

University Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Winter Plenary

January 17, 2018 - 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Cooperstown, New York

Executive Committee Members present (voting): Gwen Kay (*President; SUNY Oswego*), Keith Landa (*Vice President/Secretary; Purchase College*), 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*)

Members absent (voting): Kelley Donaghy (*Specialized and Statutory Colleges Sector Representative; Environmental Science & Forestry*), 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*)

Committee Chairs absent (non-voting): 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; Emerita, Buffalo State College*), Henry Flax (*future Parliamentarian; Downstate Medical Center*), Chuck Moran (*Colleges of Technology/Agriculture; SUNY Cobleskill*)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Fall 2018 Planning Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Review of Resolutions for the Winter 2019 Plenary

Office of Ombuds Services

Committee members recommended some minor changes, including deleting reference to the founding dates of Ombuds offices on different campuses, and removing reference to FCCC and community colleges from the resolution.

Distinguished Professorships Length of Service

No changes to the resolution were discussed.

DACA Student Scholarships (Upstate Medical)

Committee members discussed a proposed resolution from Upstate Medical, to request that medical students with DACA status be able to be considered for scholarship/loan support. Questions were raised about how many DACA students are in our medical schools; whether or not they would have a career path; if the proposed year of service can be done if the DACA program is struck down; and the general uncertainty of the DACA program. President Kay said she would pass along these questions to the group from Upstate planning to introduce the resolution from the floor.

New Deal for SUNY and CUNY (Executive Committee)

Senator Simon described a resolution passed by governance at Fredonia, requesting budgetary support for true Maintenance of Effort and other support for SUNY and CUNY, and asked if UFS would want to entertain a similar resolution. Committee members discussed how such a resolution would relate to SUNY System advocacy, which won't start until after the State of the University System address; the short time window for UFS to influence the budget negotiations; alternative approaches to advocacy (Chancellor Q&A, discussions between President Kay and the Chancellor); whether or not to address other issues such as the TAP gap and the Excelsior gap. Senator Simon and Past President Kneupfer were tasked with drafting a resolution for the Executive Committee to consider presenting to the Senate at the Plenary.

President's report

Awards

Committee members discussed one nomination for the Chugh Award, to be announced later.

President Kay proposed giving the Friend of the Senate award to Nina Tamrowski (FCCC President) at the Spring Plenary, which was approved by general agreement by the Executive Committee.

UFS Budget and Plenaries Planning

President Kay continued the discussion on budget and planning for plenaries that was covered in the Executive Committee call on 3 January. The Chancellor will reinforce to campus Presidents their obligations to periodically host UFS plenaries. In the meantime, the SUNY Budget Office is OK with the UFS taking steps to build back up its reserves by increasing the per-Senator charge to campuses. With increased reserves and annual revenues, the UFS can provide greater financial assistance to campuses hosting our Plenaries. Committee members discussed whether or not to phase in the proposed increased charges, what levels to raise the

charges to, how to message the increases to campuses, and how specific to be in defining the assistance UFS would provide to campuses. Committee members approved a motion to raise the per-Senator charge to \$6000 for the next budget year, in a single increase.

UFS Advocacy Efforts

President Kay described recent advocacy efforts she has been involved in, including meeting with the Chairs of the higher education committees in the Assembly and Senate to discuss the work of the UFS and resolutions that we bring forward. Committee members discussed aspects of effective lobbying, including meeting legislators and their staff in local offices, and clarifying how the mission and priorities of UFS are distinct from UUP. Members can advocate as private citizens (not as representatives of their campuses or the UFS), and can meet with legislators in the home districts or those districts representing the campuses where they work.

Board of Trustees Updates

President Kay reported that at the December BOT meeting, the Trustees appointed a new interim President for Upstate Medical, and approved renaming the medical school at Stony Brook to the Renaissance School of Medicine.

At the October BOT meeting, the Trustees approved a resolution addressing sexual harassment and consensual relationships policy, following up on the past mandate from the Governor that all state agencies have sexual harassment policies in place. Committee members discussed situations on some campuses where this is seen strictly as a Human Resources issue or a condition of employment covered by UUP negotiations, even though the BOT resolution specifically requires the participation of governance in the development of these campus policies. There were also concerns about whether the timeframe for implementation was reasonable.

Fall Plenary Follow-up

Presidents Kay and Tamrowski are working on a one-page FAQ handout to give to student members of committees, outlining responsibilities and conduct expected of committee members.

Orientation for new committee chairs occurs at the Summer Planning Meeting.

Bylaws Ratification

The Board of Trustees has passed UFS Bylaws language as requested by the UFS, including the Vice President / Secretary as a voting member of the University Faculty Senate. The ratification period will start when the rulemaking period by the Board of Trustees is completed, with a requirement that 18 state-op campuses ratify the changes within a one-year period.

General Education

President Kay reported on the recent work of the General Education task group. Following the release of the white paper in the fall, comments were received from a half a dozen campuses. The task group is currently working on a green paper for release in the spring, describing some initial recommendations and options. A handful of task group members will also attend the upcoming AAC&U conference on Creating a 21st-Century General Education.

The general goals that the task group is working toward include providing a more coherent rationale for SUNY general education in terms of educating for citizenship; devolving more control over general education to the Chancellor and Provost; and providing flexibility to campuses to develop distinctive general education programs for their campuses, while maintaining support for seamless transfer across the system.

Some immediate needs have been identified: better alignment with Middle States general education requirements (including competencies in scientific reasoning, ethical reasoning, and diversity); decreasing the number of credits required for general education; not restricting general education to the first two years of the program; updating outdated SUNY Learning Outcomes (information literacy; other world civilizations); and supporting incorporation of Middle States general education competencies in AAS and AOS degrees which have no SUNY general education requirements.

Updates

SUNY Online Initiative

The SUNY Online initiative will be covered in remarks by Provost Laursen. Proposals from vendors in response to the request for information have been reviewed by the SUNY Online working group, which is drafting a white paper of findings to share with groups across the system. There have been concerns from campuses that have been early adopters of online education as to what SUNY Online will mean for them. Will there eventually be SUNY online degrees? What will be the role of Empire State?

Student Mobility

The task force is working to identify which transfer paths should be prioritized for review this coming year, but campus liaisons have been slow to respond to the initial survey distributed this past fall.

ESF Consultation

The consultation team is set to visit campus. In the meantime, installation of the new President and other changes in the administrative structure are already leading to improvements in campus climate.

SUNY Budget

CFO McLoughlin will cover the current status of budget negotiations, but some of the highlights of the Executive Budget request include: an advance of one-time funds to mitigate the cost of the UUP contract to campuses; \$550M in capital funds for critical maintenance; restoration of funds to cover SUNY's matching funds requirements for Medicare DSH payments. The hybrid funding model for community college campuses to better cover fixed costs was not included in the Executive Budget.

New Business

Endowed Chairs

Chancellor Johnson has an initiative to increase the number of endowed Chairs across the system, with an angel investor willing to match funds that campuses raise to support these positions. Committee members discussed issues of academic freedom that endowed Chairs might create, if there are conditions attached to the donations funding specific Chairs.

Empire Plan

Senator Glick raised the issue that the Empire Plan provides inadequate mental health benefits, which are not accepted by many practitioners. Committee members discussed the importance of mental health counseling on the retention and success of our students, and the fact the support for the mental health telecounseling pilot program was cut from the Executive Budget this year.

Chancellor's Responses to Resolutions

Committee members requested that responses from the Chancellor to our resolutions be promoted more prominently on our website. There followed some discussion of the test-optional resolution, what campuses are already test-optional and the responses of other campuses.