

University Centers
Peter Knuepfer, Binghamton University
October 21, 2011

The University Centers wish to bring two major concerns to the Chancellor's attention.

- Shared Services Initiative
 - Existing campus governance groups not involved/engaged in discussions about regional shared services. Even shared processes like IT or grants management impact (or potentially impact) on faculty and the academic mission. We recognize that solutions to this need to be pressed by faculty on our campuses, but our concern is that Presidents aren't listening (and the establishment of an administrators-only committee by UB and Buff State demonstrates that).
 - We believe it would be extremely helpful to campuses and regional alliances to have benchmarks—or, better, ranges—of levels of administration (costs, size) appropriate to campuses of a given size/mission. This would help all of us gauge the extent to which administrative duties could be reduced and funding shifted to the academic mission—presumably the goal of the initiative.
 - At least two of our campuses are concerned that there have been mergers of departments and “sharing” of department-level support services, done with minimal or no consultation. A campus-level issue, to be certain, but of concern as it becomes more common.

- Secretive senior searches

All of the University Center campuses have had—or are currently having—extremely closed searches for senior administrators, starting with the President, but in at least one case moving to the search for a Provost. While we might not like the development of the closed search approach—wherein names of finalists aren't made public—we understand why this has evolved.

However, when a pool is being narrowed to a small group of finalists—before a short list is delivered to the Chancellor (or, in the case of a Provost, the President)—it is essential that faculty governance leaders meet with the candidates (in confidential meetings). The exclusion of such meetings (1) hampers the candidates and the campus in mutual evaluation and (2) implies that faculty leaders (and perhaps even senior staff) aren't to be trusted to maintain confidentiality. Given that an incoming President or Provost is going to be working with this group in a shared governance, this lack of trust is counterproductive at best, and may well engender an initial mutual distrust that may hamper effective campus operations in the future.

Comprehensive Colleges
Jim McElwaine, Purchase Colleges
October 21, 2011

Shared Services

- Agreement that administrative sizes are 'snowballing'
- Need to be proactive about faculty involvement and programmatic interaction
- Focus should be on shared governance involvement
- Jobs will be lost
- Governance on some campuses already bypassed
- Systemic disregard for inclusive involvement
- Must try to ensure the direction of potential savings
- Chancellor and Provost requested to issue a directive to Presidents

Seamless transfer

- Agreed that policy of allowing a limited number of upper level courses, as described at the transfer site, to facilitate transfer from both 2- and 4- year SUNY campuses is working to the students' advantage.

SUNY-wide degrees

- Need for cautious approach to attaching degree across campus to be interpreted as shared service savings

GenEd

- Given the revision of GenEd to "7-of-10," why do we maintain (how do we justify) the continuation of courses that satisfy up to 3 Gen Ed categories?

Health Sciences

Edward Feldman, Stony Brook University

October 21, 2011

- **Introductions:** Since there were several new representatives to the Sector, members introduced themselves. The structure of Sector meetings and the sharing of issues with Chancellor were discussed.
- **Budget:** The specific problems of the budget cuts as it impacts this Sector were discussed. Health Sciences Centers are at risk for reductions in academic budgets, hospital budgets and in reimbursements for medical services through Medicaid and Medicare. It was announced by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Government Relations during the Executive Committee Meeting yesterday that the \$120M subsidy to SUNY hospitals was again not in the Executive budget. Last year, the legislature agreed to restore \$60M of this cut in the subsidy, but it is not clear if this will happen this year. Again, there may be a “tax” on all SUNY campuses to make the hospitals “whole” as a result of this shortfall in subsidy to the hospitals.
- **LCME Accreditation:** The Liaison Committee on Medical Education that accredits medical schools visited Buffalo, Upstate and Stony Brook recently. While the formal written reports are not yet available, there was discussion about apparent citations which include the relationship between the dean and the faculty in making curricular decisions. Sector members discussed the wisdom of inviting a representative from the LCME to attend the Winter Plenary to discuss the process and content of accreditation visits.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** The need for a system-wide policy to deal with academic dishonesty among faculty was discussed. It was decided to discuss this with the Chancellor to see if such a policy exists at the state level or if this is left up to individual campuses.
- **Tenure:** The Health Sciences sector continued to express concern for the job security for clinical faculty which comprises about 70% of the faculty in health sciences settings. There continues to be too much pressure on clinical faculty to produce more income through clinical activities during these difficult economic times at the expense of the other missions of academic health centers such as research, teaching, community service and governance. This emphasis on clinical productivity could interfere with the ability of clinical faculty to achieve tenure. The role of the union in protecting clinical faculty was discussed. The union produced a policy on “contingent faculty” which will be shared with the group.
- **Awards:** The Awards Committee continues to work on granting Chancellor’s Awards to faculty of “qualified” academic rank such as clinical appointees with the support of the Sector and of Provost Lavallo.

Colleges of Technology
Karen Spellacy, SUNY Canton
October 21, 2011

Much of the discussion involved shared services and shared presidents. Issues brought included the following:

- Request for the Chancellor to assist in ensuring faculty governance's input in shared services discussions at the campus level.
- Concern that at this time, Cobleskill and Morrisville do not have a president with experience in managing a working farm. It is believe that shared presidencies will compromise a campuses ability to have a president suited to the campus' unique culture and mission. In addition, a shared presidency will result in presidents without or with limited experience with a college's specialized programs.
- Question as to what occurred to cause a reversal in the decision to search for a new President at Morrisville.

Specialized and Statutory Colleges

Ron Sarner, SUNYIT

October 21, 2011

- Cornell, ESF, and Ceramics have experience with shared services provided by their host campuses, results include
 - diminution of services to academic programs
 - contact people for services are more remote and less responsive
 - "Reimagine Cornell" promises greater centralization of services coupled with a promise not to cut faculty
 - Contract Colleges have become more connected to Cornell over the past decade
 - autonomous libraries at Cornell have been consolidated
 - there is greater student cross-enrollment at the various units at Cornell
 - Biomedical students now take courses in the Vet school
- International Enrollment
 - suggest centralization of enrollment support services
 - vetting of applications
 - establishing relationships with foreign universities and secondary schools
 - Visa/immigration support
 - ESL instruction using SUNY staff, not contracting to outside agencies
- Explore sharing Cooperative Extension services with SUNY
 - Disaster Recovery
 - Update of situation at Ceramics
 - greater SUNY web presence on the art side; no SUNY web presence on the engineering side.

Campus Governance Leaders
Susan Camp, SUNY Oswego
October 21, 2011

A dominant theme throughout the discussions was lack of administrative consultation with faculty and staff when "Shared services" were being discussed and planned. Presidents or COO announce decisions without campus governance consultation. Some have publicly said that they need not consult, because they are in charge.

Some questions related to "Shared Services":

- Will there be repercussions for COOs who chose not to consult?
- Is shared services a step toward mergers?
- What is Middle States response to sharing Presidents between two distinct institutions?
- How will searches proceed when a president steps down?
- Is SUNY going to lose status in NY higher education?

Other discussions centered around grade change appeal process and grade change authority, academic master plans, how agricultural and technical colleges can be considered as part of the SUNY STEM initiatives, Alfred Ceramics still being invisible on the Alfred University website, and some campuses being told there is NO money for professional development and all PD money is coming from personal funds.

Susan Camp will be leaving Oswego at the end of the year and Howard Reid of Buffalo State College was elected to serve as CGL convener for the remainder of the academic year.