

SUNY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE  
Fall 2002 Plenary Meeting, Purchase, NY  
October 18-19, 2002

The following faculty members from Stony Brook attended the meeting:

Norman Goodman, Daniel Kinney, Ram Srivastav, George Tortora, and Benjamin Walcott.

This report is based upon the notes taken by Ram and his recollection of the proceedings and amended as necessary taking into account the comments of the other participants.

After the opening remarks of the faculty and the administrators of the host institution, Joseph Hildreth, the UFS President, described his vision of the Senate's role in enhancing the quality of education as being both proactive and reactive. He urged the System Administration and the faculty to emphasize consultation, communication and respect. The keynote speaker of the morning session was SUNY Trustee Randall Daniels, (also Secretary of State, State of New York). He professed a passion for Education and a commitment to increase access and diversity, and public funding of Education. He recalled personal experiences and exhorted the faculty to insist on high standards, providing extra help to those in need. The faculty would need to be more creative and entrepreneurial, as there are limits and budgetary constraints would force us to prioritize. Trustee Daniels appeared to support the faculty control of curriculum. Apparently, the Board of Trustees has agreed that GED is a faculty prerogative and should devolve on faculty and the System Administration will presume that the campus-developed guidelines conform to the guidelines for GED.

Chancellor King joined the senators, the campus governance leaders and other attendees for lunch. At that time, he spoke of the achievements of SUNY- enrollments and retention rate is up by 14%, research funding is up by 18%, recognition in popular press such as U.S. News and World Report, Kiplinger's etc. The financial picture is gloomy and SUNY would probably get a bigger hit to the budget than most other state agencies, as a result of loss of revenue due to WTC disaster. The Board of Trustees, on his recommendation, has approved the creation of a sixty fifth campus to be based in Manhattan: Neil D. Levin Graduate Institute of International Relations and Commerce with credit bearing courses to be offered in Fall 2004. Norman Goodman raised the issue of "marginal cost" in increasing enrollment, but there was no specific response.

David DeMarco, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Resources and System Planning described the schedule for developing the budget. The trustees approve the Budget Request in November/December, the executive budget is released in January. Legislature reviews the budget and enacts it by April 1! The trustees approve the campus plans and the Fiscal Year begins July 1.

**TRUSTEES CAN SWITCH FUNDS FROM ONE CAMPUS TO ANOTHER. IT IS PROVIDED IN EDUCATION LAW.**

The following is the 2002-03 estimate of funds: Total \$ 7.2 Billion

*(The following are in billions)*

Community Colleges (State, Local County, Tuition)	1.3
Instructional Budget (Tuition & State Tax \$\$)	1.8
Indirect State Support (Debt Services & Fringe Benefits)	.8
Hospitals	1.2
Residence & Food	.5
Self - supporting Projects	1.0
Sponsored Programs	.6

The core budget is \$1.8 billion. As the enrollment grew estimated to be 402,111, 13,755 over last year and FTE number went up to 327,953, an increase of 10,461, the tuition revenue grew. An expenditure reduction of 1% is to help pay for the Retirement Incentive Program.

The UFS had created a Task Force on Rational Fiscal Policy. While the Final report will come at the Geneseo meeting in January, preliminary presentation was made by David DeMarco and Ram Chugh. It was clear that the direct support from state tax dollars has declined in real terms, while the tuition revenue has increased. A number of recommendations are likely to emerge such as a stabilization fund, no unfunded mandates, a coherent enrollment and tuition policy and TRUTH IN BUDGETING – State, SUNY and Campuses should provide open and consistent budgeting.

I believe I am speaking for all my colleagues, who attended the Plenary Meeting, that we would happily provide additional information, if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted by

Ram Srivastav