

- I. Meeting called to order by Senate President Nancy Tomes at 3:30 PM. Livestream coverage courtesy of UUP Communications can be found [here](#).
- II. A motion to amend the agenda to move the discussion and vote for the resolution on the CUNY/SUNY budget following Senior VP Judith Greiman's report on Governor's budget proposal carried.
- III. A motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 University Senate meeting carried.
- IV. **University Senate President Nancy Tomes** welcomed senators to the first meeting of the Spring 2020 semester. President Tomes noted that elections will be held in April for standing committees, at large senators and University Faculty Senate statewide. Tomes urged Senators to watch for emails and consider saying yes.
- V. A report of the Winter UFS Plenary was given by **Fred Walter, Statewide UFS Senator**. Walter noted three statewide senator positions are up for election. In the sector meeting there were concerns raised about student mental and physical health and SUNY standards statewide should be set as well as resources should be allocated. Walter reported on the budget and stated the SUNY request was a 1.9% increase, close TAP Gap, fund maintenance and UUP contractual salaries. He noted the Governor claims a \$6-7 billion deficit. The entire Winter 2020 Post-Plenary Report can be read here: <http://www.sunyufs.us/winter-2020-post-plenary-report.html>.
- VI. University Senate had a discussion with **Interim President Michael Bernstein** who [distributed his report in advance](#). Some additional remarks included an update on the Coronavirus outbreak and 36 students have not returned. Bernstein discussed parking issues and stated new parking structures are being explored. Administration is strategically seeking to enhance parking needs. He informed Senators of a meeting with the Chancellor and her initiatives to explore offshore wind and energy storage. On the subject of sustainability she is working to improve environmental input of campuses by 2023. Work to improve print efficiency on campuses was addressed as was to refinance debt from SUNY dorm construction and seek out partnerships with private sector
  - a. Question from the floor
    - i. J. Sanders – Re PRODIG Faculty recruitment competition with Buffalo: why are we losing? How do we compare to other University Centers?
    - ii. Bernstein - we are making strong efforts in our applications. We are ahead of Binghamton and Albany.
    - iii. T. Wilson - In December there was a valet parking pilot program for when the garage is full. How did it work out?
    - iv. Bernstein - it is still in effect, data is not in yet.

VII. **Senior VP Judith Greiman** reported on key areas of the Governor's proposed budget and some ways that it impacts SBU. Her powerpoint slides can be found [here](#). She noted that this was the first Budget Proposal and the final one will happen by March 31 midnight. \$178 billion budget to include a 2% increase in state operating funds. Other highlights:

NY does not have a downturn in the economy, it's still flowing, but there is a gap due to Medicaid. We may be affected on the medical side. \$14 billion are allocated to improve and maintain SUNY/CUNY, and healthcare facilities. SBU working to redirect dollars allocated for the stadium expansion for a new engineering building.

- For Education and healthcare, Medicaid program causes \$6B budget gap. Redesign team to find 2.5 billion in savings before 3/31. Significant for SB HSC because it can significantly impact their budget.
- Higher Education: Fringe payment gets increases, not operating aid. Legislature authorizes SUNY to increase tuition, up to a certain point. Next year is the last year of \$200 hikes. Governor wants another 5 years of tuition hikes where the increases will be set each year.
- SUNY  
Critical maintenance used to be \$75 million and we will probably get \$49 but it's been flat at \$3 Million for a few years.

Q: SUNY Hospital Funding: Funds set aside for environmental issues - can we use these to protect open space on campus?

A: No, this would not apply.

Q: Peter Manning from English - Excelsior would simply expand the pool of students, right?

A: Yes

Greiman updated Senators on the Presidential Search. She noted the committee has narrowed down list of candidates and some airport interviews were done last week. Next, a list of names will be submitted by the committee to the SB council soon. Council then submits 3 names to the chancellor. A decision made by May indicates the candidate may start by July or August.

VIII. A motion to approve the UFS resolution regarding SUNY-CUNY budget passed unanimously. The resolution can be found here: [http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/184-01-01\\_exec\\_suny\\_cuny\\_budget.pdf](http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/184-01-01_exec_suny_cuny_budget.pdf). Tomes encouraged Senators to write their legislatures. Wolfskill will resend the UFS website link that has templates as well as addresses.

IX. University Senate had a discussion with Interim Provost Minghua Zhang. His full report was distributed in advance and can be found [here](#). **IP Zhang noted** Javits renovation will start Summer 2021.

Q: A. Drees - how are faculty involved in Javits rehab?



A:- academic planning committees from faculty teaching there. There is a senate liaison on the committee too.

Q: Can Students get involved in Student undergraduate curriculum?

A:Yes, talk to Tech and Society and Applied Math and Statistics Department

X. Introduction of interim CIO Charles McMahon

- 1) *Washington Post* reported SBU eligible for a cyberattack via Sci-Hub. Access was blocked from the university network
  - a) Copyright infringement and censorship issues.
  - b) Have begun discussion with the Library
- 2) Question from a student: Is 2-factor authentication going to be utilized?
  - a) Yes, it is being explored.

XI. A presentation on Student Success was given by Charles Robbins and can be found [here](#). The Q & A was moderated by Hanna Nekvasil, co-chair of Undergraduate Council and members of EC.

- 1) Hanna Nekvasil
  - a) Some male students have financial demands on them by their parents that female ones do not.
- 2) Question - K. Lindblom - Did the lower male graduation rate correlate with majors?
  - a) Major is irrelevant - the disparity crosses all ethnicities, economic status, etc
- 3) Question - A. Drees - This seems to be an issue beyond the university; progress needs to be made there.
  - a) Yes, but we know men utilize available services less than women; we need to change this dynamic by making adjustments here.
- 4) Question - How does sexual orientation affect this?
  - a) It is the same for students regardless of sexual preference
- 5) Question - How does this issue affect Excelsior students? If they fall off the curve steep consequences
  - a) We don't have that data yet, too early to tell.

XII. UUP Report (C. Kube and E. Quinn)

- a) Kube was lobbying in Albany and unable to attend.
- b) Quinn urged Senators to check out UUPnewsletter, just published.
- c) UUP is conducting a workplace climate survey to collect info from members
- d) There will be a student debt workshop on 2/13 between 12:30 - 2 in the poetry center, Humanities 2001.

**A motion to adjourn at 5:12 PM carried.**