

SUNY Senate Plenary Report

151st Plenary held at SUNY Morrisville February 5 – 7

Cheryl Drout, Fredonia Senator, University Faculty Senate

Resolutions

(1) Resolution in Support of Graduate Education, Research, and Creative Activities

See attached for full resolution. Resolution in brief is given below:

Be it resolved, that Governor Paterson and the Legislature should provide to SUNY sufficient funds in continuing years to maintain SUNY as one of the premier institutions of public graduate education and research in the country.

(2) Resolution on Consultation and Collaboration

See attached for full resolution. Resolution in brief is given below:

Therefore be it resolved that The University Faculty Senate calls for transparency and appropriate consultation between local administration and faculty governance prior to any major decision concerning allocation of resources that affects educational quality and curriculum.

(3) Resolution on Assessment Streamlining

See attached for full resolution. Resolution in brief is given below:

Therefore be it resolved that The University Faculty Senate recommends to the Provost that assessment be streamlined to reduce the multiple layers that now exist in SUNY; and that The Provost should work with the University Faculty Senate in assessment streamlining.

Comprehensive Colleges Sector Concerns

— Each of the colleges and universities in the Comprehensive Colleges sector is handling the resource challenges differently. Wide ranging decisions have been made on the local level. The variety of ways in which campuses are cutting back on costs include one or more of the following: lines frozen with mostly soft freezes in place, no provisions for one semester sabbaticals, reduced hiring or no hiring of adjuncts, reduced funds or no travel money available, shifting to a 4 day schedule, increasing caps on the number of seats in classes (for example 25 raised to 40).

Concern was raised regarding UB's request for special status within SUNY. The UB 2020 proposal might include providing UB with a unique status in the system. It was suggested that SUNY is favorable toward the proposal but the Union is in opposition. Apparent motivating factors involve a tradeoff of

reduced costs for the system with increased autonomy for UB. There is further information available on UB's website.

Presentations & Reports

Budget update by Jim Van Voorst, Interim Chief Financial Officer for SUNY

The Governor's current tuition policy of taking 90% of this year's tuition increase from SUNY to fund other state agencies was discussed. Further reflection on the process indicates that even more than 90% of the tuition increase was taken from SUNY because enrollment calculations were based upon fall figures even though the tuition increase went into effect in the spring and spring enrollments are consistently below fall enrollments.

Transfer Appeal Process by Harold Silverman, Senior Vice Provost for SUNY

There is a new Transfer Appeal Process in place as of January 1. Each campus has 15 days in which to respond to a student's appeal of a transfer credit decision with a campus appeal process. If the appeal remains unresolved then the student may bring the appeal to the Provost's office where there will be a response within 5 days. There will also be published cutoff dates for each semester so that appeals must be made in a timely fashion.

Response to Governor's tuition policy by Jacob Crawford, SUNY Student Assembly President

SUNY students are very much opposed to the Governor's use of the recent tuition increase and they are campaigning in opposition. Fredonia's Nick Dimitri was recognized for his work heading up the on-line petition against the Governor's current tuition policy.

Committee Announcements & Highlights

Student Life Committee

The handbook on service learning is now being disseminated. Ray Krisciunas thanked Fredonia's Ana Maria Klein for her significant contributions to the *Service Learning Toolkit*.

Ad hoc Committee on Professional Behavior, Ethical Conduct, and Institutional Integrity

The committee's Ethics Survey is currently being distributed on line. At Fredonia it is being circulated to the faculty and staff via the faculty/staff listserv.

Governance Committee

A webinar on leadership is being offered for University Faculty Senate Senators and Campus Governance Leaders at the Spring Plenary at UB on April 30. Entitled "CLIP Together for Community" it will focus on pragmatic skills associated with effective leadership at the committee level. University

Faculty Senate committee members and SUNY department chairs are also invited to participate via free webcast. Go to the SUNY Senate webpage for more information.

A panel of SUNY Presidents will discuss best practices in shared governance at the spring plenary as well. The presidential panel will be moderated by John Clark, who served as Interim Chancellor for SUNY as well as Interim President of several SUNY institutions. Other panelists include: Lois DeFleur, Binghamton University, for the University centers; Chris Dahl, SUNY Geneseo, representing the University Colleges; Bjong Wlf Yeigh, SUNY IT, for the Specialized and Statutory Colleges; and David Heath, SUNY Optometry, representing the Health Sciences.

The Governance committee has developed guides for the orientation of new University Faculty Senate senators and for new Campus Governance Leaders that will be available soon.

Nominations Committee chaired by Bill Baumer

We met to discuss nominations for the role of President of the University Faculty Senate beginning in 2009 – 2010. Nominations were announced. Sandra Michael, Binghamton, and Ken O'Brien, Brockport, have put their hats in the ring.

President's Report

Carl Wiezalis reported on his recent activities. He highlighted work with the Office of Diversity and Educational Equity as well as with the Student Life Committee. There is an initiative underway for SUNY to become a model for the nation in veterans affairs. The Office of Diversity and Educational Equity is applying for a grant to support veterans attending SUNY institutions. The Student Life Committee is working on survey instruments to measure the needs of veteran students matriculated on SUNY campuses as evaluated by the veterans themselves and as evaluated by faculty and administration

The appointment of a new Chancellor for SUNY was announced: Nancy Zimpher of the University of Cincinnati.