

**University Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Fall Plenary**

October 18, 2018 - 12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Binghamton, New York

Executive Committee Members present (voting): Gwen Kay (*President; SUNY Oswego*), Keith Landa (*Vice President/Secretary; Purchase College*), Kelley Donaghy (*Specialized and Statutory Colleges Sector Representative; Environmental Science & Forestry*), Phil Glick (*Health Sciences Centers Sector Representative; University at Buffalo*), Fred Hildebrand (*SUNY Liaison; SUNY System Admin*), Barry Jones (*University Centers Sector Representative; Binghamton University*), Bruce Simon (*University Colleges Sector Representative; SUNY Fredonia*), Barat Wolfe (*Colleges of Technology/Agriculture Sector Representative; SUNY Canton*)

Committee Chairs present (non-voting): Joseph Marren (*Communications; SUNY Buffalo State*), Tim Gerken (*Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Morrisville State College*), Carlie Phipps (*Ethics; SUNY Polytechnic Institute*), Sandra Rezac (*Governance; SUNY Plattsburgh*), Scott Goodman (*Graduate and Research; SUNY Buffalo State*), Heather Maldonado (*Operations; Buffalo State College*), Amitra Wall (*Programs and Awards; SUNY Buffalo State*), Jan Trybula (*Student Life; SUNY Potsdam*), Ronald Sarner (*Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies; SUNY Polytechnic Institute*)

Members present (non-voting): Domenic Licata (*CGL Convener; University at Buffalo*), Peter Knuepfer (*Immediate Past President; Binghamton University*)

Invited Guests present (non-voting): Jim Campbell (*SUNY Liaison; SUNY System Admin*), Sharon Cramer (*Parliamentarian; Emeriti, Buffalo State College*), Henry Flax (*future Parliamentarian; Downstate Medical Center*)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Summer 2018 Planning Meeting and the Fall 2018 Planning Meeting were approved.

Review of Resolutions for the Fall 2018 Plenary

Test Optional

Committee members discussed concerns from some community college governance leaders that this resolution represented mission creep by the four-year campuses to become open access, but that's not the intent of the resolution. Test-optional allows different criteria to be used in admissions, not that there are no criteria.

The language of the resolution was changed to focus on selectiveness of admissions across campuses, instead of differences in competitiveness across campuses, and to substitute Latinx for Hispanic.

Graduate Fellowship Incentive Program

No changes to the resolution were discussed.

Lactation Spaces

No changes to the resolution were discussed.

Gender Neutral Language

There was a question about whether or not SUNY already does this, but no changes to the resolution were discussed.

President's report

Agenda for Plenary

Sector meetings are all occurring Thursday evening, in part to accommodate the Chancellor's schedule on Friday. Sectors have been encouraged to begin communications in advance of the plenary. There will not be a separate orientation session for new senators and CGLs. Instead sector reps are asked to distribute orientation materials to new senators and take time to welcome them.

Committee members discussed the logistics of moving sector meetings to the Thursday evening before the Friday regular sessions, and the pros and cons of this arrangement. Thursday evening sector meetings will be scheduled for all of the plenaries this year, and the Executive Committee can review the outcomes at the end of the year.

UFS Meetings Protocol Issue

President Kay described the situation where the SA representative on the Graduate and Research Committee, based on committee discussions at the Fall Planning Meeting, let one of the State Legislators know that a resolution on test-optional admissions was under consideration. The Legislator subsequently approached President Kay to offer support for this resolution.

Committee members discussed issues involved with notice of this proposed resolution becoming public in this manner; that UFS and campus governance meetings are not subject to open meetings law, as they are advisory and not policy-making; that while support from the Legislature is welcome, there are times that the UFS has to guard against Legislator intrusion into campus governance; and that UFS and the standing committees need the ability to have

unfettered conversions without worrying about public disclosure (actions taken are public record, while still allowing private discussions).

President Kay will get advice of SUNY counsel on what UFS materials are FOIA-able, and will speak to the SA representative on protocol for our UFS committee meetings.

UFS Advocacy Efforts

President Kay described lobbying and advocacy efforts that FCCC and SA do, and asked whether or not UFS should be more involved in advocacy efforts. Committee members discussed how to advocate (local districts or in Albany; having a delegation visit appropriate legislative committees; the need to develop relationships with legislators over the long term, and not just come in at the last minute), and what to advocate about (budget; statewide education issues; declining state support; contingent faculty; the role of public higher education as a public good). There may also be opportunities for the Communications Committee to be involved in advocacy/outreach efforts.

Sexual Harassment and Consensual Relationships Policy

The Board of Trustees passed a resolution at their October meeting mandating the development and implementation of campus policies on sexual harassment and also on consensual relationships. The resolution in particular directs that local campus governance be involved in the development of new policy on consensual relationships.

PRODI-G

As part of her diversity initiatives, the Chancellor is developing the PRODI-G initiative, which will primarily fund approximately 100 new hires per year directed toward increasing faculty diversity (when fully implemented), and also support a pipeline to graduate teaching for underrepresented groups. Committee members discussed whether or not these hires will represent new faculty lines with appropriate state funding and the degree to which these upcoming hires are a template for going forward, issues that will impact the success of this initiative.

Student Mobility Steering Committee

There are 59 transfer paths to be reviewed. Plans are to work with campus CAOs and CGLs to identify faculty campus contacts for each transfer path that a campus is involved with, and to survey those faculty campus contacts to identify which of the pathways should be priority for review and what the issues are.

General Education Feedback

President Kay described the general education review process, and where we currently are in that process. A first task group comprised of FCCC, UFS, and System representatives has produced a draft of a research paper surveying trends and models of general education, and is

working on a recommendations paper that will describe options that SUNY could adopt going forward. Feedback on the research paper should go to President Kay or FCCC President Nina Tamrowski.

Committee members had some discussion of what scale of changes to SUNY general education are being contemplated, and how to coordinate current campus general education efforts with this multi-year effort to review and potentially change the SUNY general education framework. The greater the change proposed, the more difficult it will be to get consensus.

Updates

SUNY Online Initiative

President Kay reported on the Chancellor's initiative to substantially scale up SUNY's efforts in online education, which will be one of the priority items in the new Provost's portfolio. The Chancellor will discuss future directions for SUNY online education during her remarks to the Plenary. There is currently a fast-track process for a task group of 31 members to solicit and evaluate requests for information from commercial vendors on ways to conduct online education at scale. President Kay has already shared initial concerns about this initiative to the Provost.

Committee members raised numerous questions. Will this result in SUNY-branded online education? What happens to existing online courses, especially those that are offered online at multiple campuses? Will there be consolidation of online course offerings? Who is going to enroll? Will this cannibalize enrollments at brick and mortar campuses? Why are we reaching out with an RFI to commercial vendors, instead of utilizing capacity and resources within the system? How does this impact the substantial investments in online education that many SUNY campuses have already made individually?

SUNY Voices Conference

The next SUNY Voices Conference ("*SUNY at 70: Shared Governance - Past, Present, and Future*") will be held Nov. 8th and 9th, in Syracuse. There will be a panel of former Chancellors, Presidents, governance leaders, and students to start the conference, along with two keynotes and a full slate of contributed papers. On the 10th, following the conference, CGLs will also be meeting in Syracuse.

Committee members also discussed the timing and funding of the next SUNY Diversity Conference, which will be Apr. 3rd and 4th. (This conference has subsequently been delayed to next fall.)

UUP Delegate Assembly

President Kay reported on her attendance of and reporting out to the UUP Delegate Assembly. Committee members discussed issues where UUP and UFS positions and initiatives do not align, such as tobacco-free policies and open educational resources. UFS officers can raise

these issues, but don't have any direct leverage on UUP. However, many if not most members of UFS are also members of UUP, and could work on these issues from within UUP, especially in areas where the UUP leadership seems not in line with the preferences of their membership.

Micro-credential Task Force

Four [teams](#) have been established to implement the [Micro-Credential Policy](#):

- Transferability and Portability
- Data Reporting
- Policy/Financial Aid
- Readiness, Training and Assessment

New Business

Ratification Process for Bylaws Changes: Vice-President/Secretary Language

The committee had a fulsome discussion about how to proceed with ratification of the changes to Bylaws language describing the roles, rights, and responsibilities of the Vice President. The UFS has passed two resolutions ([171-03-01](#) and [173-01-01](#)), amending the section of the Bylaws describing the position of the Vice President / Secretary, which the Board of Trustees subsequently adopted as changes to Board policies. Such changes by law then need to be approved by a majority of the UFS campuses, as determined by each campus' local governance process.

Several complications have arisen in this process. The most recent change in policy adopted by the Board of Trustees is not consistent with the language sent in UFS resolution 173-01-01, in that BOT language specifies a non-voting status for the Vice President / Secretary, while the language in the UFS resolution specified a voting status. The BOT policy changes have been written into State Regulations, even though they haven't been ratified by a majority of campuses. And there are many Bylaws changes in addition to these that have not been sent to the campuses for ratification.

Committee members discussed whether or not the ratification process should proceed; their perspectives on how important the voting status of the Vice President / Secretary position is; how addressing this situation with the description of the Vice President / Secretary position fit into the larger project to revise and clean up the Bylaws; whether or not to solicit feedback from the current Senate on how important the voting status of the Vice President / Secretary position is; if adoption of nonvoting status by the current Senate is appropriate to replace the Bylaws changes adopted by the past Senates; and related matters.

The committee eventually adopted two motions:

1. To direct President Kay to clarify Board of Trustees intent on the language changes (i.e., voting or non-voting status for the VicePresident/Secretary), and to suspend the ratification process until we hear back.

2. After Executive Committee has had a chance to discuss what President Kay has heard back from the Board of Trustees, to get feedback from the Senate, whether to accept the non-voting status of the Vice President/Secretary as specified in Board of Trustees language or to reaffirm the position of the Senate to have the Vice President/Secretary as a voting member of the body.