Operations Committee  
2015-16 Final Report  
Date: June 2016

Presented at: Summer 2015, UFS Executive Committee Planning Session

Charge:

The Committee shall generate relevant reports and recommendations for the University and its institutions concerning:

- the development and administration of budgets, strategic planning, and operations;
- matters related to libraries, educational technology, and forms of instructional delivery; and,
- personnel policies, as they pertain to budget, operations, diversity, equity, affirmative action and delivery of a high quality SUNY education.

2015-16 Committee Members:

Chair: Thomas Sinclair, Binghamton University  
Members: Diana Boyer, Oswego; Kevin Caskey, New Paltz; Mete Cetiner, Empire State; Darren Chase, Stony Brook; Henry Flax, Downstate; Pamela Mahon, Upstate; Heather Maldaonado, Buffalo State; Bill Robins, Empire State University; Li-Ru Zhao, Upstate Medical University; Carey Hatch, System Administration Liaison.

Committee Goals for 2015-16:

Distribute a white paper on budget transparency. Despite the size and complexity of SUNY’s budget and those of its campuses, the practices related to publishing budgeting and finance information vary widely across the system. The Operations Committee will examine current practices within SUNY and compare them with established best practices used by other public universities. Addenda will evaluate the financial stresses on the system’s libraries and discuss financial transparency issues related to university foundations.

Study on the composition of SUNY faculty. Periodically, the Operations Committee has conducted a study of the composition of faculty on SUNY campuses and we will undertake a similar activity this year. As methods of instructional delivery and types of programs change, the mix of full- and part-time faculty and their respective roles may also change. Impacts on the gender and diversity of campus faculty will also be reviewed.
SUNY-Excel, a performance measurement system proposed for all campuses. The Committee has monitored the implementation of a performance measurement system by SUNY system and its campuses. Family Medical Leave – The Committee will push for passage of a Family Medical Leave policy and monitor progress on it.

Continuing discussions on other topics. Developments with respect to OpenSUNY will be matters of continuing discussion by committee members in the coming year.

Committee meeting dates (include type of meeting):

The Committee conducted most of its work via e-mail correspondence in 2015-16. We had three conference calls.

Committee accomplishments in 2015-16:

- The white paper “Better Budgeting is Good Governance” was distributed to all SUNY Faculty Senators at the Fall, 2015 plenary session. At least one campus (Binghamton) is adopting budgetary reforms on the basis of that work.
- The University Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting Family Medical Leave and state legislation has been enacted to support an expanded policy.

Requests to UFS Senators from committee:

None at this time.

Anticipated upcoming actions/accomplishments:

A draft Composition of Faculty Report will be completed during the summer of 2016 and reviewed by the Operations Committee in time for a presentation to the University Faculty Senate at the Fall, 2016 plenary session.

Other items that the Operations Committee may consider taking action on in the coming year include: 1) administrative salaries and the expansion of administrative positions. This would be a logical extension of the Composition of Faculty Report, 2) an exploration of the issue of salary compression on SUNY campuses; 3) differentials in fees paid by students across SUNY and an assessment of the impact that student fees have upon the affordability of higher education for students and the effectiveness of fees to support educational activities; 4) develop a guidance memo for faculty advisors regarding how TAP awards must be used in order for students to maintain their eligibility.