

SUNY University Faculty Senate Spring 2022 Plenary

April 7 – 9, 2022

Tarrytown Hill Estates, Tarrytown, NY

The following are highlights from the UFS Spring 2022 plenary. Billie Franchini (Senator), Timothy Sergay (CGL), and Kabel Stanwicks (Senator) attended the plenary. Please see the SUNY UFS Web site (<http://www.sunyufs.us/>) for a complete plenary report.

UFS President's Report

- UFS plenaries will change to include 2 physical plenaries (spring/fall) and an online plenary in winter (avoids winter travel).
- UFS Executive Committee issued two statements since our last plenary: State Executive Budget and Ukraine.
- Executive Budget: addresses more operating funds, Community Colleges' base operating aid, hospital debt service, funding new faculty, TAP support, and a safety net for hospital support.
- Board of Trustees actions: presidential appointments for Empire State and Alfred State, Honorary degrees, property transfers, transcript withholding for outstanding fees eliminated, task force to explore eliminating single use plastics on campuses, student athlete name/image/likeness policy, discussion on sustainability of the health sciences centers.
- System searches: Chancellor, Provost, CFO, CDO (latter 3 searches on hold until new Chancellor in place).
- Campus President searches: New Paltz, Oswego, and Potsdam; Poly is undecided
- General Education: Implementation working through campuses and system. New diversity requirement shows up as knowledge category instead of an infused competency; campuses need to think about this as part of liberal arts core curriculum (not diversity training). SUNY has resources for campuses to develop courses, not every faculty member/course will be DEISJ. The new framework goes live Fall 2023.
- DLE/Brightspace migration: cohort 1 launched, templates and training.
- Seamless transfer: trying to get this initiative moving again.

CUNY UFS

- There has been lots of administrative turnover in CUNY.
- Relationship between UFS and CUNY Chancellor is not good.
- Enrollment numbers are uncertain.
- Accomplishments: credit for prior learning, good relationships with deans, leading the way with DEI for CUNY

Valerie Dent on SUNY Diversity Initiatives

- PRODiG update
 - Original call had 45 proposals, funded 34 proposals; 77 faculty members approved for PRODiG each year 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 (154 total faculty members)
 - Cohort III has a reverse funding model (less support initial year; support increases each subsequent year)

- focus on entry level faculty now
- planning for cohort 4 is under review
- funding model needs adjustment to improve sustainability
- PRODiG Fellowship program was created by the comprehensive college sector
- Chancellor's DEI Action Plan: 25 action plan items, 16 of these are complete, 9 still in progress
- CDO search: launch national search in May 2022, have search firm, identified search committee

BoT Chair

- Shared the Chancellor search committee membership (includes President Rodriguez).
- 4 working groups were created for the Chancellor search: students/alumni, faculty, community advocates, labor (will work with search committee; 59 people on these work groups); these groups shared info on what want to see in next Chancellor.
- Search committee will review applications and send list recommended for interviews to the BoT.

Interim Chancellor Briefing

- We have a good budget, but not a windfall.
- 1 year of debt service for the hospitals is in the budget.
- Pleased with governor singling out SUNY as a driver to revitalizing the state (revitalize state by revitalizing SUNY).
- In over 4 decades working in SUNY, the Chancellor has never seen a budget like this before.
- Budget contains substantial operating aid, more capital funding than the Governor proposed, funding for hospitals.
- Chancellor's office will put out information with key details once the budget is finalized.
- Chancellor will be meeting with sector presidents every 3 weeks; need to discuss strategic enrollment from a SUNY perspective.
- CGLs asked for clarification on best practices for searches at the dean/VP levels. Chancellor will discuss with presidents, but not interested in telling the campuses how to proceed, prefers to have each campus manage as sees fit.
- Hopes to have childcare facilities on every campus in the future.

Provost Briefing

- Strategic enrollment management
 - currently have 370K enrollment; goal of 500K by 2030
 - 24% of HS seniors enroll in SUNY
 - applications up 4.5% on average
- Implementing technology solution for academic program review process: move away from emails and PDFs.
- Discussion among the Provost and UFS about enrollments.

Faculty Council of Community Colleges

- FCCC held its plenary last week in Saratoga.
 - FCCC plenary resolutions: update CC presidential search guidelines, support hunger free campus act, transparency in mental health funding provided to SUNY.

- There were conversations about general education implementation and DEISJ (working on rubric for this category).
- FCCC had a discussion with the Provost about enrollment.

SUNY OER

- SUNY's Web site for OER content and resources: oer.suny.edu
 - these integrate into LMS
 - There are nominal costs associated with these texts, SUNY is covering these costs right now, but will need funding model moving forward
- textbook publishers taking note of this and adapting their marketing (books in a box, access to entire platform), but there are issues with these platforms; hopefully we'll see changes.
- Textbook affordability can be mitigated using materials from our libraries and OER.
- content on the SUNY site focus on introductory/lower-level courses; consult with campus experts (librarians and teaching/learning specialists for additional options)

EID Committee Report

- Committee has not had a system liaison or student liaison this year.
- Analyzed feedback from fall plenary breakout groups
- ad-hoc task group exploring subject matter expertise in DEI and social justice; developing methods for reviewing and assessing courses in this knowledge group
- subcommittee exploring safety of faculty teaching racial justice content
- subcommittee looking at preferred name in faculty facing databases; UFS has a 2016 resolution that has not been acted on at campus levels; revisiting how to move forward
- looking at how campuses can incorporate racial equity and social justice across the curriculum

Programs and Awards Committee Report

- reviewed and provided guidance/feedback for chancellor's excellence awards and shared governance award
- committee would like to increase number of applications for shared governance award; looking for suggestions

Student Life Committee Report

- Working on student access to legal services: landlord tenant matters, financial matters (purchasing vehicle/appliance), vehicle/traffic cases, family law, immigration law; goal is to have legal consult for short-term legal matters (not having attorney on retainer)
- posthumous recognition for Dr. Graham
- looking for new members to join committee next year

Vote for VP/Secretary

- Jan Trybula from SUNY Potsdam was elected UFS VP/Secretary.

Resolutions

- Successful Implementation of the SUNY Health, Wellness, and Well-Being Infrastructure and Leadership Architecture (passed)
- Costs of Administration Study (passed)
- Recognition of Service to UFS by Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Bringsjord (passed)
- Resolution on updating, revising, and clarifying The State University of New York Guide to Presidential Searches at State-Operated Institutions (document #8400) (passed)
- Resolution Reiterating University Faculty Senate Commitment to Condemn Workplace Bullying and Harassment (referred to executive committee)