



UNIVERSITY FACULTY

SENATE REPORT

Alfred State College, Alfred
October 21-23, 2010



SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken O'Brien (SUNY Brockport).

- **PHEEIA, the New York budget process SUNY and the University Senate** : Sen. Dennis Stachowski (D., Buffalo) did his best to fight for PHEEIA but the Assembly was not on board. The SUNY operating budget now has been cut by \$210 million with no tuition increase. There has been no viable alternative to PHEEIA presented except the call to reinstate full funding for public higher education.
- **What will all this mean for the system this year?** SUNY's operating budget has been reduced by \$643 million in state support since 2008. We teach more students but have fewer resources with which to do it. The results of cuts are showing in the closing of Nursing program at New Paltz last year and now the suspension of admission to 5 UAlbany programs. The faculty senate should focus on its role as the keeper of the academic program and avoid the "terms and conditions of employment" issues associated with program closures.
- **Beyond retrenchment.** System administration has developed money saving plans like furloughs for MC employees and a System-wide freshmen enrollment cap limiting incoming first-year students to the class sizes we saw in 2009. UFS leaders will continue to make efforts to meet with UUP leaders and Faculty Council of Community College leaders.
- A Graduate research poster session called "Research That Matters: An Exposition of Graduate Research in SUNY and CUNY," is scheduled for March 8 in the Legislative Office Building.
- **Strategic Planning Implementation.** We are now in the implementation phase of the strategic planning process. There are six Innovation teams and seven Transformation teams as well as a Steering Committee. The innovation groups are SUNY and the Entrepreneurial Century, SUNY and the Seamless Education Pipeline, SUNY and a Healthier New York, SUNY and an Energy-Smart New York, SUNY and the Vibrant Community, and SUNY and the World. These groups will recommend programs to move the plan forward. The seven Transformation teams are Academic Excellence, Strategic Enrollment Management, Budget Task Force, Leadership Development, Innovative Instruction, Information Technology and Shared Governance. These teams will seek measurable outcomes to make recommendations to move the plan forward. Along with the strategic planning, governance groups in the state will work on shared governance best practices.
- **Other Items of Importance:** The raises for the Chancellor's leadership team came at a difficult time and have weakened support for freeing SUNY from some of the oversight of the legislature.

The final section is taken verbatim from Dr. O'Brien's report available electronically from Senator White.

- **"Student Mobility.** Much of the work begun last year is reaching fruition, as new institutional processes are fulfilling the decades-old promise of student mobility across SUNY. You may have heard of the disciplinary committees, with faculty from both the community colleges and the state operated campuses, identification of the four to six courses in each academic major that we expect each student to have completed by the end of their second year. In addition, these faculty groups have created course descriptors, with varying degrees of specificity that work to make successful seamless transfer a reality. The success of these processes is due to the efforts of many different people from across the system, but none is more important in this final phase than Provost David Lavallee.
- The Message from UAlbany. No matter how justifiable it may be, adding my voice to the chorus of criticism already raised following the announcement of the closure of five academic programs at

UAlbany earlier this month feels like "piling on." Yet, there are two concerns worth noting: based on Jean-François Brière's Open Letter, the news came as a surprise to him and his colleagues, and the fact that four of the five programs to be closed were languages adds an ironic note to the Strategic Plan's identification of "SUNY and the World" as one of its six Big Ideas.

- Having lived through two retrenchments at the College at Brockport thirty years ago, I know how devastating such events are to a campus community, not to mention the damage done to individual careers. It took at least two decades for us to recover, two decades during which almost every major decision on the departmental level was made through the lens of how it would affect the department's position in the next crisis. Given the understandably dire realities that follow from these actions for a campus, a program and individual faculty and professional staff, I would hope campus administrative leadership would make certain to apprise the campus community of the range of actions it might have to take, before the specifics are announced, with the clear understanding that such actions are the absolute last resort for any administration.
- Meetings. Since the last plenary, we have held a number of meetings and presentations, including a gubernatorial press conference, our Summer Planning Conference with the Executive Committee, our Fall Planning Conference last month in Syracuse at which the annual working agenda for each UFS committee was adopted, and meetings with Tina Good, Sandi Cooper and Phil Smith are designed to keep each of informed of what the other's organization is concerned about and planning."

Written report available.

DAVID LAVALLEE, SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST

- The Provost's Office is still concentrating on the Student Mobility changes that were passed by the Board of Trustees. They have developed a transfer equivalency online database. The objective is to find common courses for the first two years of the main majors in the system. 90% of this work has been done with a few exceptions for programs that don't match up across the system like communications. There are 250 faculty from across the system involved.
- The Provost also spoke about an a freshman enrollment cap which will limit incoming classes to their 2009 size. There will be disincentives to campuses that take more freshman than the 2009 levels (ie loss of tuition dollars that will be re-distributed). However, there is no cap on transfer admissions.
- System is moving forward with part time teaching and clinical faculty excellence awards.

MONICA RIMAI, SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

- Vice Chancellor Rimai reported via telephone due to the flooding and subsequent challenges to getting the building up and running.
- Ms. Rimai gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation (Budget 101 Part A) to explain some of the complexities of the SUNY budget. We have been told that the presentation will be made available on the SUNY website.

NANCY ZIMPER, CHANCELLOR

- The Chancellor took questions from each of the sectors and responded to each. Although asked to comment, she did not respond to any specific questions about the program suspensions at UAlbany.
- The Chancellor presented her next phase of the strategic plan referred to in the President's report. This is the implementation phase where smaller groups of experts from around SUNY will work on

implementation recommendations for the outreach and internal improvement of SUNY.

- The Chancellor also spoke about the need to mobilize the SUNY constituency. Legislators told her that she had no constituency however there are half a million SUNY students and almost 100,000 faculty.

TINA GOOD, PRESIDENT OF FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Presented the organization and representation of FCCC. One delegate from each campus and a very small budget for travel and plenary sessions. The CC presidents provide funding to FCCC as they see fit which can be a source of conflict when difficult resolutions are considered.
- There has been a positive working relationship between FCCC and SUNY Faculty Senate that will hopefully continue.
- As community colleges see increasing enrollments they worry that the SUNY freshman enrollment caps will negatively impact their students wishing to transfer.

UNIVERSITY CENTER SECTOR CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

The following list of concerns comes from Pete Knuepfer's (Binghamton University)

- The University Centers Sector is concerned about the recent events at UAlbany and the ability of University Centers to fulfill their missions in the absence of core subject areas. We are concerned that the shared governance process was not followed when making the decision to suspend admission to programs at UAlbany. We feel strongly that any comprehensive research university needs to protect the core elements of its curriculum. Accordingly, members of our sector worked on a resolution to present to the Senate. There is also concern that these steps are circumventing the protections offered in faculty contracts through collective bargaining.
- We recognize funding within SUNY is complicated but there is still confusion about the "reserves" that the Chancellor spoke about in her testimony to the NYS Legislature. We wonder how much of SUNY's reserves can be utilized to cover budget deficits on individual campuses and SUNY as a whole?
- We appreciate the Chancellor's understanding of the challenges of a research university. We thank her for her advocacy to offset the higher costs of operating research universities and ask her to continue to advocate on behalf of the research mission of SUNY. We, as SUNY Faculty need to remind our legislators about the impact of cuts on both student completion and our research mission.
- We are concerned about the reduction in support for EOP and EOC programs that allow access to low income New Yorkers. We need to continue to champion the cause of equal access and student diversity.

Reports for the Following Committees are available:

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- **AWARDS COMMITTEE.**
- **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**
- **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**
- **GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**
- **STUDENT LIFE.**
- **UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEE.**
- **ETHICS COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution on Consultation with Governance, passed
- Resolution on the Suspension of Programs at the University at Albany, passed

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,

J. Philippe Abraham,
Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, and
Daniel D. White
SUNY Faculty Senators

**University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
156th Plenary
Alfred State College
October 23, 2010**

Resolution on Consultation with Governance

Whereas SUNY campuses are facing extraordinary financial pressures, and

Whereas campuses may be forced to consider program consolidation, suspension or elimination, and

Whereas the procedures for reaching such decisions have not always involved appropriate consultation with existing governance, and

Whereas SUNY has clear policies for establishing and revising programs, and the impact of program consolidation, suspension or elimination is as significant to a campus as the establishment of programs,

Therefore, Be It Resolved

The University Faculty Senate urges System Administration to ensure that campus administrations and existing governance bodies employ formal procedures for consultation before reaching any decisions regarding program consolidation, suspension or elimination.

156-01-1
Resolution on Consultation with Governance
Passed
October 21, 2010

**University Faculty Senate
University Centers Sector
156th Plenary
Alfred State College
October 23, 2010**

Resolution on the Suspension of Programs at the University at Albany

Whereas the core mission of a comprehensive University Center is to deliver an education and to do research of national and international repute

Whereas one of the six big ideas of the SUNY strategic plan ("The Power of SUNY") is "SUNY and the World" which emphasizes SUNY's global mission

Whereas the motto of the University at Albany is "The World Within Reach"

Whereas the administration of the University at Albany has suspended admission to the following academic programs: Classics, French, Italian, Russian, and Theatre

Whereas these academic programs are part of the core mission of a comprehensive University Center

Be it resolved that the actions of the administration at the University at Albany compromise the core mission of that University Center and compromise the ability of SUNY to fulfill its global mission as articulated by "The Power of SUNY" strategic plan.

156-02-1

Resolution on the Suspension of Programs at the University at Albany

Passed

October 23, 2010