

SUNY University Faculty Senate
168th Fall Plenary Meeting
Academic Health Science Sector Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 24, 2014
10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Present:

Downstate Medical Center

Anderson (Alternate Senator), Durkin (Senator), Flax (Sector Rep; Senator),
Haeri (Alternate Senator);

College of Optometry

Marinoff (Optometry Senator);

Stony Brook Health Science Center

Feldman (CGL), Bilges (Senator);

Upstate Medical University

Avers (CGL), Brenner (Senator), Greene-Donnelly (Senator), Meguid (Alternate Senator),
Trussell (Senator), Vossler (UUP guest), Wojcik (Senator);

Minutes of the 167th Spring Plenary Health Science Sector meeting

Dale Avers moved, Ed Feldman seconded the approval of the minutes as submitted;
motion carried.

Meeting with Board of Trustees (BOT) Academic Medical Centers Chari John Murad

Dale Avers advised Trustee Murad of the “uncertainty” felt by members of the faculty and staff at the three medical center campuses represented (Downstate, Stony Brook and Upstate), i.e., interim president at Upstate, the Chancellor’s request for closer affiliations between University at Albany and Downstate, and Binghamton University and Upstate, whether Upstate will get an appointed president like Downstate did. Murad reassured us that the Academic Medical Centers Committee of the BOT is committed to keeping the hospitals and medical centers intact. Murad ended the session encouraging a faculty representative to talk with his committee regarding the sector’s concerns.

Ed Feldman seconded the mutually respectful interaction at this meeting.

Feldman asked whether faculty has governance oversight over consolidation of departments (it does at Stony Brook). Rebecca Marinoff noted that Optometry has. Victoria Meguid stated that, at Upstate, the College of Medicine does have discussions about this. Helen Durkin noted that Downstate has had some consolidations without any faculty governance input. Henry Flax stated that the Downstate senators need to research the history of the departmental consolidation of Physiology and Pharmacology. Creation of one big Basic Sciences department has been proposed. What are the implications for tenured faculty members who are reassigned?

Is there an equivalent on the SUNY level regarding consolidation of campuses (BU and Upstate, U Albany and Downstate)? The Board of Trustees Policies seems silent on this issue. Virginia Anderson noted that an arranged marriage has many dangers. Jay Brenner stated that we should ask the Chancellor as a formal question. Victoria Meguid noted that we do not want to compromise our campus governance.

Campus Reports: Nickerson is out sick indefinitely, so there is no Buffalo representation. Discussion ensued about ways to reach out to Buffalo governance leadership similar to the outreach to Downstate during Feldman's Sector leadership tenure.

Downstate (Flax):

LICH: Shelley Mozlin reminded us of the investigation resolution that went to the executive committee (EC). Flax stated that the committee felt that SUNY could not effectively investigate itself. Feldman stated that the EC was supportive of the intent but could not support the method or cost of an internal evaluation.

Anderson: We wanted to pass the resolution, but it was obstructed by UUP infiltration. We have the comptroller's report. We need to show what the governor did was much like his termination of the Moreland Commission.

Vossler: Hyde plan had more teeth than the Chancellor's plan.

Anderson: UUP has \$7 million. Vossler countered that that is NYSUT money.

Avers expressed the disappointment of the Health Science Sector with the manner in which the spring resolution was handled. She reiterated that the failure of administration oversight and management should not leave students taxed.

Brenner asked how procedurally the Executive Committee's vote could be tied. We should not sweep this under the rug. Feldman shared that the President can vote. Marinoff stated that we should put forward a resolution to UFS in spite of the EC vote.

Multiple people voiced multiple opinions nearly simultaneously.

Wojcik: Faculty deserves a report on what happened with LICH from SUNY.

Anderson: Consider copying comptroller's report and disseminating it.

Feldman recommended we table the discussion until Knuepfer arrives.

Flax reported that President Williams received a new open-ended contract. University Hospital has had 5 CEOs in 6 months (Pitts Management revolving staff). There has been little or no faculty involvement. Faculty picked to be involved are not those involved in governance. Morale remains quite low.

Proposed Albany/Downstate affiliation: appointment of previous Albany provost to Downstate is of concern.

Optometry (Marinoff):

The college still needs more faculty members. Feldman questioned the clinical/academic split for new hires. Stony Brook starts at 95% clinical. Marinoff responded that Optometry has a "plug holes" mentality. Usually faculty is appointed as clinical, but sometimes on research lines if they come with grants. A new administrative role has been created.

Stony Brook (Feldman)

New hires are on hold. Wojcik noted that when losing a state line employee, no replacement given by state.

Merger with Southampton

Dean has pointed out that Southampton Hospital is not LICH. LICH fall-out has colored the BOT's perspective on the arrangement with Southampton. There are already existing programs in Southampton – the Family Medicine residency program, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy all have students there and will be part of Southampton campus (along with the Marine Science program).

Southampton hospital will operate under Stony Brook's license. If a new hospital will be built, then it will be built with private money. Employees are to be leased. Flax noted that the doctors at LICH were made UUP members; all other staff was employed by Staffco.

Feldman noted the aggressive growth of North Shore / Long Island Jewish in the Long Island market. Stony Brook needs to hold its market share on the East End. Geography: Southampton is 90 minutes from Stony Brook.

In other news, the College of Pharmacy has been approved to start.

Anderson questioned Feldman regarding the impact of LIJ/North Shore/Hofstra's medical school on Stony Brook's medical school classes. SB needs to respond, as does Downstate. Feldman noted that Stony Brook is doing well with medical school admissions: 7,000 applicants for 700 interviews for 130 spots. COM has new curriculum of 18 months basic sciences. New Children's Hospital being constructed (\$25 million private/\$25 million public). This includes Outpatient/inpatient facilities, but no surgical suites.

Upstate (Wojcik):

Upstate continues with an Interim President. Faculty has been surveyed. Chancellor agreed to start the search January 2015.

Meguid: Upstate COM participated in AAMC Faculty Forward Survey. Dean appointed committee to decide what to disseminate from it. Vossler: Dean is setting up 1:1 faculty meetings to intimidate those who shared negative responses.

Avers is participating in President's Leadership Council as CGL; Brenner subbing this semester. Avers went to retreat and discussed morale issues. Eastwood shared Faculty Survey about Presidential Search with faculty at President's forum. Avers concerned about 100% Dean's control of curriculum and P & T. Anderson says this will be a problem with the LCME. Avers says that the opposite was true.

Marinoff asked about the Binghamton/Upstate affiliation. Avers discussed opportunities of sharing research, academic, financial services, and human resources. Meetings were fruitful on the first two, but not anything more was accomplished recently.

Plenary Agenda

Governance Committee: Avers shared concerns about SUNY administrators (including provosts, “vice” people) oversight. Vice-provosts doing administrative work, but paid by departments. VPR at Upstate appointed without faculty governance.

Executive Committee: Flax thinks that we need “elevator speech” for why hospitals serve as our clinical laboratories to give to Knuepfer.

Resolutions: No time to discuss.

Questions for the Chancellor

1. Due to the many issues that have arisen over the past four years with our institutions, the faculty and professional staff at both Downstate Medical Center and Upstate Medical University are feeling particularly vulnerable and uncertain about the future of our institutions. The encouraged relationships between the University at Albany & Downstate Medical Center and Binghamton University and Upstate Medical University have exacerbated this sense of uncertainty. Please be candid with us about your motivations for encouraging these relationships and your vision for the future for academic health science centers and our hospitals in the SUNY system.
2. With the announced December 2014 departure of President Eastwood, when will you begin the search for the new President at Upstate Medical University?

Knuepfer visit to the Sector:

LICH Resolution: Executive Committee did not pass the resolution sent by the health sciences sector. SUNY cannot effectively investigate itself. SUNY should bring this to the operations committee or ad hoc committee to farm out to faculty.

Avers: Maybe Binghamton Health Science Policy degree.

Who is going to pay for LICH liabilities?

Downstate?

Health Science Sectors?

SUNY?

State? (Knuepfer: “When pigs fly.”)

Southampton merger NOT approved by Board of Trustees

Shelly Mozlin moved, Ed Feldman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Brenner and Henry Flax