

**University Senate Meeting  
Monday, February 4, 2019  
Campus Center Board Room  
2:45-5:00 p.m.**

**Introduction**

- Thank you Jim (Mower), and as always, thank you all for being here and for your service to the Senate and to the University. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today.
- For those of you I have not seen since before the break—Happy New Year, and happy start to the spring semester!
- This is not just any new year... it is the start of our 175<sup>th</sup> year as an institution.
- On January 22, we had a great event in the Campus Center to launch what will be a yearlong celebration of this milestone.
- This was a great event—the first of many occasions this year to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup>.
- This is a great time to reflect on our history and our past achievements—as we build toward an even brighter future.

- But above all—it's a time to reaffirm and renew our commitment to **excellence** and to be even more enthusiastic about the future.
- With the concurrent launch of our new brand expression—Unleash Greatness—we will take the University to a new level!
- And let us not forget that *This is Our Time!*
- We need to ensure the continued success of our comprehensive fundraising campaign.
- We are now at about \$109.5M of our \$150 goal.
- This effort is going to be critical to reaching our goals... along with increased revenue from research funding along with enrollment growth.

## **2018 Update - Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education**

- Was posted in mid-December for public review.
- Basic classification for **SUNY at Albany: Doctoral University: Very High Research Activity.**

- This is the highest classification for R1: Doctoral Universities

## **New Academic Leaders**

- It gives me great pleasure to announce three academic leaders who have stepped up to fill critical roles here at the University.
  - o **Elga Wulfert** - interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs;
  - o **Jeanette Altarriba** - interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences;
  - o **JoAnne Malatesta** - interim Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education.

## **Executive Budget: VERY PRELIMINARY**

- Governor's initial budget presentation – January 15 - a more robust budget will be presented tomorrow.
- Then, the Senate and Assembly will propose their own one-house budgets to demonstrate their priorities publicly. The

negotiation then begins.

- We anticipate that the final budget will be released on time by March 31.
- Preliminary Executive Budget
  - o \$7.6B investment for higher education, an increase of \$143M from last year
  - o Excelsior Scholarship Program, with eligibility increased to \$125K in family taxable income
    - o UAlbany had more than 1,000 students receiving a full Excelsior award last year.
    - o The DREAM Act, which would make undocumented students eligible for TAP as well as Excelsior and other state-administered scholarships – Being reviewed at the Governor's level.
    - o The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is funded at \$26.8 million, a decrease of \$5.4 million from last year's enacted budget.

- o We will of course ask for the increase to be restored to this highly effective program.
- o Direct state tax funding to aid in mitigating the impact of the UUP retroactive payment in 2018-19
- o A new \$55M appropriation for another round of NYSUNY 2020. We will need to compete for a share of these funds.

### **UAlbany Impact:**

- We are expecting approximately \$56.4M in state tax support, similar to last year's level.
- There is \$9.74M in critical maintenance funding for the University - slightly up from last year's Executive Budget (\$9.69).
- **Again, this is all very preliminary**

### **Our legislative priorities:**

- \$20M in capital support for the Schuyler Building.

- Restoration of \$250K and increase of \$250K for our NYSTAR Center of Excellence in Atmospheric and Environmental Prediction and Innovation.
- Restoration of funds that may be eliminated for other university initiatives/projects.
- All of this will be explained in much greater detail in a budget update from the Office of Government and Community Relations which will drop sometime this week.

### **SUNY State of the System Address**

- The Chancellor presented her State of the University System address last Thursday at the Albany Capital Center.
- Importance of ensuring everyone has access to a college degree...acknowledged UAlbany as one of SUNY's campuses that is doing a particularly effective job of providing access AND generating social mobility in the process.
- The Chancellor reiterated her four themes:

- o Individualized education
  - o Innovation and entrepreneurship
  - o Sustainability
  - o Partnerships
- She also outlined several new initiatives, including new commitments to:
    - o Diversifying SUNY's faculty
    - o Through Promoting Recruitment Opportunity Diversity Inclusion and Growth (PRODI-G), SUNY System will provide three-years of salary support grants to campuses for up to a total of 1000 entry-level and early/mid-career WIS and URM faculty candidates.
      - In Year 1, SUNY will pay up to \$90K of the new faculty member's salary.
      - In Year 2, SUNY will pay up to \$45K.

- In Year 3, SUNY will pay up to \$27K. In Year 4 and beyond, the campus will be fully responsible for the faculty member's salary.
- Strengthen and expand online education
- Create 1,000 endowed professorships across SUNY by 2030.
- Create tech clusters around the state that complement SUNY research strengths.
- Our strategic priorities are well-aligned with SUNY's—and it will be critical for us to continue to ensure we support these priorities.

### **Provost Search Update**

- The search committee is currently evaluating candidates and will be conducting airport interviews in the near future.
- The process is right on schedule.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

- Our Year One Accelerators, which were announced last semester, are funded and off and running.
  - o **\$2,419,000 over a three-year period**
  - o Focused on our Core Priorities (SEE HANDOUT)
    - Undergraduate and graduate scholarships
    - Transdisciplinary research funds
    - Mentoring program URM faculty
    - Study Abroad
    - Albany Book Festival
- **Another \$1.6M for reallocation of funds in the different divisions.**
- **GRAND TOTAL: \$4,044,793**
- Coming soon—as we have discussed, we’ve also created a funding mechanism called **StAR, or the Strategic Allocation of Resources.**

- o Total \$500K – Max. Awards \$50K each
  
  - o Competitive grants
  
  - o The Strategic Planning Advisory Council (SPAC) will review the StAR submissions and make recommendations to the Executive Council. There is Senate representation on this group.
- We are also currently considering major Year Two Accelerator proposals from the VPs and Deans.
  
  - In addition, we'll be making public soon the high-level institutional metrics that will be used to measure success on our strategic priorities.
  
  - Now we can establish baselines, followed by targets that we will collaborate to set for each Core Priority.

## **Middle States update**

- As you know, our reaccreditation effort is being led by Jeanette Altarriba, and Jason Lane, interim Dean of the School of Education.
- You can look for a draft of our self-study to be shared with the campus community late this spring, as the work groups are hard at work and in the writing stage now.
- Thank you to everybody participating in this major campus-wide effort.
- The Middle States external review team will visit campus in spring 2020, just over a year from now.

### **Enrollment plan update**

- We have recently finalized a Five-year Enrollment Plan. This plan will increase our enrollment from 17,841 students in fall 2018 to just over 19,000 students by fall 2023.
- The plan is very conservative. Therefore I expect that we will not only meet these targets but exceed them.

- More details will be forthcoming from Mike Christakis and Todd Foreman whom I'm sure will be briefing UPPC more fully on this plan.

## **Academic Program Review**

- Another important priority is the review and approval of our academic programs.
- We need to continue to offer new, innovative, and high-demand academic programs, face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online.
- We need to streamline and expedite our internal program approval process as it takes an extremely long period of time for the review and approval of these programs, and that's before it goes to SUNY and State Ed.
- I'm glad to hear that the Senate is working with Academic Affairs to make sure we make these changes—in very short order. Thank you for your collaboration in this critical area.

## **Consensual Relationships—SUNY**

- I provided the Senate leadership with a copy of the memo sent to the Chancellor last month, in response to request included in a SUNY Board of Trustees resolution regarding consensual relationships between faculty or staff and students.
- As the memo describes, SUNY asked all campuses to provide feedback on the establishment of a policy prohibiting romantic or sexual relationships between faculty or staff and undergraduate students.
- Kevin Wilcox presented information to the Senate about this request, and your input helped to inform our initial feedback to SUNY.
- We expect more guidance from SUNY in the future, but meanwhile we will continue to look at specific options for a policy of this nature and discuss those details with the Senate and other campus stakeholders as this policy evolves.

**Regional Higher Education Leaders Consortium:**

- We hosted 19 of the 22 college and university presidents from the region here on November 19 and had a very productive conversation about how we can both benefit the region as a

sector, and how we can join forces to improve the climate for higher education across the Capital Region.

- A working group will be meeting again this spring to discuss an organizational structure for ongoing coordination and collaboration.

### **Women in Higher Ed initiative:**

- This group held its second meeting in November; Elga has agreed to chair this effort, and has created a Steering Committee to move forward the ideas and input from the two Convenings held in 2018. That group is scheduled to meet later this month.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **MLK Celebration:** February 13 in the Ballroom. Reception 5:30 1844 Room; Program at 7:00 with keynote speaker Rev. William Barber — Co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign and a leading civil rights activist.
- Please join us in our 175<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Events