

Some updates from the System level
reported Mar 20, 2012
by Peter Knuepfer

First, Chancellor's initiatives from State of SUNY address that might affect us.

1. Transfer mobility: "By fall 2013...an AA or AS degree from a SUNY community college will satisfy gen-ed requirements at our 4-year institutions." How this might affect us: worst-case scenario is that SUNY would require each campus to accept that a student who completed the 7-of-10 GenEd with an AA or AS need take no more GenEd classes, even if there are additional local requirements. A second possibility is that this would apply only to *lower-division* requirements; as long as a requirement is (or has electives) at the upper division, it could be OK, and that should allow us to maintain our current requirements.
2. Shifts in funding A. *Shifting administrative costs to academic*: "And over the next 3 years, all SUNY campuses will shift...5 percent of their administrative spending to academics and student services." We've basically already done that. B. *Performance-based funding*. Some part of the SUNY budget is to be allocated based on performance measures. She's establishing a committee that will, among other things, develop a pilot program for 2012-13 to track "metrics as if performance-based allocation already existed." Probably won't impact us a lot, though we could be a winner in any "competition" for funds.
3. IT Systems Homogenization. Presumably this would mean things like degree audits systems, budget systems, registration systems, and who knows, perhaps course management systems. Already going to see this very soon in the replacement of DARS by DegreeWorks. Other changes down the line could include Oracle, Banner, Blackboard.
4. Strategic Enrollment Management. "...we will invest in our campuses to start or expand programs identified by the state as being "high need" in fields like nursing, nanotechnology, and information technology. And we'll roll those priorities into our performance-based allocation model, holding not only the system, but our individual campuses, responsible for delivering on this promise as well." Perhaps no impact on us, perhaps there will be.
5. Open SUNY. She is proposing an extensive online learning environment. Again, perhaps no direct impact, but there could develop issues around faculty ownership of course materials.

Other items from the Jan. 26-28 University Faculty Senate Plenary meeting at Cornell:

The Board of Trustees passed a new set of Guidelines for Presidential Searches. Of particular note for the four University Centers is an explicit provision for what is termed "representational searches"—closed searches by another name. However, thanks in no

small part to the efforts by the BU Executive Committee, the Chancellor agreed to wording which explicitly provides that “other designated members of the college community will be invited to meet with the semi-finalist candidates under strict rules of confidentiality”. The UFS is calling this the “Binghamton Solution”.

One of the key elements of the transfer mobility process as it now exists (without the Chancellor’s new wording) is that campuses are required to accept grades of C in core classes toward a major and not require re-taking similar classes at the receiving campuses. It will be necessary to fall into line on this whether we like it or not (though I don’t know what the “stick” is to force compliance).

SUNY Budget: The Executive (Governor’s) budget proposal requests flat State funding for SUNY (both good and bad—no cuts, but no inflationary increases). No money in the budget, as I understand it, for Binghamton or Albany’s SUNY2020 plans—including no authorization for higher out-of-State tuition. That may get fixed when our plan is approved. Authorization *is* included to spend the agreed-upon undergraduate in-State tuition increases. No money for salary increases, if they occur, except for some funds for the CSEA and PEF contracts.