October 25, 2014168th Plenary Meeting

SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry

23-25 October 2014

**Call to order and introductions**

**SUNY ESF Welcome**:

**1. President’s Report: Peter Knuepfer**

\*SUNY Canton: two anonymous (but deemed credible) threats from YikYak, focused on academic buildings. Lockdown, thorough sweep, all ok. Chancellor sent email out.

\*Sexual assault policy: driven by governor's desire for Board of Trustees to have an affirmative consent policy. SUNY has also convened a working group to formulate proposed policy. Would like to work with faculty who are working on these issues. If this is you, please let us know.

\*TeachNY: advisory task force to help us prepare teachers better for their future endeavors. If have colleagues who have expertise, please pass along names.

\*Student mobility: continuing to work with provost to improve flexibility to campus requests for waivers, questions about whether campuses must align their programs explicitly and precisely with transfer paths. Can't change pathways, because implementation for September 2015, but would like to know about difficulties, pushbacks, what is being accepted on our campus.

\*Budget: how to more fairly assess campuses to cover system administration costs

\*Upcoming events: November 7 workshop on intellectual property rights in online environment; November 11-12: “Making Diversity Count: Ensuring Equity and Inclusion;” February 10 “Graduate Research: Making a difference in NY,” March 20-21 SUNY Voices Shared Governance; April 10 SUNY Undergraduate Research Symposium

\*LICH and hospitals: signed agreement with Fortis Group, working with NYU Langone to provide medical care onsite. Waiting for approval from attorney general and other state administration. Questions remain: what about monies owed to/from SUNY? Downstate's expenditures/endowment. Other costs include contract with financial group ($17m); McKinsey consulting for this ($7m).

Any action from UFS to examine this? Comptroller has created clear report; have colleagues who do public policy and they can investigate.

Potential alliances in development: Downstate and Albany, Upstate and Binghamton so that stand-alone medical centers in closer alliance with research center.

**2. Executive Committee Report, Introduction of resolutions: Gwen Kay**

Executive Committee heard committee reports, presentation on Open SUNY, and spent the bulk of its time looking at, discussing, and tweaking, resolutions.

**3. SUNY Student Assembly Report: Lori Mould, President**

Areas of concern for students include textbook affordability issue; on-campus childcare issues. This year, running town hall meetings on Friday evenings of EC monthly meetings, targeting students within a 50-mile radius. Also serving on Sexual Assault taskforce.

Legislative agenda includes student loan interest rates (national level); advocating for textbook affordability; rational aid and chargebacks for community colleges; and childcare on community colleges. 13 resolutions at SA meeting.

**4. Budget Report:**

**Josh Sager, Assoc. vice chancellor for finance & business: State budget environment & request**

\*What goes into a budget: revenue and spending + politics + unexpected events + state needs

where revenue & spending plans is enacted budget financial plans (April); 1st quarter update (July); mid-year update (October); executive budget update (January); others are self-explanatory

\*2015/16 budget timeline: October 1 budget call letter from governor's office and SUNY discussion/prioritization of request (working since August without knowing parameters), formulate budget request, develop package --> November: send in once BOT approves --> December/January: governor's executive budget --> February-August: legislative action (hearings, negotiation, modifications), April enacted budget released, April-August implementation

\*Budget atmospherics for 2015/16 include 2% spending growth cap + statutory spending increases + 2014/15 surplus (favorable settlements)

\*Budget requests: capital (educational facilities – multi-year funding; resident halls –self-supporting; hospitals) where need v. capacity = sizing

**Robert Haelen, Interim Chief Financial Officer: direct charges and assessments**

\*Background: $12.4b for SUNY appropriated & non-state fund so why an assessment? Many challenges and system administration has no revenue source, flat state funding, increased contractual costs, increased responsibility, and new system-wide initiatives

**5. Networks of Excellence: Timothy Killeen, Vice Chancellor for Research & President of Research Foundation**

First year, created four networks (Brain, 4E: Energy, Environment, Economics and Education; Health; Materials & Advanced Manufacturing) with $4m to seed cross-campus research.

\*Health: drug discovery, novel antibiotics, hand-held biosensors, 3D printing tissues, personalized organ transplantation (90 faculty, 9 campuses, $900k in program funding)

\*M&AM: bio materials, flexible electronics, green materials, additive manufacturing (50 faculty, 8 campuses, $710k)

\*Brain: neurosciences, bioinformatics, psychology, behavioral sciences, nanotechnology (125 faculty, 8 campuses, $808k)

\*4E: water resources, biofuels, biomimicry, extreme weather, sustainable systems (80 faculty, 16 campuses, $780k)

New this year: 2015 presidential fellows.

What gets funded? Projects that demonstrate multi-campus collaboration; originality, innovation & significance of research; evidence that project might be competitive for extramural funding.

Initial returns: proposals for outside funding submitted (15 in, 10 in process), two DOE grants ($10m, $12.8m)

Two new networks: arts & humanities and teaching, learning & assessment.

Want to get involved? Attend a workshop: 4E 10/26, A&H 10/31, Brain 12/15; M&AM 12/5.

**6. Provost Report: Alex Cartwright, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor**

\*New, interesting, and part of his portfolio? SUNY Excels, seamless transfer, Open SUNY, SUNY Networks of Excellence, TeachNY, Diversity Task Force, sexual assault prevention. And long-term and can add to portfolio SUNY Press, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Distinguished Academy, Centers for Professional Development, Startup NY.

\*New people in office include Dr Paul Marthers, vice provost for strategic enrollment management and student success; Dr. Christy Siegerdt, associate provost for institutional research & data analytics; and Dr. Phil Ortiz, assistant provost for undergraduate and STEM education.

\*Open SUNY update: 56 additional degree and certificate programs with Open SUNY + designation; number of fellows in Center for Online Teaching Excellence grown to 750; institutional readiness program earned 2014 effective practice award from the Online Learning Consortium.

\*TeachNY Advisory Council: three leadership task forces: recruitment, selection & cultural competence; curricula design, simultaneous renewal, pre-service education, and related partnerships; induction, continuing professional development & teacher leadership

\*Seamless transfer update: goal is student completion, with as little debt as possible. On track for fall 2015 implementation.

**7. SUNY Excels Performance Management System Presentation: Nancy Zimpher, Tim Killeen, Alex Cartwright, Beth Bringsjord**

Power of SUNY 2020: SUNY Excels performance system

Started with the Power of SUNY (2009-10), and produced report card starting in 2011.

Embedded in data management system, but no tether to what it means to campus, and state of NY. Need to recognize and reward performance in key areas, which leads to performance management system (Excels). A mixture of consultation and trustees' policy. National context, already using performance-based initiative (2/3 of country on this model), and if SUNY creates their own model, can be proactive and think about what works best for us: how do we better serve students? Improve retention?

Guiding principles: identify outcomes that are mission critical; select measures that are easy to track on a regular basis; build on existing data collection; maintain sensitivity to external conditions & mission; drive continuous improvement. Need to winnow pool of possible metrics. The goal? Bigger investment in SUNY.

Key parts: access, completion, success, research & engagement, guided by our mission statement.

\*Access: enrollment (fall numbers + programs in HS + child care centers + Cornell coop extension = 2.7m); diversity (all possible meanings); capacity (distribution of programs, overcoming physical and geographic constraints); affordability

\*Completion: completion, time to degree, transfer, persistence (using student achievement measure s)

\*Success: student support, applied learning, multi-cultural experiences, degree progression + additional credentialing, financial literacy, employment/earnings

\*Research: research productivity, external investment, philanthropic support, campus/system and faculty regarded as thought leaders

\*Engagement: START-UP NY; scholarship, development & innovation; commercialization; workforce development; cultural contributions, community service

What's next? Finalize the metrics, get campuses and systems to commit to goals; identify areas of targeted investment; advocacy.

Questions:

Fred Walters, Stony Brook. What are we doing to support the basic research side? -- A: Spurring both basic and applied

Danielle Leonard, Albany. What are the instruments, and time line for application? Will this be applied to presidential review? – A: Intend to apply metrics universally, annually; will tie to presidential evaluation and review process

Peggy De Cooke, Purchase. Is this going to be a one-size metric, applied across all campuses, or some selectivity? – A: will be applied on sector basis

Ed Feldman, Stony Brook. Different information on time to graduation. Our job as faculty is to ensure standards, so asking that we continue to pay attention to quality of educational mission. – A: yes, but also need proxy for quality.

Ken O'Brien, Brockport. Is there money available or at risk? All of materials received about improvement, not money. If there is money, how much is state willing to put up? If not, what percentage of state operated budget is at risk if don't meet these standards? – A: in some states, money hasn't changed but redistributed. Still don't know how or where will tuck this in budget.

Denny Showers, Geneseo: What would you like to see us do to facilitate communication with, and engage in this? – A: Would be wonderful if each person took back to home campuses in easy-to-communicate way.

Anthony Hay, Cornell CALS. Worried about closing underperforming schools: will rich get richer and poor getting poorer or is there remedial help? -- A: see this as way to prevent this from happening. How can we revise system of measure that incentives growth and report metrics that are trending positive.

Henry Durand, UB. Glad to see mission statement, especially diversity statement, but not sure all campuses clear about this. Where are we system-wide, on this issue? – A: still active in A2S program, SUNY has done very well, presented data to board this year to contextualize graduate and retention rates. Successful, but need to capitalize on this moving forward.

Pete Kneupfer, UFS president. In some states, embraced concept of performance based funding to reallocate funding across campuses. What you are proposing is to seek new funds based on performance-based promises, but this opens door (a crack) that would be opened very wide, very fast where we offer to legislature/governor a way to base all funding this way and would have significant winners and losers. – A: hopefully NYS will use model in other states to enhance, not measure and shut funding. Hope that community college model will work and will have winners (but not losers) with new money above and beyond base aid.

**Sector Sessions with Chancellor Zimpher**

**Comprehensive Colleges: Joe Marren**

1a. Worried because losing money and biggest sector. How can system help us with sustainability and support.

1b. If we're unique and proactive, how can approval time for programs be expedited?

2a. If we use performance-based funding model, still seems a slippery slow: once in place, how long will things be assessed? How can change be implemented? Could we move to a different way to measuring?

2b. We're 64 campuses, how can we retain unique identity?

Answers. 1a. working to solve this: know, e.g. that enrollment decline coming but need online courses.

1b: dual program approval (SUNY and Dept of Ed) in new governor's plan, but working to improve and expedite this.

2a. yes, can assess system once in motion. All about continuous improvement. If we don't start, can't evolve so periodically need to evaluate this.

2b. trying to find sweet spot for each school to identify, highlight their strengths

**University Centers: Fred Walter**

Concern about presidential evaluations and how they're being done.

Although SUNY aspires to be world class institution, have challenges including Elsevier contract; graduate assistant salaries still inadequate; faculty salaries stagnated and hard to recruit and retain faculty so … what are you doing to turn verbiage into lasting, sustainable succes?

Concern about access to success: given $14m assessment, would you provide access to UFS Operations committee the budget of central administration?

Answers: Presidential evaluations: already answered (see above)

Elsevier is hard and need to find some new ways to negotiate. Aware of underinvestment with graduate students. Need to reallocate resources that we already have.

**Statutory and specialized colleges: Ron Sarner**

College of Ceramics financial and identity issues are still present.

Open SUNY and applicability to sector: what is the current business model? What is the role of statutory colleges in Open SUNY?

Answers: Still working on Alfred issues.

The notion that we would grow by 100,000 in five years is a big bet and lot of help developing business plan to isolate state's investment (through capital, or loan, or some other investment).

**Health Sciences: Henry Flax**

Due to many issues over past 4 years, faculty and staff at Downstate and Upstate are feeling vulnerable and uncertain about futures. Encouragement of relationships with Albany and Buffalo increase unease. Please comment.

In light of Dr Eastwood's announcement that will conclude presidency in December 2015, worried that time is running short for good search, plus precedent of chancellor's selection of president.

Answers: Will start presidential search this fall. Working on timing, composition of search committee. But yes, there are some affiliation discussions with Binghamton that are important to how we craft position description.

Affiliation discussions are part of the future (not launched by chancellor). Has evolved from Albany research that would seem likely to have strategic affiliation Downstate that would help both be more competitive for students, grants, and more. Will also impact permanent president for Downstate.

**CGLs: Jan Trybula**

What resources do CGLs have in dealing with increase of administration hires/decisions, which increase the imbalance between number of faculty and administration on a campus? Would you be willing and able to open dialogue between governance and campus presidents on this issue?

What direction have you given presidents to have consistent and meaningful involvement of faculty governance in budget-making processes on campuses?

Would you encourage individuals responding to waiver requests to be clear about why waiver was denied and what options would be available to campus to restate and resubmit their waivers?

Answers: Will do a public assessment and get data for waivers.

Two questions are about shared governance. Can reiterate this goal with presidents, and if small committee would like to come to their meeting and talk with them about this, please do so.

**Tech: Tim Gerkin**

Appreciate help with new presidents and presidential searches. Will college president evaluations include metrics for diversity of students and faculty?

Concerned that Open SUNY hasn't been fully funded (impact on all campuses participating w/o training).

Also concerned with TAP gap.

Answers: would like to resolve TAP gap with legislature but not sure it will happen: each year have had to fight for next year of rational tuition.

Pushing diversity: outside search (airport interviews) need to be diverse enough so that final outcome might be truly diverse.

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Faculty Council of Community Colleges: Tina Good, President

Will have second Shared Voices conference in March. Had meeting simultaneous with CC trustees. Speaker will be Dr. Susan Pierce.

Actions at meeting include asking for $200/student fee; childcare budget (working with Student Assembly), and many on seamless transfer, endorsed statement on academic freedom, endorsing statement on concurrent enrollment (taking community college courses in high school).

CUNY University Faculty Senate Report: Terry Martell, Chair

New chancellor (from Nebraska) in CUNY. Difficulties with seamless transfer, many PT students. Wondering about concepts of assessment & academic freedom –how to these fit together? What is role of faculty in this process .

UUP: Fred Kowal, President

Keep education at core of all things related to SUNY. Teaching and research is most important, and needs to be primary to, not secondary from, other things such as STARTUP NY, seamless transfer, core curriculum, etc. Governor's “finish in four” that both sides commit to get students through in four years; required to offer students targeted supports to get them through in four years

Resolutions: See appendix.

Committee Reports:

\*Diversity and Cultural Competence: Noelle Paley

Resolution requesting all SUNY campuses offering athletics create programs to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender athletes, coaches, and staff and to end anti-LGBT bias and discrimination in Athletics. Reminder about November 12-13 at the Making Diversity County: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, Access and Impact Conference.

\*Ethics and Institutional Integrity: Joe Marren

Working with Student Life on bullying resolution; working with Governance on academic freedom; and continuing survey on campus ethics policies;

\*Governance: Peggy De Cooke

Resolution on timeline for preparing and advancing a resolution. Working with Ethics on academic freedom document. Also concerned about contingent faculty; brief survey coming soon.

\*Graduate and Research: Roz Rufer

Continuing to work on graduate research and grants resolution; handbook for graduate students (how to apply for grants) in process as long-term goal. White paper on how to teach our graduate students to teach.

\*Operations: Tom Sinclair

Resolution on SUNY Performance Measurement (Excels). Working on white paper on budget transparency.

\*Programs and Awards: Bruce Leslie

Review Conversations in the Discipline and evaluate effectiveness. Review policies and procedures for chancellor's awards across campuses.

\*Student Life: Kelley Donaghy

Resolutions on textbook affordability and student assistant positions. Working with Ethics on bullying/anti-hazing issues. Other issues include drugs & alcohol, sexual assault, role of faculty in student life, and veterans' affairs survey.

\*Undergraduate: Dan White

Resolution on undergraduate research. Review and revise internship guide; develop resources for competency based assessments; and analyze service learning.

Other/new business

Resolution on Nalaxone availability passes.

Ron Sarner: clarification on resolution at last spring's plenary on presidential searches; did so thinking representing SUNYIT, not new entity of SUNY Polytechnic Institute.