

Candidate Statement, Keith Landa

I begin with a given, in my mind: higher education, SUNY, and our individual campuses will face significant challenges, threats, but also opportunities in the coming years. I won't review the litany here; we can discuss these issues during the candidate Q&A if there is interest. Given this landscape though, higher education is likely to see substantial external and internal pressures for change. As we plan for the future of SUNY and our individual campuses, strengthening and sustaining our core programs and services while determining how to adapt to the changing landscape, it will be more important than ever to ensure that shared governance drives those decisions. Having all voices at the table allows us to examine thoroughly the pros and cons of the broadest range of options, and develop, if not unanimity, then at least consensus around program decisions that is critical for their success.

An effective President, along with the rest of leadership, should enable the UFS to promote shared governance across SUNY's state-op and statutory campuses, and system-wide. This needs to happen at multiple levels, accessing all available levers of influence.

- **Campus governance:** UFS plays a key role in developing governance leaders for campuses, through its library of resources and CGL training workshops. We need to ensure the sustainability of this training, in the face of cuts to SUNY Voices funding, and consider new ways to package and disseminate training materials and other resources to meet CGL and Senators' ongoing needs for support. We need to ensure our Visitation and Consultation services are well-known on campuses, for when governance issues arise. And finally, UFS has played a key role over the past decade in developing a community of CGLs across our campuses; we need to support continued strengthening of this community, to promote proactive and not just reactive actions by our CGLs.
- **UFS activities:** Much of the heavy lifting for UFS has been and will continue to be done by our committees. We need to ensure adequate recruitment of committee members across our campuses and sectors so that all perspectives are represented. On a somewhat parallel track, we need to better support the roles of our sectors in the work of UFS. While there has been some opening in recent years for sectors to put forward resolutions, agency on the part of our sectors (mostly limited to Q&A with the Chancellor) has been under-realized. We need to build on recent improvements in our communications, to allow our Senators to be better liaisons between the UFS and their campuses, and to promote the activities of UFS to broader audiences. And given the challenges ahead, it is likely time to revisit the question of UFS and Senator advocacy.
- **Liaisons:** We of course need to maintain and strengthen communication and collaborations with FCCC, SA, CUNY UFS, UUP, along with other governance organizations, to amplify our voices on governance and policy matters.
- **SUNY System and Board of Trustees:** The President needs to represent the faculty and staff voice of UFS to System and BOT, while at the same time contributing to the work of these offices and BOT committees, so that these bodies can effectively represent SUNY to the Governor's office, Legislature, NYSED, and other venues. The more that UFS can be proactive in bringing forth solutions to the challenges we face on our campuses, to more effectively the President can be in their representation of UFS to System.

I have a wide range of governance experience at the campus and UFS levels, as presented in my brief CV, I have worked as liaison at the campus level and UFS to an array of different SUNY-wide programs, and my professional background has given me experience with many different sectors of higher ed. I would be honored to bring this background to the role of UFS President.

