

University Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Fall Planning Meeting

September 12, 2019 / 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Syracuse, New York

Executive Committee Members (voting) present: Gwen Kay (*President; State University College at Oswego*), Keith Landa (*Vice President/Secretary; State University College at Purchase*), Patrick Doyle (*University Centers Sector Representative; Binghamton University*), Fred Hildebrand (*SUNY Liaison; SUNY System Administration*), Carlie Phipps (*Specialized and Statutory Colleges Representative; SUNY Polytechnic Institute*), Alexander Schwartzman (*Health Sciences Sector Representative; Downstate Health Sciences University*), Bruce Simon (*University Colleges Sector Representative; State University College at Fredonia*), Barat Wolfe (*Colleges of Technology/Agriculture Sector Representative; College of Technology at Canton*)

Executive Committee Members (voting) absent: none

Executive Committee Members (non-voting) present: Lisa Glidden (*CGL Convener; State University College at Oswego*), Peter Knuepfer (*Immediate Past President; Binghamton University*)

Executive Committee Members (non-voting) absent: none

Committee Chairs present: Joseph Marren (*Communication; Buffalo State College*), Cephas Archie (*Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Chair; State University College at Brockport*), Andrew Fitz-Gibbon (*Ethics Chair; State University College at Cortland*), Sandra Rezac (*Governance; SUNY State University College at Plattsburgh*), Martin Kaczocha (*Graduate and Research Chair; Stony Brook University*), Lori Hoepner (*Operations Chair; Downstate Health Sciences University*), Amitra Wall (*Programs and Awards; Buffalo State College*), Amy Rosen-Brand (*Student Life Chair; Buffalo State College*), Wendy Gordon (*Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Chair; State University College at Plattsburgh*)

Committee Chairs absent: none

Invited Guests present: Jim Campbell (*SUNY Liaison; SUNY System Administration*), Henry Flax (*Parliamentarian; Downstate Health Sciences University*)

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM by President Kay

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes for the Executive Committee Summer Planning Meeting were deferred until later, to provide members more time for review.

President's Report - Brief Updates

SUNY Budget Process and SUNY Voices

To date, SUNY has not asked for the proposed UFS budget, which is behind schedule compared to past budget cycles and which has led to some uncertainty in how the budget

process will be handled this year. There has also been no budget allocated for SUNY Voices yet, which UFS and FCCC use to support training for Campus Governance Leaders, the SUNY Voices conference, and CGL travel to Plenaries and other meetings, which is leading to some uncertainties and difficulties in planning SUNY Voices supported programming. As SUNY Voices was an initiative started by past Chancellor Zimpfer, there are concerns about the continued existence of the initiative, given that Chancellor Johnson has a different set of initiatives that she is promoting. Committee members discussed what implications outright termination or gradual phasing out of SUNY Voices funding would have, and what governance leadership programming could and should be supported by UFS and FCCC in the absence of SUNY Voices funding.

UFS Budget

At the Summer Planning Meeting, the Committee approved reducing support for the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference from \$10K to \$5K, and allocating \$5K for supporting faculty in the PRODI-G initiative and for the SUNY Diversity Conference. The Provost's office has been notified of the reduced support for SURC, and that UFS funding for the conference may be completely phased out in the future, now that the conference has become an established annual event, supported by the Provost's office. For the diversity funding, UFS will use ~\$2K to host a networking reception for PRODI-G faculty the first evening of the Diversity Conference, and the remainder can be used by the conference organizers to subsidize attendance at the conference.

Given that the SUNY car used by President Kay is still in great shape, there is no need to replace the car this year. The \$25K that had been allocated for car replacement can therefore be un-allocated, which results in the projected UFS budget now having a positive balance.

National Council of Faculty Senates

The next meeting of the NCFS will be in October. Draft bylaws for the organization are under discussion. Issues being addressed include how to apportion representation across accreditation zones and for institutions and systems of different sizes; whether to include community college representation; what role to play in higher education advocacy; what sort of dues structure; and whether to support a role in publication of governance-related documents (similar to the SUNY Voices publications).

General Education

Phase I of the general education review process is finished, with the delivery of the white paper and green paper to the Provost. The Provost will soon appoint a task force for the next phase of design and implementation, including representation from FCCC and UFS; Provosts and Registrars from two-year and four-year campuses; representatives from System, including someone with student transfer/mobility focus; and others with special expertise. There will be a

greater representation from four-year campuses compared to two-year campuses, given the greater variation in programming across sectors for the state-operated campuses.

Task Force Updates

The Food Insecurity task force has wrapped up its official work with the conference and report this past year. Food insecurity continues to be an issue for campuses and SUNY System to work on.

There is a new task force on Mental Health and Wellness, supported by a new hire in the Student Life office. This is a large task force with over 50 members, but no faculty representation. The task force has not yet convened, so there is still the potential to appoint some faculty members.

Student Mobility Steering Committee

Last year the SMSC identified the existing transfer pathways that were the priority candidates for review. The first eleven of those pathways are being reviewed this year. Co-chairs for each pathway from two-year and four-year programs are being identified and a venue for managed, online conversations set up. The review task groups are being asked to identify the specific problems with the current pathways and propose potential solutions.

Approval of Sector Representatives

Voting members of the Executive Committee approved the slate of sector representatives that was presented and adopted at the Spring Plenary.

Committee Recaps

There was a brief review of what work committees have done since the Summer Planning Meeting, and goals for the Fall Planning Meeting.

Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies

A primer on intelligent advising has been completed by past chair Ron Sarner, and will be reported out at the Fall Plenary.

Student Life

The Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Collaboration Conference was held this past June, and a summary report is due out shortly. The committee is working on a childcare resolution for the Fall Plenary.

Programs and Awards

The committee will begin review of the Chaddock/Cramer Award proposal at the planning meeting.

Operations

The committee will continue to work on the topic of Interprofessional Education, including developing a white paper or other resources, and on the Composition of Administration analysis and report. A resolution in support of SUNY's negotiations with Elsevier will be a high-priority, given the timing of the negotiations. The committee also plans to look at the topic of Open Educational Resources, and looks to work with other committees on the impact of Federal financial aid reimbursement policies on student retention.

Graduate Programs & Research

Plans by the committee to promote restoration of the Research Incentive Program have been superseded by a new Graduate Research Scholarship that has been announced by the Provost's office. Students who are successful in getting a federal grant award and who agree to stay will be eligible for a fellowship from SUNY. The committee is working on ways to promote the new SUNY fellowship to ensure participation, and to provide grant writing training.

Governance

The Bylaws Task Force has been busy over the summer, and the revised Bylaws are ready to present to the body at the Fall Plenary. There is still work to be done on the Guidelines, but those are expected to be ready for the fall as well.

Ethics

The committee is still re-envisioning their charge. Work on the resolution encouraging campuses to develop local ethics advisory committees is being deferred so that the committee can do a pilot study to set up and review the activities of ethics advisory committees on several volunteer campuses.

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity

Proposals have been received by System for the PRODI-G initiative, and the committee plans to meet regularly with Vice Chancellor Miller to stay informed of the progress of the initiative. The committee plans to review and make recommendations concerning support that faculty will need as campuses implement the new Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Policy. Other topics to be addressed will be developing a better understanding of what constitutes EID-related issues, and a resolution on how to promote a healthy campus climate in the face of

contentious conversation around controversial topics, especially with the national election coming up and all of the rhetoric which it has generated.

Communications

The committee is developing plans to streamline the Post-Plenary Report and distribute it in a more timely fashion. Other initiatives are to revitalize the online Bulletin with ongoing creation of new content, and to increase the social media presence for the UFS.

News

Ricardo Azziz

Dr. Azziz is stepping down in September as Chief Officer of Academic Health & Hospital Affairs for SUNY, to become President of the American Association of Reproductive Medicine. There are plans to hire a replacement, although aspects of the position description may be adjusted to meet the changing needs of the SUNY Health Sciences Centers.

Travel Reimbursement Procedures

There has been action by SUNY in response to the UFS resolution on travel procedures. As a result, there will be new travel procedures in place by the time of the Winter Plenary. Members will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements, but covered costs will be direct billed to SUNY. There will also be better tracking of travel reimbursement processing. More details will be provided later.

Presidential Searches

Eleven campuses will be conducting searches for Presidents this coming year. Some campuses though are still waiting for their College Councils to have adequate representation for the campus to begin their search.

There has been discussion at the Board of Trustees about making greater use of closed searches, in order to recruit broader and deeper pools of candidates for the open President positions. Committee members expressed the opinion that closed searches were out of character for public higher education institutions, and impacts that closed searches would have on campus shared governance. There was a suggestion that perhaps information on finalists could be shared with campuses through password-protected systems.

Non-Presidential Searches

Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer Teresa Miller will be spearheading an initiative to develop training for personnel involved in searches across SUNY,

focusing on how to recruit more diverse candidate pools. Part of this initiative will be exploring how to scale up training in this area that has been developed at the University at Buffalo.

Elsevier Negotiations

SUNY's negotiations with Elsevier on a new contract continue, but without a lot of progress. In the example of the University of California negotiations, it was important for their university faculty senate to work with the negotiating team, librarians, and others to control the messaging out to faculty, students, and staff around publishing and access to information resources. Executive Committee members supported the idea of meeting with the coordinator for UC's university faculty senate, to discuss strategies that we can use to promote campus conversations about the negotiations.

Fall Plenary Preview

The Fall Plenary will include a two hour session Friday afternoon for presentation of the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules, by the Governance Committee Chair. The actual vote on Bylaws changes will occur at the Winter Plenary. During the presentation of the Bylaws changes at the Fall Plenary, Campus Governance Leaders who are not also Senators will have their own concurrent meeting session, to continue discussion of campus issues.

Committee members discussed adjustments to the schedule for the Fall Plenary, including cutting down the time that is officially allotted for dinner Friday evening, and whether or not there was an option for sectors to have additional meeting time following the President's Report Friday morning.

UFS has received notice that the Chancellor may not be coming for all of the Plenaries this year. Members discussed the issues around non-attendance by the Chancellor at the Plenaries, what impacts this could have on the status of shared governance across the system, whether or not alternative formats for meeting with the Chancellor would be an option, and how to engage the Chancellor on her priorities in order to increase the value of her attendance at the Plenaries.

Members discussed having a greater focus on budget advocacy at Fall Plenaries, in order to have more effective input into the annual budget process.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Landa
9 October 2019