised deactivation form requires shared governance. This will be included on all UFS forms.
   b. Senate and student leaders are now included in system meetings. Pres. O’Brien’s support of the chancellor keeps him in the conversations.
      i. Local campus administrations control shared governance by controlling access to the table
      ii. Senators should ensure communication between UFS and academic departments to build expectations for shared governance.
   c. SFS is an advisory body but can take powerful positions based on mutual respect.
   d. SUNY website has accreditation resources; Deb Meckel is the SUNY contact.
      i. SUNY hospitals have had accreditation process issues related to lack of faculty governance
      ii. **A guide for middle state self-study preparation has been developed by the UFS Governance Committee, forthcoming in Feb. 2012.**
         1. The USF Governance Committee encouraged senators to see the accreditation process as an opportunity to strengthen faculty governance

2. **“SUNY Guide to Presidential Searches at State-Operated Institutions” (Appendix 1)**: was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees (BOT) just in advance of this plenary.
   a. The final document shows willingness by SUNY and the BOT to listen and adapt processes. At O’Brien’s insistence, principles in the UFS Fall 2011 Resolution on Shared Services were included. This guide is considered policy by the BOT:
      i. Faculty will choose their representatives to search committees, i.e. in an open meeting of FTE faculty
      ii. At the beginning of any presidential search, UFS recommends that local governance continue to ask that a group of representational faculty and staff meet with semi-finalists and give feedback, in addition to search committee, even though this UFS point in the resolution was ignored by the chancellor and the guide does not include this meeting.
   b. Other changes:
      i. Campus council chairs are charged with guaranteeing diversity
      ii. Council chairs will choose representatives from the professional staff but also included is a recommendation that all constituencies choose their own representatives. This wording then doesn’t preclude insistence by local senates that staff elect their own representatives.
      iii. References to shared presidents were removed. There is no definition of a procedure to justify what the chancellor has already done.
   c. The chancellor expressed appreciation for input from UFS and president, Ken O’Brien.
3. **“Systemness”:** denotes minimizing distinctions that divide campuses and focusing on administrative efficiency and effectiveness that improves student outcomes and plays to parents and taxpayers.
   a. SUNY needs an online presence to maintain enrollment and serve needs of students. The chancellor will chair a task group and has signaled that an online "Open SUNY" is under review.
   b. Carey Hatch, SUNY Library and Information Science, presented information about online content and its impact on higher education. *(Appendix 2)*
   c. SUNY need to be more agile and consider other models of delivering content
d. Faculty are encouraged to attend the SUNY conference for teaching & learning in May, 2012.

4. **Performance based budgeting:** $1.5B cuts were already absorbed by campuses through individual savings, additional 5% should be available if SUNY works together over short and long term. Reductions will be returned to academic support and based on local priorities
   a. Campuses can choose from 7-10 criteria for evaluation of local efficiencies.
   b. Savings will be phased-in as current commitments expire. Savings are possible from:
      i. IT transformation
      ii. Regional centers for processing

5. **Shared Services:** Per chancellor, statutory campuses are already sharing services and could be a model for SUNY. Governance + 6 big ideas + targets will direct process
   a. Issues remain until we understand how savings will be accounted for and reported.
      i. The chancellor's expressed goal is to return faculty hires to a more traditional balance between adjunct and FTE faculty.
      ii. She encouraged faculty senates to monitor use of savings for academics, “rubrics for assessment are trial and error, and we don’t have a model”.
   b. 5-10 regions will each define shared services.
   c. SUNY is considering consolidation in: strategic sourcing, combined buying power; changing preferences, over hauling current system for state contracts, travel.
   d. The SUNY Student Assembly is asking students to suggest shared services. SA passed a resolution against shared presidencies

6. **Strategic enrollment:** Concern was expressed that campus identities will be compromised, especially related to the humanities. The chancellor asked that we trust SUNY to serve our common interests. Faculty can help express the importance for the liberal arts and how they are used to legislators and taxpayers. Her job is to remove barriers to SUNY by reducing costs and improving productivity. Questions remain:
   a. Will student choices be limited, especially at smaller campuses?
   b. Will the impact on student learning and experience be measured?
   c. The chancellor should stress importance of academics over training.
   d. The SUNY report card will address the need for remediation estimated at $70M per year costs, by establishing a “cradle to career interface”

7. **Student mobility:** SUNY AA/AS transfer with completion of general education at 4-year campuses was announcement by the chancellor in the 2012 State of SUNY address. This notion is in conflict with faculty authority over curriculum. The SUNY mobility committee will review and sees her statement as a marker but not policy.
   a. The chancellor’s emphasis is on supporting “seamless transfer” in SUNY, i.e. define the gaps and fill them before the legislature tries to fix the problems.
b. Development of the SUNY audit report using Degree Works is underway at some campuses. Coding of requirements is revealing different Interpretations of policy and allowing reconciliation of inconsistencies.
c. The Community College President’s Council require a review of 13-year old SUNYGE curriculum before approving any changes

8. Senate Business:
a. The University Centers Sector forwarded a recommendation to the Awards Committee that part time tenured SUNY faculty be considered for distinguished professor awards
b. **Approved Resolutions** (will be posted here, [http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/ApprovedResolutions.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/ApprovedResolutions.cfm))
   i. Resolution in support of the SUNY BOT “The DREAM Act” allowing NY state resident tuition regardless of citizenship for undocumented immigrants
   ii. Resolution that CUNY withhold implementation of any curriculum not recommended by a faculty governance body, i.e. in reaction to unilateral approval of CUNY “Pathways” general education curriculum

9. **Finance Budget** reported by Brian Hutzley, SUNY CFO and VC for Financial services (power point forthcoming)
a. No $$ for dorm maintenance at state operated campuses
b. UUP raise is not included in the budget

10. **Master Plan Revision:**
a. “Power of SUNY” document will be submitted as Master Plan for capital and budget plan
   i. UFS will see draft by mid-Feb.
b. SUNY consultants will be available at every campus to support alignment of facilities with master plan.
c. An application for electronic transmittal of campus information will be released soon. A committee has been established to speed responses from SUNY.

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