For those that don’t know what the SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary is, it is a 3 day conference of elected university faculty senate members from across 64 SUNY campuses. This group’s purpose is to engage in the governance of SUNY in educational policies and other professional matters across SUNY. For more information about the SUNY Faculty Senate, I encourage you to visit their website at: http://www.suny.edu/facultysenate/

The last meeting we had, there were three main issues: Student mobility across SUNY, the resource allocation model, and discussion of the financial problems of Down State Medical Center. Many of the issues that were present in this last meeting have carried over to this meeting.

**Report from David Lavallee, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost**

Dr. Lavalle continued on with the discussion of Seamless transfer and its importance to SUNY enrollment plans. Seamless transfer is supported by the current policy, but students must take the right coursework. That is they must take at least 7 of 10 Gen Ed categories PLUS at least four courses in the major (and cognates). Once they have achieved that, they can seamlessly transfer among 2 year and 4 year institutions.

In this effort to move along the student mobility idea, the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that provided for:

- 7 of 10 areas and 30 credits of general education in the first 60 credits of all AA, AS and bachelor’s degrees
- Foundational courses in the major and cognates in the AA and AS programs sufficient for junior status
- AA and AS program maximum of 64 credits and BA and BS of 126
- Requirements for campuses and system to provide clear, specific information for transfer students (through DegreeWorks)

He also talked about the need to engage in strategic enrollment management at the SUNY level. They see a need for high needs program funding, future enrollment growth, enhanced non-resident recruiting (neighboring state and on-line tuition policy), and expanding access through SUNY collaborative on-line degrees. SUNY has allocated $5 Million for high needs funding.

In this discussion, Dr. Lavalle presented two ideas. The first was this notion of SUNY collaborative on-line degrees. This type of degree would require the student to complete half of their coursework at the home campus (this coursework could be online or in the classroom). The remaining coursework could be taken at other SUNY campuses either online or through classroom study.

The second notion, was a financial aid consortium. SUNY administration finds it necessary to investigate a new thought of creating a financial aid consortium. This consortium would be administered by the home campus and allow students to take classes that they would not otherwise be able to take at their home campuses. This is still a new concept that they are working out with their campuses.

Diversity across SUNY was talked about. Campuses have generated diversity requirements. There is a US diversity and an SUNY diversity. SUNY has enhanced the office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. They have moved more dollars into the offices to support them. The investment will be used for new tools to diversity faculty and staff thru more diversity programs.
President O’Brien discussed a number of issues in his report.

**Shared Services.** The initiative continues, with campus administrations working (collaboratively) to ensure that potential savings through shared services have been identified and are in the process of being realized. To date, according to the Chancellor’s “State of the University” address, the savings amount to $20 million, a fifth of the three-year goal, with much more to come this year through changes in the system-wide IT processes, platforms and hardware.

**Downstate Medical University.** This is probably the most difficult issue facing SUNY in the near term, as the campus and hospitals continue to bleed significant red ink, for which an immediate transfusion of $75 million from SUNY campus reserves bought time, but not as much as hoped for. Without financial assistance, Downstate will run out of funds about the same as the federal Treasury, that is, this spring. The financial problems are inextricably bound to national health care policy and re-imbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid, the systematic withdrawal of state support for public hospitals, particularly the funding provided for the fringe benefits negotiated by the state, and what appears to be financial mismanagement (according to the Comptroller’s recent report) of the previous administration.

During the Plenary, it was reported that the hospital may be forced to close Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn. We are also seeing some financial difficulties in Upstate Medical University as they are facing budget cuts as well.

**The Resource Allocation Model.** This administration’s proposal for a new Resource Allocation Model to distribute the annual amount allocated by New York State for the operation of SUNY’s 34 state-operated campuses was passed by the Board of Trustees in December (see [http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/webcastdocs/resource%20allocation%20model%20-%20Revised.txt](http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/html/resources_allocation_model-Revised.txt)). As indicated earlier, a three-year implementation cycle is built into the plan, with 30% of the changed allocation occurring in each of the next two years, beginning next fall, and the final 40% in the 2015-2016 budget year. However, campuses that suffer from the new distribution model will receive significant transitional funding during that period, and if need be, beyond. The administration understands that three years might not be sufficient for some institutions to affect the changes necessary in their relative enrollment mix. Remember the model rests to a large extent on enrollment, by level of course and by type of institution.

**Student Mobility.** In December, the Board passed a new mobility policy that contained several key elements. (see [http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/webcastdocs/Seamless%20Transfer%20-%20Revised.txt](http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/html/seamless_transfer-Revised.txt)). First, students in AA and AS degree programs -- and students in BA and BS programs -- should complete the SUNY General Education program (30 credits in 7 of 10 specified areas, including math and composition) and a number of courses approved for each of more than forty academic majors. The number in the latter group varies, with more in the sciences for example than in the traditional liberal arts disciplines. Second, the degrees themselves will be limited to 64 credits for an associate’s degree and 126 for a bachelor’s, unless more is specified by accreditation agencies. From these two, the obvious intent of the resolution is to make SUNY community college students enrolled in transfer programs the effective equivalent of rising juniors who began their course of study on a baccalaureate campus. To do so, means campuses face new constraints on their ability to write curriculum. Finally, baccalaureate campuses may well exceed the SUNY general education credit and distribution requirements, as long as those additional requirements will not delay a student’s time to degree.
“State of SUNY”. Chancellor Zimpher - Among the many proposals in the speech, which can be accessed at http://www.suny.edu/chancellor/sou.cfm, the chancellor proposed “Open SUNY,” SUNY’s on-line learning initiative in the future. “Open SUNY” initiative sets forth a blueprint, which emerged from a group the Chancellor chaired (see the Interim Report under “Meetings/Materials” at http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny/framework/goals_ideas_teams/GettingDowntoBusiness8_Team.cfm). It will depend upon much greater coordination on the part of our campuses to align their efforts in distance education to a common framework, a common platform, even a shared curriculum. The problems are real, since we do not yet have a system-wide infrastructure that could support the vision. But, the reality is that if SUNY is to work meaningfully in the on-line education space, it has few options but to act to create the governing and delivery structures quickly.

One way of understanding the Zimpher administration’s initiatives is to view most of them through the lens of “system,” which reveals a concentrated effort on several fronts to remake SUNY from an administratively, but very loosely, connected collection of campuses into a much more tightly integrated university system. Much of the effort focuses on closer administrative collaboration. But, other initiatives clearly break with the autonomy traditionally granted SUNY campuses to act in their self-defined interests, calling themselves whatever they choose, crafting outsized academic programs, or developing independent plans for growth.

Faculty Senator Action Items:
Ken O’Brien asked the group for names of faculty members on campus that are engaged in the development and delivery of online courses. Please send names to Ken O’Brien so he can put together a committee to examine how SUNY campuses can work together on this initiative.

He also asked for participation on the diversity committee to have input into the diversity initiative announced by David Lavalle.

Report from Juliette Price, Special Assistant to the Chancellor (http://www.suny.edu/facultysenate/julitte%20priceUniversityFacultySenate_Final.ppt)

Juliette talked about a number of new ideas:

SUNY Passport – Through reciprocal partnerships between SUNY campuses, cultural institutions, state offices, and local tourism boards, SUNY Passport will offer free and reduced admission to a wide variety of cultural and recreational events. New web app called SCVNGR to view these discounts was made available.

Increase National Recognition of Each Campus’ Community Service Efforts/Quantifying Volunteerism

SUNY Plus - Service Learning/Experiential Educational participation
Dr. Killeen has been with SUNY for about 6 months. He comes to use from the National Science Foundation as the Assistant Director for Geosciences since 2008. You can read more about Dr. Killeen at http://www.suny.edu/sunynews/News.cfm?filname=RF%20President.htm. He announced several initiatives in his address to the Plenary.

**SUNY as a National Leader in Scientific Integrity.** SUNY has an opportunity to take a national leadership position with this statement on scientific integrity. Although many universities have procedures to respond to allegations of scientific misconduct, very few have proactive statements that set out the expectations for integrity in the conduct of research. He see the following components as our principles of scientific integrity: Transparency, Independence, Free and Open Communication, Accountability, Information Sharing, Peer Review, External Pressure and Bias Eliminated, Conflict of Interest Policies, thoughtful and Thorough Review of Misconduct Allegations, and a Scientific Basis for Public Policy and Discourse. At this time it is a draft statement that will be shared with the SUNY Vice Presidents for Research, the Faculty Senate, and other selected stakeholders.

**SUNY Research Council.** This is an advisory council to the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Research Foundation Board of Directors, the SUNY Provost, and Campus Presidents. It lends deep and broad thinking and understanding to the question of SUNY’s leadership as a 21st Century public comprehensive research-intensive university system. To see who serves on this advisory council you can go to: https://portal.rfsuny.org/portal/page/portal/The%20Research%20Foundation%20of%20SUNY/SUNY%20Research%20Council/suny_research_council

Of interest, as well, is that Dr. Killeen has made it possible to view each of meetings through a webcast.

**SUNY Networks of Excellence.** He sees that each campus in and of itself may not have all the resources available to it for submission of large government grants, but does see if campuses view themselves as part of SUNY, they will see that the resources they need are in fact found across the entire system. SUNY as a whole has unparalleled scope, scale, and experience….and thus as a whole is more powerful and has more resources than another other university across the nation. As a result they have set up networks of Energy, Health, Neuroscience, and Materials & Advanced Manufacturing. The SUNY infrastructure of 64 campuses, 6 Centers for Advanced Technology, 8 Centers of Excellence, and 17 incubators allows SUNY a greater advantage of receiving funding.

**State of the State Address.** Chancellor Zimpher announced critical components to keep SUNY competitive. The SUNY Research Foundation supported or created nearly 2,300 new companies through its incubators, tech transfer offices, and in partnership with SUNY’s Small Business Development Centers. The Technology Accelerator Fund (TAF), which was launched in April 2011, will make several awards of up to $50,000 to accelerate the development and commercialization of select SUNY technologies. Applications for these funds is due March 15, 2013.

A new program called SUNY’s Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Fund was launched in January 2013. The program provides the funds to secure the time and skills of proven, private-sector entrepreneurs who have both startup experience and expertise that is relevant to particular discoveries in the SUNY research portfolio. Applications for this fund are due February 15, 2013. Email EIR@rfsuny.org for more information.

Lastly he announced the SUNY Faculty Research Travel Grant Program, which will launch in February 2013. This program aims to improve the competitiveness of research proposals from SUNY faculty by facilitating interaction with perspective federal sponsors. Grants travel funds for faculty to meet with program managers at federal funding agencies.
Mr. Hutzley discussed highlights of the State of NY budget impact upon SUNY. In the end, he stated it could have been a lot worse.

- Super Storm Sandy definitely affected SUNY budget. The gap for 2013/14 was $1.4 billion. The gap for 2014/15 – 2016/17 is $14.9 Billion. For SUNY this means that Capital expenses in the pipeline will be funded, but future capital budgets have dried up over the next five years. With Rational tuition, there is sufficient appropriation to allow spending of planned tuition rate changes. There will be no contractual increases and no funding for SUNY strategic priorities.
- There are concerns for the operation of SUNY hospitals.
- The SUNY Board of Trustees has approved the Resource Allocation Model
- Shared Services – Over the next 3 years, SUNY will shift 5% of our spending to direct instruction and student services, resulting in $100M being reinvested through campus based priorities, student centered strategies, saving remain at Source, and investment in savings will be required.
- He then went into examples of how campuses are working together to save monies

Report from Chancellor Nancy Zimpher
(http://www.pss.buffalo.edu/about/PDF/Open%20SUNY%20Interim%20Report%202012-24-12%20for%20submission.pdf)
The Chancellor took a variety of questions from each university sector regarding “Open SUNY” the online-learning initiative. Open SUNY is anticipated to officially launch in 2014. She anticipates the start by adding 10 online bachelor’s degree programs that meet high-need career demands. In 3 years she anticipates enrolling 100,000 degree-seeking students in Open SUNY, making us the largest public online provider of education in the nation. Although campuses were concerned over this initiative, Zimpher emphasized she needed the assistance of faculty to develop and deliver these high quality programs. She also emphasized that today we already have 34,000 students enrolled in online-learning courses, mostly offered through Empire State College. She encouraged faculty to get involved in the effort.

After questions for the campuses, she then went over a brief review of her State of the University Address, which can be seen at http://www.suny.edu/chancellor/sou.cfm

Faculty Senator Action Item:
She called upon the group to submit President Evaluation metrics/questions to her office.

Meeting Resolutions
There were a few resolutions that were voted on. The first three resolutions had to do with changes to the Bylaws of the SUNY Faculty Senate. The first was to remove term limit for immediate past presidents and past vice president/secretary to participate in the Senate as non-voting members. The second was that nominations for the Executive Committee shall be made by a member of the senate representing an institution in that group. Both of these resolutions passed.

The third bylaw revision of formalizing the Expanded Executive Committee did not pass. It was recognized by the group that the President has the ability to add advisory members already as stated by another bylaw. The group encouraged this practice to continue, but that there was no need to codify it.
The last resolution discussed and passed was a resolution for the creation of a new Chancellor’s award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. This resolution passed for further discussion at the next plenary.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Kielar, Ph.D.
SUNY Faculty Senator