

University Colleges Sector Report
Don Grinde, University at Buffalo
May 4, 2013

The University Center Sector met and discussed several important items that they wanted Chancellor Nancy Zimpher to address at the Spring Plenary in Syracuse. The University Center sector noted that several of the proposed items for discussion were quite controversial but nevertheless needed to be discussed as there was a sense of urgency to some of the items.

One obvious item was the situation at Downstate Medical. Members of the sector noted that the situation at Downstate was reaching a critical budgetary situation. Several people noted that Downstate was hemorrhaging money and that a coordinated effort to save Downstate needed to involve a variety of parties both inside and outside of the SUNY system. In answering this question, Chancellor Zimpher reinforced this notion. Members of the University Center sector reiterated that they wanted a permanent solution that would not impact the financial situation in the SUNY system negatively. The Chancellor assured us that their meeting scheduled to discuss this problem in the next few weeks.

In a similar vein, University Center sector members expressed dismay about the legislation passed in Congress (sponsored by Senator Coburn) that placed Political Science outside of the National Science Foundation's funding. Members noted that this violated academic freedom and best practices about deciding what would get funded at the NSF. Obviously, the basic question that the sector developed was that peer review and the use of scientific criteria rather than political criteria in evaluating research proposals for all federal agencies is fundamental. We were informed that the SUNY research foundation is formulating a response to this disturbing piece of legislation and its impact on how funding of research will be governed and prioritized.

The University Centers also discussed the fact that the SUNY Strategic Plan emphasizes the contributions that research makes to the quality of life for New York State, future economic growth and its impact on the SUNY system. As a result of some discussions, the University centers asked if SUNY will commit additional funds to support graduate students and graduate student research and scholarship as an integral part of this plan. The chancellor noted that the SUNY research foundation should examine this proposal.

The University centers also noted that some renovation and construction projects at campuses have stalled. It was also noted that debt service for dormitories was taken out of the funding cap on state bonds – thus freeing up some extra money for capital improvements. As a result of these decisions, the University centers wanted to know if these funds that were freed up by taking dormitory construction out of the bonding fund cap could be reallocated for SUNY's future use, particularly on projects that involved critical maintenance. The Chancellor stated that the specific viability of this proposal would be checked out.

Finally, the University centers wanted to know some specifics about the UUP contract (assuming it's ratified). It was noted that the discretionary structure used for rewarding quality, promotion and equity has been decimated in the proposed union contract. The question put forward by the University centers about the proposed UUP contract was: What will SUNY do to ameliorate this situation and make SUNY continue to be competitive in the national and world job markets. There was little response

to this question except that the Chancellor bemoaned the fact that there was little or no money to reward upper echelon administrators in the SUNY budget as well.

Comprehensive College Sector Report
Joe Marren, SUNY Buffalo State
May 4, 2013

If there were two major themes that comprehensive college senators were concerned about it was the impact of what is viewed as a “hurry-up” consultation and implementation of Open SUNY, and the impact that a lot of new administrators would have on programs. We recognize that face-to-face instruction is not going away, however there is a concern that Open SUNY is viewed as mostly an online initiative and, frankly, some campuses feel the speed discounts consultation. Thus, our questions to the chancellor:

- 1.) Associate Provost Carey Hatch presented a comprehensive report on the initiative (To date, more than 100,000 unique students, about 1,400 courses and 180 programs are available online.) But what we are seeking reassurance about is that the support to grow Open SUNY will also be there for traditional, face-to-face educational models. We are also concerned that the speed of implementation, while understandable, could negate the capacity or willingness to listen to more voices from stakeholders. We realize that a top-down approach may be viable/desirable for administrative and structural changes, but for Open SUNY to succeed as planned, then faculty buy-in is needed for curriculum development and robust quality assurance. Some campuses are more engaged and focused on the concepts of Open SUNY than others. And the University Faculty Senate has had several reports and presentations that have alerted us to the possible implementation of it at several plenaries. Yet the naming of a committee to oversee implementation – and the purported three-month period it has to do its job – concerns us. So, the questions then are: Do you think the pace is too quick? How can we get more details about the consultation process? How will the system be able to help with the required resources and provide other resources to assure that Open SUNY is synonymous with rigor?
- 2.) Given such initiatives as Open SUNY, student mobility, systemness, and the findings of the 2012 Task Force Report on Remediation, can you assure us that the resources will be available for developmental/remedial education in technical fields as well as in academic and content areas?
- 3.) Those questions also speak to data collection. We are concerned that the data collection and reporting will not be given in its complete context. Can you give us a more detailed explanation of how the collected data will be used with appropriate safeguards?

Among other concerns are that several campuses are going through major administrative transitions from deanships up to provosts. The uncertainty of the changes may affect (or, to be fair, may not affect) the core mission of the campuses and we seek some sort of assurance that initiatives such as Open SUNY, shared services, etc., will not supersede the impetus and direction of our colleges. We can't move ahead by worrying about what might happen, but lower enrollments and the fluidity of proposed reimbursement models (though currently on pause) have us concerned and, thus, our need for assurances in the standards of content and significance in assessment must be key details of the plans.

Health Sciences Sector Report
Dale Avers, Upstate Medical University
May 4, 2013

Senators and Guests present

Downstate: Henry Flax, Virginia Anderson, Stephen Rinnert, Kathleen Powderly
College of Optometry: Rochelle Mozlin, Rebecca Marinoff
Stony Brook University: Ed Feldman
University of Buffalo: Peter Nickerson
Upstate : Robert Lebel, Susan Wojcik, Kerry Greene, (alternate), Allen Silverstone, Victoria Meguid, CGL, Dale Avers, Jay Brenner (alternate)

Dr. David Smith, President of Upstate was invited to address the Senators to discuss the history and evolution of the budget challenges facing Downstate in particular and the other academic health centers in general. Questions were asked and discussion ensued.

New Business included the following Issues:

- For-profit off-shore programs buying clinical sites from hospitals that SUNY schools compete for and the implications for educational preparation of future health professionals. The Chancellor was asked to keep this issue in the forefront.
- There is interest in developing a global health initiative out of the SUNY Global Center. We have many research interests and students that would benefit from such a collaboration. The Chancellor was asked for her support for this initiative which was whole-heartedly given.
- Finances of the hospitals and their implication on educational clinical practices and faculty. The Chancellor was asked to share the plan to preserve the Health care academy across SUNY. She was not able to give particulars as the State of New York has mandated that a Sustainability Plan be drafted to be presented by June 1, 2013.
- Resolution to support SUNY's Academic Health Science Centers was moved forward to Executive committee and the Senate. It was unanimously approved by the Senate.

Old Business

Investigating a conference about opportunities for online learning as part of Open SUNY for the Academic Health Centers/Hospital faculty. Dale Avers to contact Curriculum office of SUNY Central.

Colleges of Technology Sector Report
Anne Englot, Morrisville State College
May 4, 2013

Colleges in the Technology Sector: Alfred, Canton, Cobleskill, Delhi, Farmingdale, Morrisville

- On behalf of our current and future students who are economically challenged, many of whom come from rural areas, we urged Chancellor Zimpher to work with Governor Cuomo to address the lack of broadband access to many areas in our state especially in view of Open SUNY.
- ✓ Chancellor Zimpher supported this notion and promised to discuss this with Governor Cuomo.

- In the March 8th memo from Tim Killeen to Campus presidents at SUNY State-Operated Campuses concerning the pilot program to stimulate undergraduate experiences in STEM areas of research as a means of increasing retention of at risk, underprepared and underrepresented students. As the mission of the Technology Sector colleges is to teach science and technical subjects using hands-on experimental learning experiences, we asked Chancellor Zimpher how we can share best practices with the rest of the system.
- ✓ Chancellor Zimpher stated the importance of experiential learning in teaching STEM principles and agreed that the colleges of Technology should have a central role in joint STEM efforts. She urged the Colleges of Technology to contact Johanna Duncan-Poitier, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline to discuss this.

- Over the 2011 - 2013 calendar years there have been 14 individuals sitting in the chair of President/Chief Operating Officer at the six colleges of the Technology. Two of the fourteen presidents have been constant in that two year period (Delhi & Cobleskill), which means that four of our colleges have been led by 12 different individuals in two years.
- Delhi will return to having a president devoted to one campus shortly.
- Cobleskill started sharing a President with Delhi in 2011 and they have been told that they will receive an interim OIC for July 1st 2013 and will search for a president for July 1st 2014, though they have not been authorized to search.
- Morrisville's longtime president left in January of 2011-we had an internal interim from January to August; in August 2011 we began sharing a president with SUNYIT and in January of 2013, an interim was installed and we have not been told if we can search.
- Canton's president stepped down in Aug 31, 2012, and Canton has had an interim president since then who is scheduled to leave in July 31st, and are currently searching for another interim President.
- Alfred's president left in January 2013 and they are searching for a president.
- Farmingdale has been stable.
- Four of our six colleges currently have interim presidents. Why are the all Technology Sector Colleges not searching for Presidents and for the ones that are not, have the metrics been identified that allow our campuses to search for a permanent president?
- ✓ Chancellor Zimpher stated that Alfred is searching; Cobleskill is ready to search and that Morrisville and Canton have additional work to do, and should be ready to search in a year.
- ✓ FINAL NOTE: On 05/07/13 (post-plenary) Acting Presidents were named at Cobleskill and Canton.

Statutory and Specialized Colleges Sector Report
Ron Sarner, SUNYIT
May 4, 2013

- What is SUNY doing to remedy the cap on capital indebtedness?
- What plans are being made to handle capital maintenance projects in light of the cap?
- How is SUNY protecting the campuses from the expenses incurred in the Gyrodyne litigation?