

SUNY University Faculty Senate 167th Spring Plenary Meeting
Empire State College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Health Science Centers Sector Report
May 2, 2014

Attendance

Buffalo Health Science Center – No representation;
College of Optometry - Rebecca Marinoff, Shelly Mozlin;
Downstate Medical Center - Virginia Anderson, Henry Flax (Sector Rep.), Stephan Rinnert;
Stony Brook University Health Science Center - Ed Feldman;
Upstate Medical University - Dale Avers (CGL), Jay Brenner, Kerry Greene Donnelly, JC Trussell.

Discussion of Resolution submitted to the Executive Committee by the sector

President Knuepfer began his sector visits with the Health Sciences sector, specifically to discuss the sector's resolution requesting an audit of SUNY's LICH acquisition and the subsequent financial disaster for Downstate Medical Center and SUNY. He advised the group of the Board of Trustees (BOT) actions regarding LICH. He stated that the Brooklyn Health Partners bid is perceived by SUNY as not viable. SUNY has acted to by-pass that bid and move to Peebles' bid. There was a full discussion of the overriding issue for SUNY – whether to be or not to be in the hospital business. The sale of LICH is expected to be consummated on May 22nd, however this buyer might fail as have others to date. The Executive Committee will table our sector's resolution requesting a study of the LICH debacle until the June Planning meeting. If this buyer fails, SUNY might legally be obligated to continue services at LICH.

- I. Feldman: Is there a clause that the buyer cannot litigate?
 - a. Knuepfer: Yes, if they lost.
 - b. Anderson: What is best for SUNY?
 - c. Knuepfer: Whatever gets us out ASAP. The Pebbles option is probably the best.
 - d. Mozlin: that is not relevant, as it is too late.
 - e. Feldman: this makes the BOT squeamish about the hospital business, and while Carl McCall is supportive of hospitals, the Chancellor has said, "Everything is on the table" in regards to SUNY's continued support of public hospitals.
 - f. Avers: What about the unintended consequences of a request for an investigation of the LICH debacle?
 - g. Knuepfer: reminded the sector that all resolutions go to the Chancellor and he is not sure what the BOT will say about the finances, not sure that the BOT would look at itself. BOT is split on the integrity of hospitals. Some desire firewalls between hospitals and universities.
 - h. Brenner: Resolution is asking to have the BOT independently reviewed.
 - i. Knuepfer: "Let's be honest." Unless NY Times is doing the review, it won't be done.
 - j. Anderson: What is the status of the LICH tax (proposed by Carl McCall)?
 - k. Knuepfer: SUNY must repay the bonds it floated, which are public knowledge from the November 2013 BOT meeting. The BOT is not going to raise tuition, but funds may come from campuses. The \$75 million loan from SUNY to Downstate will have to be repaid. Downstate has already paid out \$40-50 million. The Othmer Endowment Fund from LICH (\$140 million) which was spent might have to be replenished as well.
 - l. Feldman: 1,000 people have lost their jobs in this.
 - m. Rinnert: the LICH effect has trickled down to 2 residency programs on probation because of slashed funding.

- n. Anderson: No EMR
 - i. Pathology reports don't go to record, so a pregnant woman didn't know in one case.
- o. Feldman: How did Downstate do for match?
- p. Flax: this was the worst year ever for our senior medical students.
- q. Brenner: suggested that the resolution be tabled until the fall plenary to allow the full senate the opportunity to amend it.
 - i. Knuepfer: Executive Committee would support that, he thinks.
- r. Anderson: The NYS Comptroller's report provided all the information we need.
- s. Feldman: how will this resolution be used?
- t. Brenner: fear that the Executive Committee will soften the resolution before October. Flax, Feldman and Mozlin explained the Executive Committee's rationale for its action, its discussion of Roberts' Rules regarding the resolution, etc.
- u. Open debate about best timing to put LICH resolution forward:
 - i. Mozlin, Feldman: wait until the Fall
 - ii. Avers, Anderson: Do it now as we may not be "done" with LICH by October.
 - iii. Rinnert: the independent review will be expensive and doubt it will be helpful
 - iv. Marinoff: Wait and see what the executive committee does.
 - v. Flax: synthesized 3 options
 - 1. Spring Plenary (3)
 - 2. Executive Committee (4) → the winner!
 - 3. Fall Plenary (2)
- II. Anderson: the resolution of the LICH situation is critical for the re-election of Governor Cuomo.

Review and approval of the minutes of the January 2014 (166 Plenary) meeting

The minutes of the health science sector meeting of the 166 Plenary (January 2014) were unanimously approved as submitted by the sector members.

Faculty Senate Bulletin

Flax noted that an article was submitted by Jay Brenner for our sector. Kudos to Jay for "stepping up to the plate" for us!

Sector Representative Election

Henry Flax was elected Sector Representative by unanimous vote.

Campus reports

Buffalo – no report

Downstate Medical Center

Six residency programs, including Hematology/Oncology, Radiology, Orthopedic Surgery, Family Practice, are all on probation. Two programs are on warning as well. This has had a ripple effect on students.

The Pitts Management group does not value the educational mission of the institution. The Dean and Associate Dean were asked to appear before the BOT because of the number of residency programs on probation or warning.

Chancellor Question: In view of your previously stated value of medical education to SUNY, what will you do to mitigate the educational fall-out at Downstate as represented by the multiple graduate medical education programs on probation?

Optometry

Marinoff: Moving forward on shared governance.

- i. Lost 25 faculty members last year; more full-time faculty members are leaving.
- ii. Need more ancillary services (e.g., a Patient Care Coordinator) to do things like prior authorization and reduce workload for optometrist staff.

Feldman: Is there a SUNY-wide trend toward sacrificing teaching, research, and service for the sake of clinical revenue?

Chancellor Question: In light of current resource allocation in health care, what will SUNY do to reverse the trend of sacrificing teaching, research, and service missions for the sake of clinical revenue?

- iii. Marinoff: How do we use systemness to solve these issues?

Stony Brook

Feldman: The campus is moving forward on the growth of the Southampton campus under Stony Brook's license. The goal is for expanded or newly initiated residency programs, satellite programs (e.g., audiology), etc.

Jim Simon's \$200 million donation is going to new transitional research building.

Upstate Medical University

Start Up NY: Where is faculty governance in this? Dale Avers: It has been left up to the COM Dean at Upstate. Stony Brook – campus governance was involved; Downstate is happy with the process and the support. Optometry has been left out.

Presidential Search has not begun. Dr. Eastwood is still the interim president. Perhaps the search will begin over the summer. Feldman inquired about former President Smith. It was reported that negotiations to reinstate him as a faculty member are underway.

Shared governance is being rebuilt "from the ground up."

Good news:

Downstate: Institute going well.

Upstate: Level 1 Trauma Center recognition by ACS for Adult and Pediatrics.

Request to meet with Trustee John Murad, chair of the Academic Medical Centers & Hospitals Committee, Thursday evening of the Fall Plenary in Syracuse. Dale Avers to contact Mr. Murad. The Sector meeting was adjourned to meet with the Chancellor.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Flax, Ed.D.

Sector Representative

(with tremendous assistance & support from Jay Brenner, MD)