

Report on the University-wide Faculty Senate Fall Plenary October 26 – October 28

The Fall University-wide Faculty Senate Plenary was held at Buffalo State October 26 through October 28. I attended as Fredonia's senator and Ziya Arnavut attended as the Fredonia representative to the Operations Committee. Muriel Howard, President of Buffalo State, and senators John DeNisco and David Carson graciously welcomed us. Speakers included Chancellor Ryan, Provost Palm, former Chancellor Bruce Johnstone, Pamela Sandoval, Assistant Provost for P-16, and Fred Hildebrand, Faculty Development Initiative, SUNY System Administration. Speakers generally highlighted two significant themes. SUNY is increasing efforts to internationalize the University as well as to encourage internationalization of the curriculum. Chacellor Ryan is also interested in encouraging segments of the University to be ready for significant leadership turnover by expanding faculty development initiatives and staff development initiatives to include significant leadership development programs.

The announcement was made that Ana Marie Klein, Fredonia School of Education, has been appointed to the SUNY Senate **Student Life Committee**. That standing committee is continuing its work on identifying "Positive Traditions" that have become part of student life on the various SUNY campuses. They are initiating an examination of culture conflict issues for international students, for example difficulties that sometimes arise when their roommates have boyfriends or girlfriends spend the night. Finally, they are discussing the ideal of a smoke-free campus. The suggestion has been made that over time SUNY might become 100% smoke-free. Alyssa Amyotte, President of the SUNY Student Assembly, reported that there is strong student opposition to such a plan.

The **Operations Committee** brought forward one resolution (discussed below) and is continuing its examination of "Associate Faculty" following up on efforts to understand recent changes in the proportion of NTP (Non Teaching Professionals).

The **Awards Committee** also brought forward one resolution (discussed below) and is working on the online review procedures for the conversations in the disciplines program.

The **Undergraduate Committee** has several initiatives underway. They are completing a SUNY Internship Guide and considering the possibility of local campus symposia on academic integrity. In addition, there is a discussion underway regarding the relationship between NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement), Academic Integrity, and the First Year Experience.

The **Graduate and Research Committee** is considering a symposium with a focus on research and continues its work on a web site for recruitment of graduate students and developing ideas for encouraging teaching experience during Ph.D. training.

In other standing committee reports, the **Governance Committee** presented 2 resolutions (discussed below). Other work includes reviewing the procedures for campus visitations. Working together with the **Executive Committee**, draft updates of the SUNY-wide Senate Bylaws were presented.

The SUNY-wide Senate President **Carl Wieszalis** reported on interactions with the Business Education Consortium that includes public and private University administrators and now faculty who investigate opportunities for economic development

in New York. They examine education as an engine for economic development. He highlighted an example of how SUNY Albany has a reputation for its work on Nanotechnology and is interested in opportunities to partner with high tech manufacturing.

Wiezalis expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the SUNY President on the BOT (Board of Trustees) however is also a bit concern about the meeting schedule diminishing from a meeting per month to every other month despite typically lengthy agendas.

Kim Cline, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, provided a budget overview that highlighted one major change and 3 concerns. The statutory campuses of Cornell and Alfred Ceramics will now be separated out from the SUNY budget and will put forward their own budget requests.

Resolutions and Action Items

Maureen Dolan, chair of the Operations Committee, presented a resolution to enhance electronic data bases and reaffirm support for 8 million dollars in funding that had previously been endorsed by the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate but has not been allocated. This resolution was supported.

Sandra Michael, Chair of the Awards Committee, brought forward a resolution to establish a new award to recognize senators with 10 or more years of outstanding service to the SUNY Senate. The resolution was controversial. It is consistent with the Senate President's emphasis upon increasing recognition of service, however, there were concerns about the lack of a clear nomination process in the initial proposal. The resolution was passed with modifications.

Ron Sarner, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented two resolutions. One was to encourage the SUNY Chancellor to consider the creation of an *Orientation and Mentorship* program for new SUNY Presidents, which was supported. The second was a resolution to support the request of the FCCC (Faculty Council of Community Colleges) for a seat on the BOT (Board of Trustees). Kimberley Reiser, President of the FCCC also addressed the body regarding the importance of this resolution. It passed.

Subsequent to discussion of the updated Senate Bylaws, the body approved the inclusion of the changes on the agenda of the Winter Plenary for consideration for formal adoption.

Sector Concerns

Fredonia is part of the *University Colleges* Sector of the Senate. Senators met to discuss current issues of concern on their campuses. Attached is the *Sector Sharing of Concerns Report* composed by Runi Mukherji, SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Cheryl Drout, Fredonia Senator
SUNY – wide Faculty Senate