

University Center Sector Report
Submitted by Kathleen M. Kielar, Ph.D.
January 29, 2014

The University Center campuses equally expressed concern that campus governance leaders were not involved in decisions about what businesses were coming to campuses. UB has made a bit more progress in that the Chair of the Faculty Senate has been working with the campus administration. The Chair of the Professional Staff Senate has not/is not being consulted about any START UP NY plans. All the campuses believed that they must continue to enforce that businesses on campus must agree to adhere to the campus academic mission. They suggested that the Chancellor build in a mechanism that ensures that campus governance has been involved in the process as well as ensuring that any notes about the business have been submitted along with the proposal to SUNY before it goes to the state. Finally, members also expressed concern with the timing of events and the quick pace that the governor wants START UP NY to occur.

The University at Albany is working on the NANO separation. They also have concerns about shared decision between campus governance and university administration in that the university administration is making decisions, then the decisions are being communicated to the campus governance leaders.

We also discussed the need for the Centers of Excellence to include and support Social & Behavioral/Humanities & Fine Art to create a comprehensive program and compliment the STEM programs.

Some campuses expressed concerns about the curricular implications of OPEN SUNY and seamless transfer pathways regarding a defacto core curriculum and a campus ability to maintain control of the curriculum.

Finally, the group talked about the need for the once funded Graduate Research through GRI be restored. This is important to graduate education.

Comprehensive College Sector Report
Jan.23-24 Plenary at University at Albany
Joe Marren, sector representative

There are two general questions we seek clarification on:

- 1.) This relates to mission creep. We understand that one college in the tech sector has the approval to go forward with a master's in nursing degree and that another is developing one in engineering tech management. Is the intent to let colleges outside the comprehensive college sector continue to develop master's programs competing with this sector? Or are these unique programs that will be carefully monitored to prevent overlap. We don't mean to frame this as a sector vs. sector question, but in light of Open SUNY in all its potential we would like to have a conversation about the issue. Also, if there is a committee formed, we'd like to have a seat and a voice at those committee meetings. How can we get such a seat at the table?
- 2.) The comprehensive colleges are heavily involved in teacher education. How will the new requirements, set to take effect in Fall 2015, be crafted to conform with accreditation standards and our commitment to diversity and making sure that underrepresented groups are, in fact, represented. We have also heard there might be waivers to the standards. If that is true, how does this sector have meaningful involvement in any such discussions about waivers?

3.)

Another question that we have is that the sector representative and several others from this sector crafted a resolution on the new teacher education standards that was passed at the last plenary. What is the status of a reply to the resolution? We have not heard any news on it. We feel we should be heavily involved in the whole process, especially if waivers are granted. We understand that the Provost's Advisory Council is being reconstituted and we feel that a faculty member from an education department in our sector should be considered for a spot on the council. To that end, we also support the work the UUP is doing in this matter as important and parallel to our concerns.

Open SUNY is always a concern across departments on campuses and we want to make sure that the goals and aims of Open SUNY are well thought out and consistent with campuses. Thus, we want to make sure that Open SUNY doesn't open the door to the mission creep mentioned above. It would help if there was more discussion about this. Also, there needs to be more consultation in making sure the marketing of Open SUNY and reassurance that the system will maintain the quality in the sea-change ahead in education.

Many of the campuses are undergoing, or recently underwent, Gen Ed changes and the process has been smooth for some than others. Generally, though it is a mixed bag across the sector. As far as Open SUNY changing Gen Ed, several campuses are looking to find a niche.

Seamless transfer is also being heavily discussed across campuses, especially since there is some confusion as to its relationship with Open SUNY. So it seems that more marketing, or explanations, are needed.

SUNY University Faculty Senate 166th Fall Plenary
University at Albany
Health Sciences Sector Report
Friday, January 25, 2014

Senators and Guests Attending:

College of Optometry:	Rochelle Mozlin (alternate)
Downstate Medical Center:	Virginia Anderson, Henry Flax, Stephan Rinnert
Stony Brook University:	Ed Feldman
University of Buffalo:	Peter Nickerson
Upstate Medical University:	Dale Avers (CGL), Jay Brenner, Kerry Greene Donnelly, Bob Lebel (alternate), Susan Wojcik.
Guest:	Susan Phipps, UAlbany Provost, Chair, CAO group

Henry Flax opened the meeting and apologized for leaving Stony Brook off the agenda. Introductions were made by attendees.

On behalf of the sector, he thanked Kerry Greene Donnelly for her excellent contribution to the Bulletin. Her article appeared on page 18.

Minutes of the October 2013 (165 Plenary) meeting:

Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

Discussion of Plenary Agenda and resolutions submitted to the body:

Dale Avers proposed that a resolution come from the sector in support of an investigation of system issues related to the Downstate Medical Center debacle. This motion would propose a root cause analysis of the issues to help ensure that such a situation does not recur. Virginia Anderson stated that it was imperative to do this. As part of the study, there was discussion about the review process of presidential performance. The sector discussed whether evaluation by a broader constituency might help campuses avoid larger issues by such a revised review process.

Bob Lebel proposed establishing a sub-committee of the sector to develop such a resolution and disseminate it to the sector prior to the May Plenary meeting. Ed Feldman endorsed Bob Lebel's proposal. Susan Wojcik suggested that we include senators from outside the sector on this sub-committee. Shelly Mozlin agreed that this was a great idea and reminded the sector that all proposed motions must be presented to the Executive Committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the Plenary. The following senators and CGLs were proposed for membership on the sub-committee:

Miriam Vincent (CGL, Downstate); Bob Lebel, Dale Avers, Upstate;
Minna Barrett (Old Westbury); Phillipe Abraham (UAlbany).

Dale Avers moved that the Health Science Sector Senators resolve to support a full investigation of system issues related to the Downstate Medical Center debacle (2010 – present) to learn from and prevent a similar incident to protect our students and system going forward. Ed Feldman seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Campus Reports:

Each campus represented provided a brief report of their current issues:

Buffalo: Peter Nickerson reported that the dean has announced state funding to move the medical campus downtown. The rationale for the move is that all hospitals in Buffalo (excluding the VA) are situated downtown already. Students are expected at the new facility in 2016 but faculty and researchers are not expected to move there until 2022. Concerns about the move include where

students will live downtown (currently they live near the south campus) and the fact that downtown parking is expensive and there is no public transit available at 5:00 AM when students are expected to be at the hospitals for surgical rotations.

Optometry: After the 25 faculty members (mostly part-time clinical faculty) did not have their contracts renewed, the clinic schedules were redone to reflect their loss. This had had a negative impact on patient care and the quality of the care (not an adequate number of doctors to handle the volume of patients). The president addressed this last week and shared that Optometry is now on a better financial footing. The College is increasing class size from 85 to 100 students. The faculty will need to revise clinical programs to adapt. Ed Feldman asked whether Optometry is recruiting out-of-state students to obtain higher tuition. Shelley Mozlin noted that recruitment is focused on increasing the pool of upstate candidates, although Optometry has traditionally been “location blind” in its admissions process. Four or five new optometry schools have opened across the nation and there are now approximately 20 schools vying for the top students. Virginia Anderson inquired about whether Optometry owns its building on 42nd Street; Shelly Mozlin responded yes. Ed Feldman asked about morale – both faculty and student. Shelley responded that faculty morale is bad, students are not aware of the challenges facing the school and faculty. Shelley mentioned that the school is looking to hire full-time faculty members who are clinically research oriented to replace the clinical part-time faculty lost.

Stony Brook: Ed Feldman reported that the campus has stabilized in terms of its clinical faculty. A letter of intent has been submitted for a Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences School (Binghamton has also submitted a letter of intent for Pharmacy). Faculty Governance is working well. The school is in a building phase supported by a \$150 million grant from Jim Simon. The Translational Research Center has broken ground. There is hope for cancer research there. The existing infrastructure is falling apart. There is need for critical maintenance. The school is transitioning residency programs to the Southampton component (Southampton College and Southampton Hospital) of the university. Southampton Hospital has a questionable patient census.

Upstate: Susan Wojcik reported that President Smith has resigned; former President Eastwood is back as Interim President; senators noted that he is actively engaged in faculty governance. He hosts open faculty forums every other month which address rumors, share information, etc. He has added the CGL to the Campus Governance Council. Jay Brenner noted that six years as a faculty member has changed his perspective on faculty governance. The senators were totally surprised to learn of the issues surrounding President Smith’s departure. Bob Lebel noted that Upstate has opened a new Human Performance Space, the Cancer Center is near completion and a new academic building is under construction. The Upstate delegation asked that we pose questions to the chancellor regarding when Upstate will begin a presidential search and address the issue of privatizing hospitals and creating local governing boards to oversee medical centers. Susan Wojcik shared that Trustee Murad has noted the need for local oversight.

Board of Trustees Report: Peter Knuepfer shared that the Board is moving to create local boards for hospitals to provide greater oversight. Regarding the privatization of hospitals, Pete Knuepfer stated that Chancellor Zimpher recognizes the role of public hospitals (not for Buffalo, but for the other campuses). There has been no **board** discussion to privatize the hospitals (that language is in the DOH section of the governor’s budget proposal). The board’s concern is for the financial stability of the hospitals. The trustees wish to maintain a “firewall” between hospital finances and the SUNY medical schools. LICH is draining \$13 million per month, which is being covered by the University Hospital of Brooklyn (UHB) cash flow. In mid-March 2014, it is anticipated that UHB’s cash flow will go negative. SUNY hospitals’ funds are comingled and will be tapped to cover the UHB payroll. If that funding is exhausted, SUNY funds will kick in to cover the operations. The board’s focus is to exit LICH ASAP to stop the hemorrhaging of funds. With Governor Cuomo’s intervention, the time frame for action is

improving. Ed Feldman requested that we ask Chancellor Zimpher whether SUNY should be in the hospital business in light of changes in hospital management in the past few years. Pete Knuepfer noted that Upstate funds are in better shape than Downstate's. Virginia Anderson endorsed the concept of local boards based on her experience at Lutheran Medical Center. Jay Brenner asked about the role of faculty governance in assessing all of these options. Pete Knuepfer responded that there are two public and one private offer for LICH. Virginia Anderson asked about who will oversee the finances of the bidders? Pete Knuepfer noted that sale is based on the assessed value of the property rather than its anticipated value. Shelley Mozlin asked who maintains oversight of the buyer and use of the property. Pete Knuepfer responded that the bond holders of the \$250,000,000 debt are to be paid first.

Downstate: Virginia Anderson noted that three floors of the parking garage have been sealed off due to safety concerns, exacerbating the parking problems at the institution. Stephan Rinnert reported on the construction of the new academic building for use by the School of Public Health with laboratory space for the School of Graduate Studies and general classroom space for all colleges. Faculty governance was involved in the building's design. The Global Health Initiative has developed and the Global Health Institute needs part-time support to obtain research funding opportunities. The group met two times – there has been good collaboration across campuses. The meetings are at the Global Institute in Manhattan. There is potential collaboration between Downstate and Stony Brook in the use of standardized students to evaluate faculty. Stephan Rinnert noted that he would like to bring this to scale.

New Business: Dale Avers noted that at Upstate Medical University the Faculty Council has no oversight over curriculum. The College of Medicine is the largest academic unit. The curriculum is "top down", driven by the Dean's Office. There is little to no faculty input from elected faculty governance. Nursing has no curriculum committee. Jay Brenner noted that this was an issue noted in the LCME site visit. Stephan Rinnert noted that Downstate's Dean Taylor has been more amenable to faculty curricular involvement through governance than the previous dean. Peter Nickerson noted that, at Buffalo, governance goes to the Provost. At Stony Brook, Ed Feldman noted that the Health Science Center does not report to the Provost. There is an elected curriculum committee.

Questions to the Chancellor from the Health Sciences Sector:

1. When will the Presidential Search begin for Upstate Medical Center?
2. We understand that there has been no SUNY Board of Trustees discussion to privatize SUNY hospitals, but in the Governor's preliminary DOH budget, there is language regarding the privatization of hospitals tied to academic medical centers (as in last year's budget proposal. Is privatization of the SUNY hospitals being entertained by you and / or the Board?

Submitted by Henry S. Flax, EdD, Downstate Medical Center, sector head

Technology Sector Report
January 2014
Timothy Gerken

At the last plenary there were four tech. colleges in need of new presidents. Alfred now has a president and Canton is in the final stages of its search. The Chancellor said that Cobleskill is next and that we will follow them. It was suggested at the last plenary that our search would begin this spring. I think the work to begin the search at SUNY administration will begin this spring, but when that search will actually begin on our campus is still up in the air. It was suggested by colleague that we avoid the search firm RPA when pursuing our search.

We asked for more transparency in the Seamless Transfer Path work being done. We were told we could get a list of all faculty involved.

In what the Chancellor has called MISSION CREEP SUNY Delhi has now been authorized to offer an Online Master of Science in Nursing. She was clear that these opportunities for the tech. colleges exist if there is a specific need, and the expertise available on the campus to fulfill that need.

Finally, I asked her about the OPEN SUNY Online GEN-ED Package she mentioned in her State of the University Address. This idea is a bit unclear. It seems like it might have been something that sounded good, so she put it in the speech. As it stands there is no movement towards a SUNY Online Gen-Ed package. Individual colleges will still be in charge of their courses. We will certainly be monitoring this as MISSION CREEP is always a possibility in SUNY.

ESF faculty are happy with their new President.

Maritime is pleased with its new Provost and looking forward to a successful and fruitful search for a new President plus the completion of their new classroom building.

I.T. has some concerns regarding the proposed merger with NANO. They want to preserve their Business, Engineering, Arts, and Nursing programs. A committee is working with CNSE.

At Cornell the ILR College is doing well and has strong financial support from Alumni. Their low operational costs make the College profitable and they have an increasing graduate student population. The College of Agriculture is in serious financial trouble. Enrollment has declined and there have been faculty buyouts.

The College of Human Ecology has created a Public Policy program and a Nutrition program.

The Veterinary College is struggling with its expansion project. A new Dairy barn is up and running, class size is up to 120, but they did not receive the money expected from the State so they need to re-sequence their renovation plan but still hope to complete it by 2017.

Alfred College of Ceramics continues to have problems. The new Unit head's contract has expired and no new head is on the scene. Their identity is virtually nil—they still cannot be found on the website of Alfred University—this despite several continued efforts to have this anomaly remedied by SUNY. The University enrollment continues to decline while Ceramics continues to increase. Ceramics has suffered \$800,000 in cuts. Therefore, faculty positions have been cut, forcing the College to resort to an older curriculum model. All advertising for the college of Ceramics has been eliminated. There continues to be a lack of transparency regarding the current budget. Their only hope is for SUNY to carefully examine and act on these concerns plus support the UFS resolution re: Alfred's situation.

Maryellen Keefe, Sector representative