Questions for the Chancellor

1. (this question was not asked, as it has been asked from the floor earlier. It is included for the record.)

Can you give us an update on the Presidential Evaluations, what the schedule is for said evaluations, and what the criteria are that you will be using in those reviews?

2. Under your leadership, and the direction of the Governor, SUNY strives to be a world-class research institution and has been charged to be the economic engine of New York state. However,

- Our libraries are suffering, not only from the perennially insufficient state support, but also from the rapacious Elsevier contract. SUNY Central has been contributing $1.6 million towards this $8 million contract, but you have announced a cut of $1 million in this contribution. Access to monographs, journals, including Elsevier's, and other resources is critical to the ability of our students and faculty to conduct cutting-edge research at all SUNY campuses.

- Graduate Assistant salaries are still inadequate. Despite assurances on campuses that stipends will be raised, and despite some progress, financial exigencies have deferred implementation, which affects our ability to attract the best graduate students.

- Faculty salaries have stagnated, and the lack of significant on-base discretionary salary increases (DSI) had demoralized the productive faculty. Even in this buyer's market it is getting harder to recruit and then retain the top faculty that SUNY and the state of New York need to be competitive.

What are doing to turn the words about making SUNY a world-class institution into action?

3. (this question was not asked, as it has been asked from the floor earlier. It is included for the record.)

Given that SUNY is one of the key participants in the Access to Success initiative, the goal of which is to cut in half both the costs of attending college and the graduation rate gaps for low income and minority students, and Given that the target year for bringing that initiative to fruition is 2015,

- What has SUNY done to meet the goals, and
- Where are we at the present moment?
4. Given the $14 million assessment imposed on campus budgets to fund System Administration Operations, Will you provide the UFS Operations Committee access to the SUNY budget expenditures for Central Administration?

--

Frederick M Walter
Professor of Astronomy
Stony Brook University