

SUNY Downstate Medical Center  
Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly  
Meeting of December 8, 2015  
3:30 – 4:30 PM  
Report of the Presiding Officer

Dr. Rinnert stated that the President was not able to attend today's meeting. He stated that the President called him this morning to announce that he will be meeting with the Board of Trustees this afternoon to tender his resignation. The effective date will be next summer, after the Middle States accreditation team site visit in June 2016. The reason given for the resignation is that the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor have not given President Williams the tools to continue to be successful.

Dr. Rinnert stated that the faculty needs to take ownership of the institution in light of this announcement. He then provided an overview of faculty governance to the Assembly. The slide show emphasized the organization, role and operation of the Centerwide Committee, as well as an introduction to the faculty governance web page.

Dr. Rinnert then provided a synopsis of the Center Wide Committee officers meeting with Dr. Williams:

- Status of the Provost's position – Dr. Williams stated that there will be no provost. Whenever Dr. Bradley retires, a search will commence for a Senior VP for Academic Affairs.
- Collaboration between U Albany and Downstate – Dean Mark Stewart is spearheading the collaborative efforts for Downstate. A report is due on December 31, 2015. A merger would provide U Albany with Research I status ([Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#)).
- DSRIP Progress – there has been no direction from the Department of Health. No money has been received to date.
- Rumors of merger between KCHC and Downstate – There will be no merger. Legally, one institution is state-operated, the other city-operated. Dr. Williams is working to reduce the duplication of effort clinically (e.g., two chiefs of service – one for KCHC, one for UHB, etc.). Brookdale Hospital is failing. Coney Island neurosurgery patients will be coming to UHB. We need an Electronic Medical Record that functions across campuses (need DSRIP funding for that). Faculty will have the opportunity for input once Drs. Pato and Jamaledine create a draft agreement. There will be an expanded Faculty Affairs Office for faculty development as well as for onboarding functions currently handled by Human Resources. An Emeriti Center will be created in the new Academic Building for retired faculty. This will include office space, telephones and the opportunity to mentor junior faculty.
- Lack of transparency with faculty and professional staff. Presidential visibility. – Dr. Williams will participate in the upcoming centerwide Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly meeting in December. Dr. Flax will work on scheduling this meeting with Ms. Corby.
- Update on the new academic building. – We are on our third contractor! Currently we are 292 days behind schedule. Dr. Williams anticipates completion in Fall 2016. Astra Bain-Dowell will coordinate the new SIM Center for use by CHRP, CON and Medicine. There will be one administrator supervising the facility.
- HR Issues
  - Status of New Hires – we will hire a new Director of the Library once Dr. Winant retires.

Vacant Chair positions:

Pathology, Cell Biology – to be handled by the new dean of COM.

Family Practice – needs an announcement of Dr. Sass' appointment as chair.

V.P. for Research – Dr. Merlino is coordinating the search. Interviews are scheduled for October 20 – 27, 2015 (note: no representative from shared governance was solicited by Dr. Merlino for this search).

CHRP Dean – arrives in January 2016. He plans to make weekly visits to campus in November and December 2015.

- Research Support services complaints – division is being revamped to address these concerns.
- Garage Update – The SUNY Construction Fund and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) have talks scheduled for late October.
- SUNY Senate update – Dr. Williams asked that we remind the Senate that we have stabilized UHB and that all schools are accredited. We are in the midst of a Strategic Plan for Growth following our stabilization. We are repaying the \$75 million loan. The Centerwide executives were urged to read the Workforce Report prepared by the U at Albany regarding Downstate's contributions to the community. In addition, the committee members asked Dr. Williams to address the following items:
  - SUNY Excels Performance Measures – Dr. Rinnert was advised to contact Dr. Putman or Dr. Bradley for the campus response to the chancellor.
  - Middle States Accreditation – the Team Chair visit is scheduled for December 17, 2015 (note: this has been rescheduled to January 29, 2016). The site visit will occur June 26-29, 2016.
  - University Physicians of Brooklyn (UPB) – Dr. Pato has been charged to develop a new type of leadership model for the group. There is a need to partner with physician groups (e.g., ProHealth).

In light of the announcement of the Dr. Williams' resignation, the Assembly had few questions.

### **University Faculty Senate Report**

Dr. Flax was ill and could not speak. As none of the other University Faculty Senators were in attendance, the UFS report will be posted electronically for the campus to read.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Flax, EdD  
Secretary,  
Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly