

UNIVERSITY SECTORS REPORT FOR THE FALL PLENARY AT SUNY, OSWEGO, OCTOBER 25-27, 2012

By Donald A. Grinde, Jr., SUNY, Buffalo (University Centers Sector Rep)

At the fall 2012, SUNY, University Faculty Senate meeting, University Centers Senators discussed a variety of issues that reflected a broad array of concerns facing the University centers. Knowing that these questions would be asked of Chancellor Zimpher, the University Center senators raised the following issues:

1. How do university centers deal with admitting undergraduate students that are not well prepared in math and English language skills?
2. Is SUNY looking at establishing guidelines for new digital forms of scholarship, such as web pages, data bases and blogs and how these forms of publication might be evaluated for tenure and promotion?
3. Should we and/or do we have firewalls in place to maintain academic integrity in public-private partnerships?
4. To what extent will SUNY encourage the legislature to re-establish and fund a new Graduate Research Initiative?

Prior to submitting the questions to Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Senators from the university centers through a lengthy discussion narrowed the questions down to suggested three by choosing to eliminate question number one. There was also considerable discussion about the phrasing of question number three since the Faculty Senate President Ken O'Brien reported that the SUNY Board of Trustees requested a report from UB detailing "all of the facts and circumstances regarding the formation of the UB Shale Institute, the selection of its directors and the publication of its first report, including the involvement of natural gas companies in the formation of the institute, the selection of its directors and the publication of its first report." According to O'Brien, the Trustees' chief concern "...was not the conclusions of the report itself, but with the initial claim that it had been peer reviewed and the questions regarding the funding sources for both the institute and its staff."

When questions 2-4 were presented to Chancellor Zimpher for discussion, she thought on question # 2 that there was great need to revise tenure standards to include the digital forms of publication. On question # 3, she specifically raised the UB Shale Institute as an example of the need to create more transparency and that she was talking to the SUNY foundation head in Albany and University administrators about appropriate ways to insure the creation of a better firewall in such cases. On the last question, Zimpher claimed that she was not familiar with the Graduate Research Initiative and would seek more information on the issue – noting that it seemed like something that her office would support with the state legislature.

Comprehensive College Sector

Submitted by Joe Marren

Buffalo State College

Oct. 26, 2012

Given that the proposed Resource Allocation Model favors the University Centers over the Comprehensive Colleges and the Technical Colleges, members had to wonder and ask during the sector meeting what the SUNY vision is right now for the value that the comprehensives give the System.

Rather than pit sector against sector, it would seem more practical and useful to work together to get more allocation dollars for all 64 campuses in the system. As one colleague put it, we are feeding on each other and yet since we all value an undergraduate education it would seem ideal for all campuses to work together to educate the Legislature and state residents about the importance of changing the RAM formula.

Besides the fiscal concerns, questions were also raised about the imposed Gen ED transfer. It appears that the way the seamless transfer would work is to have Gen Ed courses appear as something “to get out of the way” before transfer. This perception of attitude causes some to wonder whether policy makers understand the value of undergraduate programs. Furthermore, the idea of four or five courses in the major transferring may well not work in the sciences.

Our questions, then, focus around RAM and the seamless transfer. There are also other concerns below that were expressed in various e-mails prior to the plenary:

- 1.) How does the Resource Allocation Model/Tool value and support the SUNY mission of “broadest possible access” to undergraduate education for state residents when it seems to disproportionately burden the campuses that focus on this aspect of our mission?
 2. a.) What is the philosophy behind the formula since it doesn’t value undergraduate education? Keep in mind that the comprehensive colleges also cover more students in a geographically diverse section of the state.
- 2.) How can the infusion of systemness be reconciled with the tradition of faculty control of curriculum on our campuses when SUNY seems to be trying to control the first two years of a student’s curriculum, such as with the infusion of C-TENs (Campus Teacher Education Network Team) into coursework, and with the greater implementation of student mobility? The C-TEN push is to push “clinically rich teacher and leader preparation.”
 - 1.a.) Can you explain how systemness and the forthcoming student mobility resolution continues to ensure a high-quality undergraduate education over the entirety of every student’s undergraduate career?

- 3.) What role will SUNY play in helping the state education department understand that it will be difficult for the state to use impact data from New York classrooms to evaluate how well colleges of teacher education are doing? Many recent grads are teaching out of state and so reporting only data on state teachers is not sufficient to evaluate how teachers are taught in the state. Using data older than five years is not a reflection of current programs.
- 4.) Should SUNY object to the insertion of certification requirements into teacher education programs? SUNY has fought to keep the pursuit of a liberal arts education separate from certification or licensure. So why is the state looking to teacher education programs to impose a system that will virtually require teacher candidates in undergrad and grad levels during a field or student teaching experience .
- 5.) Some people feel that individual campuses are duplicating international programs that fly in the face of SUNY guidelines. For example, two campuses have essentially duplicates of programs in Italy and one campus feels that such an arrangement contradicts SUNY guidelines and regulations. The implication is that it affects every SUNY campus' international education program because recruitment initiatives at each are confused at the duplicity.

Health Science Centers Sector Report

Dale Avers, Upstate Medical University

October 27, 2012

- Trustee Murad, as chair of the Academic Medical Centers and Hospital Committee of the SUNY Board, invited the Sector to share the faculty view of the issues affecting the Sector on Wednesday, October 24. It was a fruitful meeting whereby all participants increased their understanding of the Trustee's role and the challenges facing faculty in Health Sector. He has invited a representative of the Sector to attend meetings of the AMC and Hospitals committee. The possibility of a White Paper was discussed about the issues facing the health sector. No decision was made.
- Concern about the pressure on clinical faculty to teach and produce revenue. Emphasize educational message/mission
- Opportunities for systemness (shared services) between health science institutions such as REACH were discussed. (Library services, Electronic medical records and Billing systems, Collaboration of programs, courses, faculty
- Downstate resolution in support of the mission of Downstate was vetted with suggestions made to the Executive committee. The Health Sector supports the efforts of our Downstate colleagues as they seek solutions to the administrative, operational and external factors that led to the current fiscal crisis.
- The need for a resolution was discussed about the value of Academic Medical Centers for the NYS citizens' health and wellbeing. Dale to draft.
- In the spirit of transparency; we (the Sector) would like to review the Pitts Management report regarding the restructuring of Downstate Medical Center for the entire Sector's benefit.
- Clinical spots for health science students are disappearing at the same time we are being encouraged to grow our class sizes. Concern about the need for the academic medical center model to provide adequate teaching placements for students.
- Set up online Health Sector meeting for every two months

**University Faculty Senate
Technology Sector Report
162nd Plenary
SUNY Oswego
October 27, 2012**

The University Faculty Senate (UFS) Plenary was held from October 25-27, 2012 at SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York.

The Technology Sector met and discussed issues of concern to our colleges. Present were Callista McBride, Senator, Alfred State College; Anne Englot, Senator, Morrisville State College; Charles Moran, UFS Extended Executive Committee, Chair of the Ethics and Institutional Integrity Committee, SUNY Cobleskill, Terry Hamblin, SUNY Delhi, Brian Harte, SUNY Canton, Kathleen Jacquette, Farmingdale State College

One concern raised during the sector meeting was the risk presented to our campuses of SUNY's decision to fund only two requests for special purpose funding (none in our sector). The resulting threat is the erosion of the unique characteristics of each campus. In her remarks Chancellor Zimpher addressed this issue before we could raise it. She stated that SUNY Central was undertaking an initiative to assist campuses in raising funds to support campus initiatives (potentially uniqueness) beyond current and projected funding from existing sources.

I presented the Technology Sector Report to the University Faculty Senate and Chancellor Nancy Zimpher.

I. The Technology sector asked Chancellor Zimpher for her vision for the sector and specifically for our programs that support the family farm.

In response Chancellor Zimpher discussed the great value of the Tech sector and its mission which grew out of the Land Grant colleges as well as the value of agriculture and all of the other important programs at our colleges such as auto, entrepreneurship and architecture.

II. The Technology sector asked for what the timeline would be for our colleges to achieve "steady state" and what metrics would be used to assess the success of Shared Services.

In response Chancellor Zimpher disavowed the rumor that she was adamant about "winning the shared Presidency fight". She stated that presidential searches for the various colleges would occur once certain budgetary goals had been achieved.

The Technology Sector wishes to thank Chancellor Zimpher for her stated support of our colleges and her acknowledgement of the importance and relevance of our colleges' missions to SUNY and the state.

Respectfully
submitted, Anne
Englot
MSC University Faculty Senator
UFS Executive Committee, Technology Sector Representative

Statutory and Specialized Colleges

Report to the Senate

Fall 2012 Plenary

SUNY College at Oswego

Question:

Will the Chancellor remind presidents of their responsibility under the *Policies of the Board of Trustees* to consult with faculty prior to the appointment of academic administrators?

Discussions and concerns:

- the focus on allocation of state funds should not detract from attempting to secure additional state funding
- there is general frustration that the discussions on the Resource Allocation Tool are being conducted with faculty not being given access to the actual campus by campus percentage changes in state allocation or the dollars involved. Greater transparency is needed.
- Cornell has had a difficult rollout of a new campus-wide procurement system. Lack of planning and training has resulted in the loss of hundreds of person-hours of productivity. This is not to suggest that computerized systems should not be developed and implemented but that a robust training plan is required.
- ESF is about to open a LEED Platinum Gateway building that will house police and

outreach. The campus expects to be energy-neutral by 2015. This serves as a reminder that SUNY should not lose its focus on sustainability.

- Ceramics faculty have been charged by their unit head to study the identity of the College, including the development of a new website.

