

SUNY UFS Fall 2021 Plenary Report

The 189th Plenary was held over Zoom October 7–9, 2021

The full Plenary report can be found on the SUNY UFS Web site: <http://www.sunyufs.us/plenary-files.html>. Below are highlights from the Plenary.

President's report

- Sectors are encouraged to formulate questions for the Chancellor ahead of the Plenary, so that sector meetings can focus on conversations about issues facing sectors and how campuses are handling those issues.
- There are multiple presidential searches underway, and a national search for the next SUNY Provost was initiated.

DEI Breakout Session

- Senators broke out into smaller groups to discuss sections of the DEI Phase 1 Action Plan

Provost's Report

- The Provost discussed progress on the Gen Ed framework. SUNY is looking at a Fall 2023 implementation date. The framework will support seamless transfer
- Enrollment numbers are down 4.7% system wide, but up 0.2% at doctoral institutions. Doctoral institution enrollments continue to increase while comprehensive, technology, and community college enrollments continue to decline.

Board of Trustees Chair

- Chair Tisch started by discussing the good working relationship between Governor Hochul and Chancellor Malatras.
- Campuses are using federal funding to increase initiatives related to mental health and childcare on campuses.
- A CFO search will commence soon.
- Faculty governance representatives are present on all of the current presidential searches.

Chancellor Q&A

- Discussed issues facing health science campuses and hospital staffing shortages.
- The COO has been very vocal on telecommuting, would like to see this option remain where it makes sense to do so, but we need to be as in person as possible.
- Study Abroad hiatus should be lifted soon.
- Hoping to get better headway with State Ed on program approvals as we move into the next legislative season.
- Vaccination mandates are in place at hospitals because DOH has the authority to mandate vaccines for workplaces for which it provides licensure. The Governor and Chancellor do not have the authority to mandate vaccines for employees in collective bargaining units.

SUNY DLE Update

- Goal is to have a unified digital learning environment across SUNY.
- Campuses will move in cohorts; first cohort will migrate in 2022; implementation will be about 11-13 months for each campus
- Training opportunities will be available
- dle.suny.edu is project status page

Vice President/Secretary Election

- Diane Hamilton from UAlbany ran for and was elected to the VP/Secretary position.

UUP President

- Thanked everyone for all the work done during COVID.
- Over 90% of UUP represented members system-wide are vaccinated.
- SUNY needs \$150M in funding.
- Excelsior needs to be expanded to cover everything (including room and board)
- NYS needs an endowment for public higher education.

FCCC President

- Onondaga Community College has a vaccine mandate for faculty and staff (there is a different union for community colleges)
- Biden's free community college proposal will likely look like the current version of Excelsior.

Committee Reports

- Ethics, Undergraduate, and Governance committees reported out on their work plans for the year.

Resolutions

The Senate passed the following resolutions:

- Proposal to amend UFS standing rules (allows shift to virtual plenaries if needed)
- Executive Budget Resolution: urges Governor Hochul to craft an Executive Budget that makes New York State a national leader in sustainably and equitably supporting and advancing SUNY and CUNY's core academic missions.
- Telecommuting: supports the Chancellor's and the unions' efforts thus far and urges them to continue to work with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations on telecommuting.
- Contact Hours Policy for Applied Learning Experiences: align SUNY's policy for experiential learning credit to align with federal regulations.
- Supporting AAUP Joint Statement