

**Sector Questions – Farmingdale Plenary
January 23, 2015**

University Centers Questions

There are movements in Congress to politicize and/or defund National Science Foundation sponsored scholarship including basic research, social science research, and climate sciences. These forces wish to eliminate peer review and replace it with a politically controlled process of evaluation. What will you do as the spokesperson for the United States' largest University system to preserve the scientific integrity of federal granting agencies?

We applaud your support for positioning SUNY as an “economic engine” for contributing to the economic progress of New York State. What will you do to make it clear to our many stakeholders that it also has a crucial role to play in producing an educated, healthy and ethical citizenry that can contribute to the quality of life?

Recently the Comptroller's audit of the Stony Brook TAP program has resulted in a \$4.2 million fine for disallowed TAP expenditures. How will you assist the State Comptroller and the campuses to better align financial aid regulations that govern student academic progress (SAP) and TAP disbursements with campus policies that establish academic progress for degree requirements by the individual campuses?

The current model of libraries with most of the funding for acquisitions going to a few predatory publishers is unsustainable in the long term. In response to federal mandates that federally supported research must be published in open access journals and data be made publicly available, the SUNY libraries must adapt to support both Open Access and Open Data. As leader of the largest public university system what will you do to provide adequate resources for Open Access and Open Data initiatives through the SUNY libraries?

Comprehensive Colleges Questions

1. In your State of SUNY address today you stated that a goal was to make sure each student will have an internship. Can you define the scope of exactly what you mean by internship?
2. An internship is a curricular issue and a Gen Ed issue. Yet it would seem that there was limited faculty involvement in making the decision and faculty should decide curricular issues. Where was faculty involved?
3. Since our strengths as comprehensive college faculty is in designing such courses that take into account costs, faculty time, student time and credit issues, are you willing to convene a working group between volunteers from our sector and System to operationalize this?
4. And speaking of operationalizing, what plans are currently in place and what resources will be needed to make this goal real?

Health Science Sector Questions

Thank you:

- For initiating the Search for the UMU President following the Fall Plenary;
- For support from the Chancellery for the SUNY budget submitted to the Governor;
- For the completion of the Stony Brook / Southampton hospitals affiliation.

Questions from Stacey Hengsterman's January 21, 2015 Initial 2015/16 Executive Budget Summary:

Hospitals and Health Related Activities:

- Level of authority provided to spend own revenue is under review to ensure it will be sufficient to accommodate planned activities.
- Direct State support for the three SUNY teaching hospitals is reduced by \$18.0M.
- However, additional funding opportunities are being explored in funding being made available through the Department of Health budget.

Hospitals

- Funding for SUNY's Hospital capital program was not included in the Executive Budget.
- However, the Executive Budget does include \$400.0M of capital grants to hospitals or hospital systems that offer health care services in an underserved region.
- The grants are for providers that facilitate mergers, consolidation, acquisition, or other restructuring activities to create a financially sustainable system of health care.
- In addition, the Executive Budget provides \$1.0B to support projects that stabilize hospitals and make necessary infrastructure investments to access to community-based primary and preventative health services in Brooklyn and create an integrated delivery system in Oneida County.

What is your interpretation of the future and vision of health care based on the Governor's lack of financial support for the SUNY hospitals and the capital grants to hospitals or hospital systems?

Is the statement in the governors' budget "level of authority...." reflective of the governor's endorsement of your previously raised ideas of local financial oversight boards for the hospitals?

Is there an overall plan to expand health science education programs in light of the establishment of the 2 new pharmacy schools at Binghamton and Stony Brook?

Tech Sector Questions

The Tech sector has a history of providing a successful college experience for many of the marginalized students in NYS. To do this we must provide remediation to a good number of our students. Current TAP restrictions (Stony Brook's misappropriation) and SUNY Excel's performance measures seem to be putting pressure on the ability to offer these courses. How will SUNY increase its graduation numbers to 150,000 per year if TAP and campus Performance Allocation Funding is going to be reduced if we continue to provide opportunities to these students?

We were pleased to see your proposal to require each campus to appoint a Chief Diversity Officer. Diverse cultural competencies are valued by employers and an important aspect of the educational experiences of students. Since the majority of the tech sector campuses are in small rural towns, it is important to hire diverse faculty that can teach these competencies to our students. As you know TECH sector faculty salaries on average are the lowest in the system. To bring in these new, highly qualified faculty, we need to pay them much higher salaries than current faculty. This creates a campus wide pay equity issue which is making it difficult to attract, hire, and retain qualified faculty. What are your proposals to bridge the gap in salary inequality and to improve the diversity of Tech Sector faculty?

Yours and the Governor's push for experiential learning puts pressure on campuses to provide internships and other real world learning opportunities for our students. While Open SUNY seems to be providing educational options to students across SUNY, SUNY Works seems to be organized to provide campus specific student experiences. Does the Chancellor envision a SUNY works data bank that will provide all students access to the experiential learning opportunities offered by ALL SUNY Works affiliated companies.

Statutory and Specialized Colleges

1. Do you plan to lobby for changes to the proposed budget language to remove curricular mandates and if so, how can we assist you?
2. You have been an effective and articulate advocate for using the university as an instrument of change. In our sector one of the most engaged and community-connected units is the Cornell Cooperative Extension; their budget was singled out for line-item cuts in the Executive Budget. What can you do to assist?
3. Repeated budget cuts and increasing costs and chargebacks have affected all campus but may have disproportionate effects on small campuses including some in our sector. Enrollment growth as a remedial strategy is limited by facilities or other physical limitations. What is your strategic vision to ensure the viability of small campuses?
4. The recent OSC TAP eligibility audit at Stony Brook uncovered issues that are likely to affect other campuses. Can SUNY develop and deploy automated advisement tools to assist students in making course selections in ways that maintain TAP eligibility. In the same vein we urge you to work for rational exemptions to TAP eligibility requirements in ways that facilitate timely degree completion in situations such as change or major or the need for remedial coursework.
5. In our discussions we learned that as facilities are designed, rehabilitated, equipped and furnished, faculty and end-users are not consistently involved in design and procurement decisions with the end result that user requirements are not met. Can SUNY, working with the Construction Fund and the Dormitory Authority, develop procedures to ensure that there is broad consultation during the design and equipment procurement processes in the same way that new program approval requires demonstration that appropriate governance processes were followed?

Campus Governance Leaders

Question 1 – shared governance

Campus Governance Leaders are reporting an inadequate level of and, in some cases, a complete absence of formal consultation with elected faculty governance regarding the appointment and regular evaluation of administrators at the level of dean and above.

What do you consider the appropriate level of faculty governance involvement in administrative appointments, internal and external searches for administrators, and their subsequent reviews?

Many campuses have met resistance from presidents while trying to codify these procedures for administrative searches and evaluations through campus governance bylaws.

Would a resolution coming from the CGLs help you to encourage presidents to actively engage with the process of codifying meaningful consultation on their campuses?

Over the past five years you have shown a great commitment to shared governance, not only in theory but in practice, therefore we anticipate that presidential involvement in shared governance will be a part of their evaluations.

What is your opinion about engaging CGLs in the development of metrics of presidential accountability in this area?

Question 2 – faculty and curriculum

Can you reaffirm that the curriculum is the purview of the faculty not the Governor. How will you elevate SUNY in the eyes of the Governor and yet ensure that a mandate, such as experiential learning, does not become a top-down initiative but instead a bottom-up development of curriculum by the faculty?

Question 3 – open access journals

Publication in open access journals is often not free and the fees are seldom trivial for authors. Can SUNY provide centralized funding to cover author fees for our own faculty to publish in high-end open access Journals? And how will you help faculty publishing in open access journals combat the tradition of Promotion and Tenure resting on impact factors recognizing that publications in open access journals may not be weighted in the same manner as traditional print publications?