



UNIVERSITY FACULTY



SENATE REPORT SUNYIT, Utica October 22-24, 2009

SENATE PRESIDENT

The President of the University Faculty Senate is **Ken O'Brien** (Professor History, SUNY Brockport).

- President O'Brien accompanied the Chancellor on parts of her visits to every SUNY Campus. He was much impressed with her energy, her focus, and her intellect. While he recognized that the tour was part public relations, he saw that the Chancellor was learning about campuses and meeting local political leaders across the state, both of which can only serve SUNY well in the years ahead.
- Ken also discussed the Strategic Plan whose major goals are economic revitalization and enhanced quality of life for New York State. There is a Steering Committee of 18, 7 "conversations" will be held at different locations across the state. These conversations will focus on different Strategic Plan sub-topics. These conversations to be attended by a committee of 200, selected from across SUNY.
- Ken reports that the Chancellor is an advocate of shared governance and likes to lead by example. She has suggested would like to follow a practice employed at Cincinnati which incorporated faculty governance leaders into an Executive group of 17 or 18, mostly upper level system administrators.
- There have been a number of new hires in System, including **David Laval** (Provost, New Paltz), Interim Provost, **Monica Rimai** (Interim President, Cincinnati), Senior Vice Chancellor and COO, **Mitch Leventhal** (Cincinnati), Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs, **Johanna Duncan-Poitier** (NYS Education Department) who will report directly to the Chancellor and work on the education pipeline.
- Responsibility for assessment seems to be moving back to individual campuses with oversight from System.
- Student mobility continues to remain largely under faculty control and a result of continued efforts of a joint committee from SUNY and Faculty Council of Community Colleges.

Question and answer session:

Will Chancellor support change in SUNY's status as a state agency?

Probably, but will do it quietly. Chancellor will try to identify what budget cuts will do to each campus.

Whose job is it to communicate effect of budget cuts to public?

Chancellor is developing strategy. BOT has a Communications Committee which will advocate for SUNY.

Any comments on Binghamton athletic situation?

Chancellor moved quickly, got Judge Judith Kaye to head a study, and has effectively moved the problem from Binghamton to Albany.

Written report available.

DAVID LAVALLEE (INTERIM) PROVOST

- Student mobility. Everyone seems to be lining up in support of faculty initiative. Website will be used both for transfers and for advisement in the major. He is looking a AP courses, online courses, and University in High School courses. There are technical reason some of these may transfer even if not appropriate.
- He is looking at time to degree for transfer students and sees some troubling patterns, even for academically strong students, related to General Education.
- He likes the Assessment Report. It makes sense to move responsibility for assessment to campuses with System oversight. He wants Senate comment before he requests approval from BOT.

PHIL WOOD, (INTERIM) VICE CHANCELLOR AND CFO

- Budget is very uncertain, with some scenarios leading to the State having insufficient income to meet required expenditures, depending on Legislature, state revenue, and any extension of special Federal money. Note, SUNY received essentially no stimulus money, but when it goes away in 2010-11, State may cut SUNY budget anyway.
- We have a Budget Panel (with Senate representation). This group has to recommend what to do with the large mid-year cut by the November 17 meeting of BOT. Has to recommend a 2010-11 budget, and what to do longer term.
- Governor wants to cut CUNY to help, but needs Legislature to do this. CUNY not a State agency.
- Need a balanced budget plan by April 1 and plan should mesh with Strategic Plan.
- SUNY tuition now at TAP limit. Increases could seriously hurt some students.

Question and answer session:

What about the ~\$500M "cash reserves" we hear about in the papers?

These are largely funds in IFR accounts. The name of these accounts should be changed to Obligated Funds Accounts, because these funds are committed.

Can SUNY talk with UUP?

Chancellor has pushed the reset button with both UUP and DOB. There is hope that all these interested parties will get on the same side in finding a solution to what is a serious and real State budget crisis. Chancellor is also talking to CUNY about common interests.

Any talk of closing a campus?

No.

What is SUNY doing to encourage retirements?

If SUNY offers \$ to induce retirements, State would take the money and the line.

Some short term fixes can cause serious long term damage to SUNY and limit SUNY's ability to contribute to the State's economy and quality of life. Can SUNY point this out?

SUNY is trying to define the return on investment so it can make this case more effectively.

Will State tax RF Accounts?

No new talk of this but it is still on the table.

NANCY ZIMPHER, CHANCELLOR

- She has a long history of shared governance, from both sides. How SUNY makes decisions is important to her. She is passed worrying about "how slow faculty committees work".
- She reported on her visits to 64 campuses in 95 days. She recorded all questions and found patterns, being formed into themes for the Strategic Plan. This tour is now called Phase I of the Strategic Plan.
- Go to <http://www.suny.edu/strategicplan/> for more information.
- Will meet around the State to discuss emerging themes

October 21: Economic Vitality and Quality of Life

November 4: Education Pipeline.

December 1: Arts and Culture

January 11: Diversity and Globalization

February 4: Energy and Sustainability

February 15: Quality of Place

February 22: Health Affairs.

- We need to develop a big clear message with which to advance SUNY.
- Reported her view that what the State did with tuition last year was "unheard of in higher education" and so told legislature
- Trying to build relationship with DOP, UUP, CUNY
- Will hold monthly meeting with all campus presidents
- Looking at success stories in other states where investments in higher education have paid big returns.

TINA GOOD, PRESIDENT OF FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- Advocacy, Activism, and Academics is FCCC theme for year.
- Cited Assessment Resolution as example of joint work.

MANFRED PHILIPP, CHAIR CUNY SENATE

- In the old days (1970s and 1980s) CUNY saw SUNY get more resources while CUNY was near collapse. CUNY even had its own Trustees making fun of them
- Now CUNY is expanding, building new programs and departments and hiring new faculty.
- CUNY has some advantages in dealing with budget cuts. It has a larger fraction of adjuncts and there is no talk of retrenchment; it has seen this storm coming having been there before. In summary, CUNY is not in nearly as bad shape as SUNY. Philipp seems almost shocked at what he heard about SUNY's situation.
- Faculty Senate at CUNY in a central position, receiving copies of all memos from Chancellor to various campuses. Senate pushed new \$billion capital campaign (against lack of confidence at Board). Campaign was more than successful.

- Comment: At what level (percent) of support for the total budget does the Governor have the right to name the BOT?

UNIVERSITY CENTER SECTOR CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

- Last year's tuition-increase/budget-cut resulted in a disproportionate cut in support for graduate student TAs and RAs. Because university centers pay tuition for many graduate students from an already declining budget, the increase in tuition claims a larger fraction of this budget, leaving less for student stipends. This at a time when SUNY already pays its TAs and RAs less than its peer institutions.
- The budget cuts continue to result in the hiring of non-tenure track faculty to meet the increased teaching demands. Most of these faculty do not write grant proposals, do not manage major research groups, and do not mentor Ph.D students. This trend toward fewer tenure track faculty put some Ph.D. programs at risk of collapse.
- Would the Chancellor look into what would be required to get SUNY off the AAUP censured list?
- The contract with Elsevier continues to stress library budgets, especially those for social science and humanities. SUNY should continue to search for ways to improve this situation, perhaps by joining with other universities in the Northeast.

Reports for the Following Committees are available:

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- **AWARDS COMMITTEE.**
- **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**
- **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** (faculty lines over time)
- **GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**
- **STUDENT LIFE.**
- **UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEE.**(Undergraduate research posters at Capital, February 1-3)
- **ETHICS COMMITTEE**
- **MOBILITY (PREVIOUS ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER)**

RESOLUTIONS

- **Resolution on assessment, passed**
- **Budget resolution, passed**
- **Resolution on Faculty Exchange Scholars, passed**
- **Resolution on BS requirement for nurses, passed**
- **Resolution on student mobility, passed**
- **Proposed amendment to Bylaws (vote count for Chair not revealed), introduced**

REMINDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE PAGE

Although material is slow to appear on the site, eventually the full text of motions passed should appear:

<http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/>.

Respectfully submitted,

William Lanford, and Dan White
SUNY Senators