University Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Spring Plenary
April 11, 2019 - 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Canton, New York

Executive Committee Members present (voting): Gwen Kay *(President; SUNY Oswego)*, Keith Landa *(Vice President/Secretary; Purchase College)*, 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)*
Members absent (voting): Kelley Donaghy *(Specialized and Statutory Colleges Sector Representative; Environmental Science & Forestry)*, Phil Glick *(Health Sciences Centers Sector Representative; University at Buffalo)*
Committee Chairs present (non-voting): Tim Gerken *(Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity; Morrisville State College)*, Carlie Phipps *(Ethics; SUNY Polytechnic Institute)*, Sandra Rezac *(Governance; SUNY Plattsburgh)*, 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)*
Committee Chairs absent (non-voting): Joseph Marren *(Communications; SUNY Buffalo State)*, Scott Goodman *(Graduate and Research; SUNY Buffalo State)*
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; Emerita, Buffalo State College)*, Henry Flax *(future Parliamentarian; Downstate Medical Center)*, Alithia Alleyne *(Health Sciences Sector; Downstate Medical)*, Linda Mizer *(Specialized and Statutory Colleges Sector; Cornell, College of Veterinary Medicine)*

Executive Session

The Executive Committee met in executive session with Dr. Merryl Tisch, Vice Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the WInter 2019 Planning Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Review of Resolutions for the Spring 2019 Plenary

Privatization in Online Education

Chair Sarner introduced the resolution from the Undergraduate Committee on privatization in online education, and Sector Rep Wolfe (a member of the Undergraduate Committee) described the revisions that had taken place since the resolution was first introduced, including the removal of a Resolved clause dealing with open educational resources (OER) and the focusing of the resolution more directly on matters of shared governance in the development of online programs for SUNY. Executive Committee members discussed issues surrounding intellectual property and faculty ownership of course materials. A motion to substitute the revised resolution for the version introduced to the body was approved; a subsequent motion to delete the remaining Whereas clause dealing with OER materials failed in a tie vote.

Multiple Pathways to Promotion and Tenure

The resolution from the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee requests that all five areas of faculty evaluation as defined by the Board of Trustees be taken into account when faculty are considered for promotion and tenure. Discussion by the Executive Committee addressed the following topics: whether or not the Whereas clauses align with what is being requested in the Resolved clauses; whether or not there should be differences in faculty evaluation across sectors, campuses, and departments; the importance of transparency to ensure that incoming faculty understand the criteria by which they will be evaluated by the tenure and promotion process at their campuses; and what it means to create multiple, different pathways for promotion and tenure. A motion to amend the Resolved clause to focus on mentoring faculty for promotion and tenure, to better align with the focus on mentoring in the Whereas clauses, was defeated. Instead a motion for interested members of the Executive Committee to work with Chair Gerken overnight to update the resolution for presentation to the full Senate was approved.

Other proposed resolutions were not discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, and will go to the full Senate as presented.

President's Report

Interim Presidents at SUNY Campuses

President Kay described the situation at multiple SUNY campuses that currently have interim Presidents, and that it is likely that additional campuses will see interim Presidents appointed in the coming year. Many campuses that need to do presidential searches are dealing with vacancies on their College Councils, and therefore either do not have sufficient Council

members or don't have a Chair of their College Council, and therefore cannot officially start their search process. In the situations where campuses need to have an interim President appointed, President Kay is working with the Chancellor and with Joe Porter to request that campus governance leaders on the campuses be consulted or at least informed of the process and the appointments to be made. Executive Committee members discussed strategies to involve CGLs in the appointment process, the option for the Board to take over searches if local College Councils cannot, and ways to encourage action by the Governor on fully constituting the College Councils.

Confucius Institutes

Several SUNY campuses host Confucius Institutes, which are funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Indiana University is ceasing to host a Confucius Institute, and there is the question of whether or not SUNY should re-examine its participation in this program. Concerns have been raised as to whether or not the Chinese government might be misappropriating intellectual property, curtailing academic freedom by constraining research, and surveilling students through the work of the Confucius Institutes. This issue will be discussed further at the Summer Planning Meeting.

Plenary Planning

SUNY System used to host UFS plenaries, and has offered to return to the rotation. SUNY Optometry and Downstate Medical have offered to jointly host an upcoming plenary. The schedule for the next two years is:
- Fall 2019: SUNY System (Albany)
- Winter 2020: U Albany
- Spring 2020: SUNY Optometry and Downstate Medical at the SUNY Global Center
- Fall 2020: Cornell
- Winter 2021: Oneonta
- Spring 2021: Oswego

State Budget Review

President Kay reviewed some aspects of the final state budget agreement. SUNY's request for a floor for community college funding has been approved; next year community college campuses will receive either a $100 increase in base support per FTE or 98% of last year's funding, whichever is greater. Funding for EOP and childcare programs has been restored. The State is once again providing matching funds for the Medicare DSH program, but the State is not covering the debt funding for the hospitals. The maximum family income for participating in the Excelsior program was raised to $125,000. The funding to cover retroactive pay raises in the current contract that campuses have received this year will not be charged to next year's budget for SUNY.

Cramer Memorandum on Civility

In response to the general level of decorum at recent plenaries and in particular a noted example of incivility at the Winter plenary, Parliamentarian Cramer developed a memorandum encouraging stricter adherence to processes as laid out in Robert's Rules of Order, especially that all discussion from the floor should be directed to the Chair, that the points being made should be germane to and focused on the topic being discussed, and that members of the body should not refer to each other by first name. Executive Committee members discussed how to respond to the specific incident; the benefits to a focus on civility but also how it can be used to stifle dissent; examples from members about how stricter adoption of RONR improved meetings on their campuses; and the need for the Executive Committee to model the behavior we want to see in our meetings. The committee decided it was not necessary to put forward this memorandum as a resolution at this time. Instead, the leadership will focus on adopting a change of practice for the regular meetings of the body (including requiring members to stand and come to a microphone to speak, and formal recognition of members by titles), and look to incorporate materials from the memorandum into the orientation for new Senators and CGLs.

Updates

SUNY Online

President Kay reviewed actions that have been taken to date to promote the SUNY Online initiative: formation of a large task group to study the issues; solicitation of proposals from outside vendors; development of different scenarios (outsourcing to a vendor, establishing an online campus, managing services through SUNY System); release of a white paper for comments; and the series of webinars calling for campus participation. This process has been moving very quickly, and the goal is to pilot five fully-online programs for SUNY Online this fall. FCCC has adopted a strongly worded resolution expressing concerns about how the SUNY Online initiative is developing to date, and asking for more governance involvement in further planning.

Committee members raised questions about the nature of these pilot programs (will they be enhanced majors or full programs with general education and elective courses?); how programs will be selected, and if selections have already been made; will these be new of existing programs; who grants the degrees; how will tuition be handled; and what are the goals of the pilot and how will it be assessed? Committee members were encouraged to discuss SUNY Online in their sector meetings and raise questions with Provost Laursen during his session at the Plenary.

SUNY Council on Assessment

SCoA continues to offer their regional workshops in the fall, and the online certificate programs on academic assessment and institutional effectiveness. There is a new mentoring program where faculty and staff who have completed either certificate program can propose to work on an assessment-related project for their campus, with feedback from an experienced assessment scholar. The group has developed a new website for their activities (https://scoasuny.wixsite.com/scoa), where they plan to develop a repository of assessment resources.

Task Force on Diversity

The next SUNY Diversity Conference is tentatively scheduled for December 3-5

Task Force on Gender Inclusivity

This task force is waiting on a charge from the Provost to begin its work.

Microcredentials

SUNY held a recent workshop on microcredentials, highlighting best practices for implementing microcredentials programs on campuses. Some of the takeaways from the workshop are that campuses vary greatly in how far along they are in implementing microcredentials programs; it's important to have all stakeholders in the governance conversations from the beginning; and these programs do not have to have NYS Education Department for approval.

General Education

The Green Paper is out for comments, and has been distributed to Presidents, CAOs, CGLs, Registrars, FCCC, UFS, and other stakeholders. Not a lot of comments have come in at this point. The Green Paper and comments will go to the Provost for charging the next task force with developing the revised SUNY general education program.

Shared Governance Award

This year's winner has been selected, but not announced yet.

The number of applications this round was low, and hopefully more campuses will submit applications in the future.

Student Mobility Task Force

Surveys have been distributed to campuses to solicit feedback on how well each of the transfer pathways that campuses participate in have been working. The task force will meet May 3rd to prioritize which set of pathways will be reviewed in more detail over the next few years.

Consultation and Visitation

The consultation scheduled for SUNY ESF is currently on hold. The past President whose actions led to much of the concern for shared governance on campus is gone and has been replaced by an Interim President, and the governance climate appears improved compared to last year. The UFS consultation team has to date had one videoconference meeting with the campus leadership to discuss the current state of governance issues. At this point it is unclear whether a full consultation is still needed, whether to do a general Governance 101 presentation with campus leadership, or if no further intervention is needed.

President Kay visited SUNY Fredonia this semester to have informal discussions concerning the shared governance problems that had arisen on campus. A vote of no confidence in the President was scheduled for action at the Fredonia Senate, but was tabled in lieu of requesting a formal visitation from UFS instead. Such visitation was approved by the UFS Executive Committee. Subsequently the Fredonia President announced her decision to step down, but the visitation is still scheduled to go forward as many aspects of the charge to the visitation team are not specific to actions of the past President. The visitation team includes Pete Kneufer (UFS Past President), Shelly Mozlin (member of the UFS Governance Committee), and Debbie Meockel (SUNY System), and is scheduled to visit campus April 24-26. The team will provide a report of their findings to President Kay, who will hand deliver it to the requesting parties at Fredonia.

New Business

- UUP has not yet released guidelines for allocating funds in the recent contract to deal with salary compression issues.
- Budget difficulties are an ongoing problem for many of our students, and probably impacts student retention system-wide. The Higher Education Act is up for reauthorization this summer and changes in Pell grant eligibility and use could be relevant to this issue. Members will be encouraged to use the comment period on the reauthorization to promote issues such as this.
- SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Carl McCall has announced his decision to step down.
- Austin Ostro has been elected President of SUNY SA.
- Christy Fogal is the new FCCC President, and Bruce Rowe is the new Vice President.