



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

An Implementation Plan

For

The Faculty Development Task Force Recommendations

Submitted by the

**Provost's Faculty Development
Advisory Council**

May 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Spring 2006 the Provost convened a Faculty Development Advisory Council, representing faculty, administration and staff from across the University, to design an *Implementation Plan for the Faculty Development Task Force Recommendations*. Guided by the Task Force's concern for recruitment and retention of excellent faculty, the organization of the *Plan* follows the three major sections of the Task Force *Report*. Responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations would be assigned to a SUNY Faculty Development Council (FDC) to be established by the Provost.

1. Faculty Development Activity Across the State University

Leadership, coordination, and communication of faculty development efforts, especially in the areas of teaching, research and creative activity, and service, were important concerns of the Task Force *Report*. In order to facilitate communication and coordination, the FDC would serve as a clearinghouse to collect, review, and disseminate information about current practices throughout the system. Information about the existing campus teaching and learning centers, their directors, and activities would be shared System wide. The FDC would review and publish model statements of institutional expectations for research and creative activity, and service at SUNY campuses. In order to provide the broadest sharing of ideas and best practices, the FDC would organize a conference to be held in 2007 and create a faculty development Website accessible through a SUNY e-portal.

2. Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure Procedures Across the State University

Retention of the best SUNY faculty as they progress in their careers is an important Task Force goal. The FDC would enlist the aid of the Chief Academic Officers to collect, review, and publish model descriptions of the means by which reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment criteria and procedures are clearly communicated to faculty. In order to help faculty meet those criteria, the FDC would facilitate a better understanding and use of orientation programs, mentoring practices, and portfolios. Furthermore, the FDC would continue working on the needs of part-time faculty and on opportunities for SUNY faculty to acquire terminal degrees or pursue other professional growth and development, especially through enrollment in SUNY credit and degree offerings.

3. Recognizing and Rewarding Excellence Across the State University

Recognizing that honors and rewards assure faculty that their efforts are worthwhile, the Task Force recommended strengthening recognition at both the campus and System levels. In addition to encouraging local recognition, the FDC would compile an honors database of SUNY faculty who have achieved Distinguished Ranks, received Chancellor's Awards, or earned other significant national or international recognition. This wealth of faculty excellence would be posted in a searchable database, so it could also be used to locate and invite honorees as visiting lecturers, involve them in the

leadership of SUNY initiatives, and promote these SUNY faculty as experts for national and international endeavors.

Because lack of funding is most frequently mentioned as the obstacle to providing effective faculty development opportunities, the FDC would identify and pursue alternative sources of funding for increased faculty development System wide, as well as encouraging support from System Administration and local campuses.

The Advisory Council has designed an implementation plan that builds on the current strengths in SUNY faculty development. It seeks to identify best practices and share them in dynamic ways with other campuses, so that faculty will be consistently supported throughout their careers. By making expectations clear to new faculty, supporting their activities, evaluating them fairly, and recognizing their achievements, excellent faculty members will want to stay in SUNY. With a reputation for such faculty development, SUNY will continue to attract distinguished faculty in the future.

HISTORY OF THE INITIATIVE

SUNY has always recognized the importance of faculty development. In a new initiative starting in 2002, the Provost formed an Advisory Task Force on Faculty Development and charged it with examining the state of faculty development across the SUNY system. The group's *Report of the Provost's Advisory Task Force on Faculty Development* distributed in October of 2005 contains recommendations to strengthen "the academic environment and the ongoing retention and development of the State University of New York faculty and future leadership." The next step was to plan for the implementation of these recommendations.

CHARGE TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In February 2006, the Provost called together an Advisory Council representing faculty and administration from all sectors of the University and charged its members with developing a plan for implementing the Task Force *Report's* recommendations (Appendices A & B), including consideration of faculty development needs, best practices, innovations, effectiveness, and the search for additional resources. The Faculty Development Advisory Council respectfully submits this plan with the confidence that it will focus attention on the Faculty Development Initiative, effectively implement the Task Force recommendations, and provide for ongoing improvements.

VISION OF THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Attracting and keeping outstanding faculty is essential to SUNY's progress toward becoming a truly exceptional university. As individuals are recruited for positions at any SUNY institution, the campus should present these new faculty with clear performance expectations. While the faculty pursue their professional activities, the University should actively support their efforts. Then, when these faculty seek reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment, they should have no doubt that they will experience a fair evaluation process. Finally, having succeeded in their disciplines, they should receive appropriate recognition and be promoted to serve the educational community and the citizens of New York.

Everyone realizes that faculty must remain current with the changing content in their disciplines, adapt to new technologies, make scholarly contributions to their fields, and respond to an increasingly diverse student body. In spite of this universal agreement, faculty development is easily underfunded or even neglected. Funding for such efforts must compete with all of the other demands and constraints on campus budgets. Often other pressing concerns, such as accommodating state and county shortfalls, restraining high faculty-student ratios, repairing infrastructure, and adopting new or maintaining current levels of technologies are funded and little money is left for the funding of faculty development activities. By consistently implementing this vision of clear expectations, active support, fair evaluation, and appropriate recognition, SUNY will increase its retention of excellent faculty, enhance its national reputation, and continue to attract distinguished faculty in the future.

STRATEGIC PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Advisory Council developed a strategy of multiple, interdependent components because faculty development is complex. The Faculty Development Task Force in its “Summary of Literature and Research” (Task Force *Report*, Appendix B, “Definitions and Historical Perspectives”), identifies five elements that faculty development usually seeks to improve: 1) teaching skills, 2) courses or curriculum, 3) institutional structure, 4) job-related skills, and 5) personal skills. In addition to these elements of development, the Task Force recommendations relate to faculty at all stages of their careers from hiring to recognition for outstanding achievement. Consequently, activities, such as the creation of a Website and the organization of a conference, will contribute to the implementation of several recommendations.

The strategy details an implementation plan for addressing the nineteen recommendations enumerated in the *Report of the Provost’s Advisory Task Force on Faculty Development* (Appendix C) and discusses those recommendations according to the three major categories of the Task Force *Report*:

- 1. Faculty Development Activity Across the State University***
- 2. Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure Procedures Across the State University***
- 3. Recognizing and Rewarding Excellence Across the State University***

The plan ends with a discussion of ways the implementation plan can be brought to the attention of faculty and administrators System wide and used to facilitate recognition, fair evaluation and significant professional growth for all members of the SUNY faculty community.

IMPLEMENTING THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Faculty Development Activity Across the State University

The first six recommendations of the Task Force *Report* deal with leadership, coordination, and communication of faculty development efforts, especially in the areas of teaching, research and creative activity, and service. The implementation of these and subsequent recommendations will require considerable effort by a number of individuals. For the purposes of this document, the responsibility will be assigned to a suggested group called the Faculty Development Council (FDC). The present Advisory Council could be asked to continue in that capacity, or the Provost could appoint another similarly representative group.

The Faculty Development Council could be modeled on the Faculty Access to Computing Technology (FACT) committee. FACT sponsors an annual conference, funds regional conferences on computing in the disciplines, and represents a collaborative effort of all SUNY schools to share information and resources related to faculty uses of computing. A similar committee, fostered and funded by a SUNY office, would be an

appropriate way to balance central support with local efforts and to provide a clearinghouse for dealing with the communication, campus exchange, and shared-resources recommendations of the Task Force. Furthermore, the SUNY Training Center's current work in support of the FACT committee might also be a model to consider for providing administrative support to a Faculty Development Council made up of faculty representatives from across the system.

Action: Establish a SUNY Faculty Development Council and charge it with the responsibility for overseeing the implementation plan.

The first two recommendations of the Task Force encourage all campuses to establish teaching and learning centers with respected leadership that specifically supports faculty efforts to deliver excellence in teaching through local programming and through making connections with other institutions. This spring, Westchester's Center for Faculty collected a list of individuals from 43 SUNY campuses who represent faculty development efforts at their institutions. Many head teaching and learning centers, but some work in other areas of faculty life and have an assignment in faculty development as part of their work. When defined this broadly, it is likely that nearly all SUNY campuses have someone who would be appropriate for this list.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will complete the identification of the Directors of SUNY teaching and learning centers or other persons responsible for the coordination of faculty development activities. Then, these campus individuals will be asked to submit a job description, brief biography, description of services, and a schedule of activities for their campuses. The results will be shared System wide. The FDC will also search the Mission Review responses to generate a summary of current campus practices.

Although the Task Force recommends that outstanding faculty be the directors of teaching and learning centers, its recommendations encourage but don't require them. Campuses with weak or no organizational structure need help strengthening their efforts. They can benefit from hearing about the best practices throughout the System. Similarly, campuses with centers can learn from others with different models.

Sharing the faculty development work at the existing teaching and learning centers will be an important means by which all campuses strengthen their teaching and learning efforts. Examples of such collaborations already exist in some areas. For example, Broome Community College, Cornell, Cortland, and Tompkins Cortland Community College have been holding annual teaching and learning meetings together for several years. This April, Westchester Community College convened participants from 17 campuses to share their current projects and resource ideas. Another resource that can contribute to the growth of teaching and learning centers on the campuses is the SUNY Training Center, whose academic programs offer a number of avenues for supplementing teaching and learning programs. Strengthening the faculty development mission of the SUNY Training Center can be an additional way to broaden support for faculty development system wide. Such groups can be coordinated to form a System-wide faculty development community.

A faculty development conference in 2007 will facilitate System-wide sharing of ideas and practices, build momentum, and demonstrate commitment to the initiative. A nationally known speaker or speakers will launch conversations about effective trends and activities across the country. Acknowledging the excellent work already being done in SUNY, presenters will share best practices in the System. In addition to hearing about exciting and useful activities, participants will be able to seek answers to questions and network with other participants. Agenda items could include, but need not be limited to, any of the areas about which the Task Force made recommendations (Appendix D). In order to focus the conference on issues relevant to the campuses, the Chief Academic Officers will be surveyed for the most important topics that would benefit their faculty. By considering various concepts of faculty development, sharing innovative activities and resources, and discussing possibilities for funding, the conference will result in better support for faculty throughout the SUNY system.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will organize a conference to be held in 2007. See Appendix D for conference agenda suggestions.

While all campuses have expectations and procedures for evaluating professional activity and research, the Task Force was concerned about the “considerable unevenness” across the System in conveying clear information regarding expectations. Although mission-related variations are strengths of the SUNY System, variations in quality are undesirable. Consequently, Task Force recommendations 3 and 4 address the need for campuses to review these expectations and clarify them where necessary. Task Force members were especially concerned that service was less well defined and valued than research and creative activity. Since evaluation and the criteria used are important considerations in labor agreements, implementing the recommendations must avoid interfering with contracts. Nevertheless, collecting and publishing these local statements for wider audiences are beneficial for clarifying criteria, definitions, and rewards by individual campuses, sectors, and System so that campuses can use them to refine their own.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will serve as a clearinghouse to collect, review, and publish model statements of institutional expectations for research and creative activity, and service at SUNY campuses.

The Task Force recognized the value of new technologies to facilitate faculty development. A SUNY Web resource will implement a number of immediate and ongoing communication needs articulated in the Task Force recommendations. Certainly, local campuses should post information about their own faculty development activities. In addition, a clearinghouse is needed to pull together the information from local campuses and make it accessible to all interested parties, with other useful information collected and added, either as an intranet or accessible to the public.

Ultimately, a sophisticated Web presence, or virtual teaching and learning center, for SUNY faculty development will publicize faculty development as one of SUNY's strengths and, consequently, serve as a faculty recruiting tool. Features of the Web resource should include the following:

- list of and URL links to teaching and learning centers, their directors, and a description of activities
- calendar of faculty development activities
- best practices for faculty development
- best practices in the communication of expectations and procedures for reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment
- outstanding faculty database of SUNY award winners and researchers that could also function as a speakers' bureau
- bibliography of selected faculty development research
- links to faculty development resources on the Web, especially sites of SUNY campus teaching and learning centers

The Website will make such information readily accessible, easily updateable, and permanently available. Various campus and System-level resources are available for assisting with the construction of Websites. Also, several SUNY System units (ITEC, SUNY libraries, SLN, the SUNY Training Center, and the Business Internet Portal Project) are currently exploring e-portals into which materials developed for this site could be integrated. Meanwhile, an existing Website could house the emerging collection, such as the Teaching/Learning/Technology Center <<http://tlt.suny.edu>>, Faculty Access to Computing Technology <<http://www.fact.suny.edu/>>, or the SUNY Training Center <<http://www.tc.suny.edu/>>).

<p>Action: The Faculty Development Council will create a Web-based, faculty development resource accessible through a SUNY e-portal. See suggestions in Appendix E.</p>
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2. Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Procedures Across the State University

The Task Force focused on the goal of retaining the best professors. While all campuses have expectations and procedures for evaluation, the Task Force was again concerned about the "considerable unevenness" across the System in conveying clear information regarding reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment procedures. Although mission-related variations are strengths of the SUNY System, variations in quality are undesirable. Consequently, best communication practices and supportive activities are again useful.

The Faculty Development Council will survey the Chief Academic Officers to ascertain the means by which reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment criteria and procedures are communicated to faculty. One part of the survey will address the definitions and relative weighting of criteria, especially teaching, faculty service, research, and creative activity. Another part of the survey will address the ways in which faculty are informed, mentored, and reviewed. The FDC will review the definitions for models and variations that might help individual campuses, sectors, and System in clarifying criteria for rewards. The FDC will analyze the methods for best practices, with special attention to concrete, continuous communication, verbal and written feedback, annual planning and progress review, and components that assess, advise, and mentor.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will serve as a clearinghouse to collect, review, and publish model descriptions of the means by which reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment criteria and procedures are clearly communicated to faculty.

New-Faculty Orientation

The Task Force emphasized conveying a complete understanding of the processes to new faculty at the earliest opportunity. Recognizing that virtually all campuses do a good job, there is still value in publishing best practices. Furthermore, a new faculty orientation could be developed for System-wide use. The format for such a program could be face-to-face, a Web seminar or even an interactive video distributed as a videoconference or recorded on CD or DVD, but its contents would need to be specifically focused on relevant information for new faculty that would directly benefit them in meeting their teaching, research, creative activities, and service expectations. A carefully designed interactive event focused on faculty services available beyond the local campus could potentially shorten the learning curve for a new faculty member. The SUNY Training Center has been exploring such an all-SUNY, new faculty instrument for some time and is interested in collaborating with the FDC to design such a project.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will investigate the potential usefulness and design of an all-SUNY orientation program for new faculty.

Peer Mentoring

Mentoring programs can be an especially useful approach to informing faculty about institutional expectations and processes and helping them with advancement. Because creating a peer-mentoring culture is an especially important activity, the SUNY Faculty Senate, in collaboration with the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the Faculty Development Advisory Council, has already formed a task force to investigate concepts, methods, incentives, and best practices for mentoring. The Mentoring Task Force is starting by surveying current practices on campuses.

The Faculty Development Council can offer crucial support. It can help distribute information about mentoring best practices and guidelines on the faculty development Website and include presentations about design, implementation, and assessment of

mentoring programs as topics at the State-wide conference. The FDC can also help support mentoring conversations using media, such as Videoconferences, electronic forums, Web seminars, and listservs, in addition to face-to-face discussions.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will continue to collaborate with the Mentoring Task Force to collect and distribute information about current mentoring practices, to encourage conversations through a variety of formats, and to assist in achieving the goal of a peer-mentoring culture on all campuses throughout SUNY.

Faculty Teaching Portfolios

Information about faculty teaching portfolios is already appearing in “Conversation in the Disciplines” and “Conversations on Computing in the Disciplines” events, as well as on many campuses where portfolios are part of the standard reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment dossier. The Faculty Development Council will include these ideas and events in its plans for the Website and conference. Furthermore, some training sessions on what to expect from and how to read portfolios documenting teaching or service would be useful to administrators, department chairs, and members who serve on reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment committees.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will facilitate a wider understanding and effective use of portfolios for documenting teaching and service.

Faculty Access to SUNY courses

The Advisory Council strongly supports that coursework in SUNY institutions be readily accessible to current instructional staff members working to complete degrees, to increase their knowledge of their disciplines, or to improve their classroom skills. SUNY needs to support its own faculty and staff not only by allowing but also by encouraging participation in the system of academic excellence that it creates. Many public higher education institutions across the nation already have a system of participation for credit and programmatic offerings for their members (Appendix F). An Advisory Council subcommittee is working on suggestions for providing SUNY community college faculty access to SUNY courses because these faculty don't have the benefit of the grants available to faculty at the State-operated campuses that are funded by the Joint Labor-Management Committees.

Action: The opportunity for enrollment in SUNY credit and degree offerings across System segments should, at the minimum, make accommodations for all SUNY faculty and staff on a space-available basis. The Faculty Development Council will continue working on the availability of courses and programs for faculty to acquire terminal degrees or pursue other professional growth and development.

Part-time Faculty

A particular challenge of current campus staffing is the growing presence of individuals who serve SUNY students part time. Even though every effort should be made to increase the number of full-time faculty, improving the skills and credentials of part-time faculty, a group that contributes to SUNY's teaching mission in a significant way, will further enhance the quality of the current faculty. A subcommittee of the Advisory Council is working on suggestions that would target the needs of part-time faculty.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will continue working on the needs of part-time faculty.

3. Recognizing and Rewarding Excellence Across the State University

In recommendations 13-19, the Task Force recognized that honors and rewards assure faculty that their efforts are worthwhile. The Task Force was impressed by "the extent to which programs exist to acknowledge and celebrate faculty and staff accomplishments and honors related to teaching, scholarship and creative activity, and service." It is important that System-wide awards be offered to all units of the University; consequently, the Distinguished Ranks have already been expanded to include faculty at any of the community colleges that want to participate.

In addition to the System-wide awards programs, many campuses have their own complement of recognitions. Publication of the awards, procedures, and recipients on local and System faculty development Websites would increase visibility, help to promote reward programs where they don't already exist, and encourage campuses to involve these outstanding faculty in a wide range of mentoring, service, and leadership roles.

The System, searchable database of award-winning faculty should include, at a minimum: recipient's name, home campus, department and/or discipline, name of honor or reward received (e.g., selection as Nobel Laureate, receipt of Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, Distinguished Ranks, Chancellor's Awards, appointment to national academies), year of designation, and cross-references to their fields of expertise and most notable contributions. This honors database could be used to locate experts for visiting lecturers or participants in SUNY System, national, and international initiatives. It could also be the source of names of individuals who might serve as Faculty Development Council advisors. Website promotion could feature award winners or video clips of the award ceremonies.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will compile a list of SUNY faculty who have achieved Distinguished Ranks, received Chancellor's Awards, or earned other significant national or international recognition. The information will be posted in a searchable database, so it can also be used to locate and invite them as visiting lecturers, involve them in the leadership of SUNY initiatives, and promote these faculty as experts for national and international endeavors.

FUNDING

Lack of funding is most frequently mentioned as the obstacle to providing effective faculty development opportunities. Without some budget allocation, people are not inclined to take such initiatives very seriously. Of course, the fundamental responsibility for faculty development resides in the local campus operating budgets. On the other hand, this plan should not impose unfunded mandates upon the campuses. Ultimately, it is particularly important for the Faculty Development Council to identify sources of funding that will help individual campuses, sectors, and the entire System to continue faculty development now and in the future.

Although most campuses already fund faculty development in a variety of ways, but at varying levels, it would be helpful for campuses to have a benchmark to assess their individual campus commitment to faculty development and for making improvements to their efforts. In addition, every opportunity should be taken to explore innovative funding methods and sources, negotiate funds in contracts, and provide seed monies for initiatives. Some options for funding might include:

- Provost's Office support the budget for the conference and Website
- Joint Labor/Management Grant Program support for a wide variety of faculty development activities. Some of the implementation activities described here may qualify for such funding. These grants require a 30% match from the campus, and System is considered a campus. However, the community colleges could not receive this funding.
- Campuses support System-wide faculty development activities
- A small pool of grant money for innovative local projects, regional conferences, or workshops
- Research Foundation assistance with external grant proposals. In general, specific needs should be identified and projects proposed; then, the Research Foundation could assist the search for funding
- SUNY Training Center and the Teaching/Learning/Technology Center support for training courses, a conference, and early development of a Web presence
- Excelsior Research Faculty Initiative support for faculty development in the research sector

<p>Action: The Faculty Development Council will identify and pursue alternative sources of funding for increased faculty development System wide.</p>
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CONCLUSION

Implementing the recommendations of the Task Force will create a positive climate for faculty development and continue building the faculty development community across the 64 SUNY campuses. Even though faculty development may seem to be a clearly beneficial management strategy for institutions where teaching, learning, scholarly activities, and service are the primary mission, frequently a gap exists between the intentions and the actions. The Faculty Development Council will need to generate enthusiasm among the administration and faculty System wide in order to provide motivation for campuses to join. Certainly, leadership will be necessary to foster excellence in terms of arranging for shared resources, opportunities for creative exchange of ideas, and funding of innovative projects.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will mount a strong campaign that attracts the attention of faculty and administrators System wide, including presentations at UFS, FCCC, President, and CAO meetings; appeals to Presidents; and publicity for activities.

Another way to achieve local ownership of a faculty development initiative and thus retain enthusiasm for it is to support some visible and effective projects at the campus or regional level. Again, the Faculty Access to Computing Technologies committee offers a model in the form of the Conversations On Computing In the Disciplines (COCID) grant program that supported seven small regional conferences on specific instructional computing topics across the state in 2005-06. These meetings generally draw over a hundred faculty and staff from nearby schools and are focused on a specific topic, such as e-portfolios and hybrid, distance, and face-to-face technology courses. Campuses contribute in-kind and matching funds to support the meetings. The FACT committee considers this program a very productive use of their modest investment in local programming. Supporting such projects is a cost-effective way to stimulate local involvement and build regional cooperation.

Action: The Faculty Development Council will award seed funding to local projects, small conferences, or campus coalitions.

Sharing permeates the Task Force recommendations and plays an important role in creating enthusiasm. Consequently, the implementation plan builds on the experiences of those campuses that have had good success with faculty development. The System-wide conference will be an important means to bring together campus representatives and continue building a thriving faculty development community. Consistency across time and a reliable presence of a Faculty Development Council that represents all the types of SUNY campuses, if not all the individual campuses, and some effective administrative support for the FDC will allow for the long-term evolution of a significant faculty development effort across the System. An energetic group that is attentive to local needs, interested in innovation, and supportive of shared expertise will guide the evolution of the Provost's Faculty Development Initiative

Action: Garner System support and funding for the Faculty Development Council at start-up levels for a period of time and eventually expand its reach and influence through consistent administrative support.

SUNY has always encouraged and supported faculty development. This plan supports communication among the most knowledgeable and most interested colleagues System wide in support of faculty in all stages of their careers. Furthermore, it captures the most useful information and practices in technologically dynamic formats to make them readily available. By making expectations clear to new faculty, supporting their activities, evaluating them fairly, and recognizing their achievements, excellent faculty members will want to stay in SUNY. With a reputation for such faculty development, SUNY will continue to attract distinguished faculty in the future. During the course of implementing the recommendations, new ideas and activities will be identified that will suggest ways to continue the pursuit of excellence.

APPENDIX A Faculty Development Advisory Council Members

Name	Campus	Position
State Operated Colleges		
Carl Wiezalis	Upstate Medical	President UFS
Phil Ortiz	Empire State	Natural Sciences, Area Coordinator
Dennis Callas	Delhi	Provost and Vice President for Academic Programs and Services
Elizabeth Langland	Purchase	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Bill Hedberg	Albany	Faculty Development
Community Colleges		
Kimberley Reiser	Nassau	President FCCC
Iris Cook	Westchester	Biology Department, Chair
Anita Kaplan	Erie	Executive Vice President
Claudia Moore	Genesee	Executive Vice President
Carol McCarthy	Hudson Valley	Faculty Development
James Banks	Suffolk	Multicultural Affairs Coordinator
System Administration		
Bob Brown Denise Bukovan (Designee)	System	Community Colleges
Fred Hildebrand, Chair	System	Academic Programs and Planning
Catherine Regan	System	Institutional Research
Jennie Dautermann serves as a consultant from the Teaching/Learning/Technology Center.		

APPENDIX B Charge to the Provost's Advisory Council on Faculty Development

Faculty are the greatest resource that the State University of New York has to achieve its mission and to transform SUNY into a truly exceptional university. Our faculty must constantly work to remain current with the changing content in their disciplines, adapt to new technologies, make scholarly contributions to their fields, and respond to an increasingly diverse student body. Therefore, faculty development is of the utmost importance to strengthening SUNY.

Recognizing the significance of ongoing intellectual, scholarly, and professional growth, I established in the Fall of 2002 the Provost's Advisory Task Force on Faculty Development. This group of faculty and administrators from all sectors of the University worked diligently to survey a broad range of issues, examine best practices, and consider supporting resources. This activity culminated in the *Report of the Provost's Advisory Task Force on Faculty Development*, that contains recommendations to strengthen "the academic environment and the ongoing retention and development of the State University of New York faculty and future leadership."

The Task Force's *Report* has provided a rationale and direction for implementing a comprehensive Faculty Development Initiative. It is now time to act on their recommendations, not randomly, but in a clearly defined, well-planned, and organized fashion. We need an implementation strategy that will build on SUNY's tradition of excellence, maximize the impact of the recommendations, and set the parameters for continuous improvement.

The Charge to this Advisory Council is to prepare the strategy for implementing the *Report's* recommendations, which are grouped into five general areas of emphasis:

- Teaching and Learning Centers;
- Institutional expectations for faculty research, creative activity, and service;
- Dissemination of information about professional development activities;
- Best practices relating to reappointment, tenure, and promotion processes; and
- Recognition of and benefit from the excellent faculty and staff in the System.

Faculty development needs, best practices, innovations, effectiveness, and the search for additional resources are important considerations as the Advisory Council develops the components of a comprehensive plan.

The resulting implementation strategy should balance the goal of System-wide standards of excellence in the expectations for and support of faculty development with the realization that campus-based decisions reflective of and responsive to the unique mission and characteristics of each institution will achieve higher levels of participation and excellence.

As with the original Task Force, this Advisory Council reflects the diversity of the System. In collaboration with the University Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, this Council is composed of both faculty and administrators from all System sectors. You have been invited to participate on the Council based on the recommendation of your peers for the excellence of your work and your dedication to SUNY. Therefore, I look forward to receiving your proposal, and I have high expectations and confidence that your work will significantly influence the future quality of the education on all of our campuses.

APPENDIX C Faculty Development Task Force Recommendations

1. Faculty development efforts should be led by a distinguished and respected faculty member clearly charged with the responsibility for providing vision, leadership and coordination to these efforts.
2. Each campus should establish a Teaching and Learning Center to coordinate activities that support the enhancement of effective pedagogy and student learning.
3. Establish clear institutional expectations for faculty research and creative activity based on institutional mission and provide appropriate support, mentoring and feedback.
4. Establish clear institutional expectations, definitions, and incentives for faculty service, especially at institutions in which this activity plays a significant role in faculty personnel decisions.
5. Each SUNY campus should post information about professional development activities on its Web site.
6. SUNY System Administration should develop a SUNY-wide teaching and learning resource electronic portal (E-portal) system.
7. Ensure that every new faculty hire is given, at the earliest opportunity, a complete understanding of the reappointment, promotion and tenure process.
8. Provide periodic follow-up sessions on the reappointment, promotion and tenure process on a regular basis, especially for more junior faculty members and make every effort to provide them with the necessary tools and resources for professional success.
9. Establish a peer mentoring culture to ensure that every junior faculty member has an informal, easily accessible and confidential advisor/counselor.
10. From the onset of employment, junior faculty should be provided with timely, specific and detailed formative feedback regarding their performance.
11. Junior faculty should be informed of the importance of developing, and regularly updating, a teaching portfolio, the expected contents of which should be clearly specified.
12. Reappointment, promotion and tenure committees should consist only of tenured faculty, unless campus circumstances require otherwise.
13. Expand distinguished faculty rank to include faculty at the community colleges.

14. Implement local faculty and staff recognition programs on campuses where none currently exist.
15. Ensure that university-wide and local campus recognition and reward programs are available online and easily accessible.
16. Recognize and honor at the campus level those faculty who have received significant honors or awards.
17. SUNY System Administration should establish an honors database in order to inform the SUNY community of the availability of prestigious national and international awards and to identify SUNY faculty who have received significant honors or awards.
18. Campuses should actively promote faculty award winners as campus leaders, utilizing them as appropriate to serve as mentors for junior faculty, participate in professional development workshops and presentations, serve on presidential advisory councils, serve on committees that select distinguished faculty and excellence award winners, and enhance the visibility of the campus in the community.
19. SUNY System Administration should actively promote faculty award winners as system leaders, promoting them as visiting lecturers to other campuses, involving them in SUNY endeavors in national and international initiatives, and using their expertise in important SUNY-wide initiatives (e.g., general education assessment, teacher education).

APPENDIX D Conference: Possible Agenda Tracks, Items, and Implementation

Possible Tracks

- Teaching and learning center design, budgeting, staffing, implementation, and assessment
- Mentoring: UFS committee report, methods, Teaching/Learning/Technology course
- Best practices in faculty development: campus presentations
- Orientation of new hires about expectations and evaluation
- Funding faculty development
- Recognition of achievements
- Faculty development planning

Possible Agenda Items

- Brief report on the activities of the Provost's Faculty Development Initiative
- Introduction of Web Presence
- National speakers on the value of faculty development and methods for accomplishing it.

Implementation

In order to assure the relevance of the conference, campus Chief Academic Officers (CAO) will be asked to identify the three most important areas in which each campus would like to make improvements. This request would be discussed at the CAO meeting in June and followed by a letter of request. These areas would be built into the agenda of the conference.

The conference would be scheduled for spring 2007 to allow for the accomplishment of a few activities before the conference and to continue building momentum.

The conference should involve honored faculty.

Abstracts of presentations would be posted on the Faculty Development Website.

Conference assessment would include the solicitation of additional ideas for continuing the initiative. After a reasonable period of time, a faculty development plan could be requested from campus CAOs, which might be an activity built into the last track.

APPENDIX E E-Portal Suggestions

The SUNY faculty development Web presence will serve both immediate and ongoing faculty development needs. Individuals on the campuses and at System Administration have collected a variety of information. However, a clearinghouse is needed to pull together these pieces and make them accessible to all interested parties, with other useful information collected and added. Ultimately, a sophisticated Web version of SUNY faculty development would publicize faculty development as one of SUNY's strengths and, consequently, would serve as a faculty recruiting tool. Features of the Website would include:

- List of teaching and learning centers, their directors, and a description of activities:
 - Purpose: to turn these existing campus activities into resources that are easily accessible by other campuses. In the process, this list will identify which campuses have centers and facilitate the interaction between them. The accompanying descriptions will share a wide range of ideas for services and activities.
 - Implementation: Westchester and the Teaching/Learning/Technology Center have partial lists that they shared at the February 2006 meeting. These two lists are being collated and checked to be ready for use.

- Schedule of faculty development activities:
 - Purpose: to inform people of future faculty development activities.
 - Implementation: Maintain a schedule database on the Website of event titles, descriptions, dates, and locations for both SUNY and non-SUNY activities.

- Best practices in faculty development:
 - Purpose: to create a virtual teaching and learning center that showcases successful examples of SUNY faculty development, as well as additional effective practices or uses of technology.
 - Implementation: solicit written descriptions of best practices throughout the System. The most useful should be presented at the conference and all could be posted on the Website. The MERLOT procedures of committee review could be used for selection.

- Best practices in the communication of criteria and procedures for reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment:
 - Purpose: to publish models for communicating criteria and procedures.
 - Implementation: Collate and analyze the results of the CAO survey.

- Recognition:
 - Purpose: to recognize outstanding faculty at the various campuses and promote their expertise.
 - Implementation: A searchable database of award-winning faculty that includes, at a minimum, recipient's name, home campus, department and/or discipline, name of honor or reward received (e.g., Nobel Laureate, Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, Distinguished Ranks, Chancellor's Awards, appointment to national academies), year of designation, and a key word index to identify their fields of expertise and most notable contributions. This database could also be used to locate experts for visiting lecturers or participants in SUNY System, national, and international initiatives. The design of the Website could also have a frame that features different award winners or video clips of the award ceremony.

- Bibliography:
 - Purpose: to make easily accessible published information on a wide variety of useful faculty development related subjects.
 - Implementation: Ask the teaching and learning center directors to identify publications for inclusion.

- Links:
 - Purpose: to take browsers quickly to additional information.
 - Implementation: Start by including URL's for the SUNY teaching and learning centers. Add hotlinks to the bibliography, best practices, and other Web resources.

- Search Mechanism:
 - Purpose: to enable efficient location of information.
 - Implementation: Add a search engine and make certain that the databases are in a format that is searchable.

The Website will make such information readily accessible and permanently available. Implementation of this strategy will require web design, coordinated collection of information, data entry, and maintenance.

APPENDIX F Tuition Waiver Research Project Results

STATE	Tuition Waiver	Limitation in # of Credits	If so, # of Credits	COMMENTS
Alabama	YES*	YES	Not to exceed 36 credit hours, or \$4000 per annum.	*Limited to courses in mathematics, science, computer ed, or other critical areas determined by Board.
Alaska	YES			
Arizona	YES			
Arkansas	NO			
California	YES	YES	2 courses or 6 units per term	
Colorado	YES*	YES	Up to 6 credit hours per semester	*Must follow specific program requirements for each school. Also, must receive approval from appropriate administrator if courses are during work hours.
Connecticut	YES	YES	Shall not exceed member's current equivalent Workload credit.	
Delaware	NO			
Florida	NO			
Georgia	YES*			*Permission from Supervisor required.
Hawaii	YES*	YES	6 Credits per Semester, and employee must register after final registration. Summer courses are not eligible.	*For all faculty and staff employed at least half-time.
Idaho	YES*	YES	6 credits in regular semester; 3 credits in summer or inter-session	*reduced fee varies among the institutions
Illinois	NO			
Indiana	YES*	YES	Based on in resident per credit hour rates at each campus.	*Does not include independent Study and audit hours.
Iowa	NO			
Kansas	NO			

STATE	Tuition Waiver	Limitation in # of Credits	If so, # of Credits	COMMENTS
Kentucky	YES	YES	6 per term	
Louisiana	NO			
Maine	YES	YES	Not to exceed 4 credit hours per course, 2 per semester.	
Maryland	YES	YES	Up to 8 credits per semester	
Massachusetts	YES			
Michigan	NO			
Minnesota	YES*	YES	Not to exceed 30 credit hours per year (full time faculty)	*Must pay for labs fees or special courses
Mississippi	NO			
Missouri	YES*			*Faculty reimbursed up to 80% of the cost for a course at any level as long as they receive at least a grade of C.
Montana	NO			
Nebraska	NO			
Nevada	YES	YES	Restricted to a maximum of 6 credits (including audit, non-credit, or similar arrangements) and in any case can take no more than 2 courses. No exceptions.	
New Hampshire	YES	YES	Up to 5 courses a year, with no more than 2 courses per semester or summer session	
New Jersey	YES*			*Salary < 88K – 100%; Salary > 88K – 50% < Assoc. Prof. – 100%; = Assoc. Prof. – 50%
New Mexico	NO			
New York	NO			

STATE	Tuition Waiver	Limitation in # of Credits	If so, # of Credits	COMMENTS
North Carolina	YES	YES	1 course per semester	
North Dakota	YES			
Ohio	NO			
Oklahoma	NO			
Oregon	YES	YES	12 credit hour per term. Part time and FT faculty get \$27 rebate per credit hour	
Pennsylvania	YES	YES	6 credit hours per semester for full time; 3 credit hours per semester for part time.	
Rhode Island	YES			
South Carolina	YES*	YES	6 credit hours per semester for permanent, full time with at least 12 mos. Continuous service.	*75% fee waiver
South Dakota	YES	YES	6 credit hours per semester; 18 ch per year	
Tennessee	YES	YES	1 course per term (3 semester hours) at any state/college at no cost.	
Texas	NO			
Utah	NO			
Vermont	YES	YES	15 credit hours per year for full time; 6 credit hours per year for part time	
Virginia	NO			
Washington	YES	YES	6 credit hours per semester; 4credit hours for summer semester	
West Virginia	NO			
Wisconsin	NO			
Wyoming	NO			

APPENDIX G Implementation Plan Action Items

1. Establish a SUNY Faculty Development Council and charge it with the responsibility for overseeing the implementation plan.
2. The Faculty Development Council will complete the identification of the Directors of SUNY teaching and learning centers or other persons responsible for the coordination of faculty development activities. Then, these campus individuals will be asked to submit a job description, brief biography, description of services, and a schedule of activities for their campuses. The results will be shared System wide. The FDC will also search the Mission Review responses to generate a summary of current campus practices.
3. The Faculty Development Council will organize a conference to be held in 2007. See Appendix D for conference agenda suggestions.
4. The Faculty Development Council will serve as a clearinghouse to collect, review, and publish model statements of institutional expectations for research and creative activity, and service at SUNY campuses.
5. The Faculty Development Council will create a Web-based, faculty development resource accessible through a SUNY e-portal. See suggestions in Appendix E.
6. The Faculty Development Council will serve as a clearinghouse to collect, review, and publish model descriptions of the means by which reappointment, promotion, tenure, or continuing appointment criteria and procedures are clearly communicated to faculty.
7. The Faculty Development Council will investigate the potential usefulness and design of an all-SUNY orientation program for new faculty.
8. The Faculty Development Council will continue to collaborate with the Mentoring Task Force to collect and distribute information about current mentoring practices, to encourage conversations through a variety of formats, and to assist in achieving the goal of a peer-mentoring culture on all campuses throughout SUNY.
9. The Faculty Development Council will facilitate a wider understanding and effective use of portfolios for documenting teaching and service.
10. The opportunity for enrollment in SUNY credit and degree offerings across System segments should, at the minimum, make accommodations for all SUNY faculty and staff on a space-available basis. The Faculty Development Council will continue working on the availability of courses and programs for faculty to acquire terminal degrees or pursue other professional growth and development.
11. The Faculty Development Council will continue working on the needs of part-time faculty.

12. The Faculty Development Council will compile a list of SUNY faculty who have achieved Distinguished Ranks, received Chancellor's Awards, or earned other significant national or international recognition. The information will be posted in a searchable database, so it can also be used to locate and invite them as visiting lecturers, involve them in the leadership of SUNY initiatives, and promote these faculty as experts for national and international endeavors.
13. The Faculty Development Council will identify and pursue alternative sources of funding for increased faculty development System wide.
14. The Faculty Development Council will mount a strong campaign that attracts the attention of faculty and administrators System wide, including presentations at UFS, FCCC, President, and CAO meetings; appeals to Presidents; and publicity for activities.
15. The Faculty Development Council will award seed funding to local projects, small conferences, or campus coalitions.
16. Garner System support and funding for the Faculty Development Council at start-up levels for a period of time and eventually expand its reach and influence through consistent administrative support.