



President's Report to the Senate

Senate Sixth Business Meeting, March 4, 2015

Patrick Neary, President

Fast Forward Updates

The Academic Strategic Plan held a “Day of Conversation” on Feb 25, making presentations and taking feedback from anyone who came. The event was successful, with a great deal of positive and constructive feedback given. Overall, the process is tracking toward a draft strategic plan by the end of the semester. A number of major graduate student priorities have made their way into the Working Group reports, and the plan appears poised to drive considerable growth and improvements in graduate programs across SU. In the near term, the draft strategic plan will be released publicly roughly at the beginning of April. The document is currently in the process of being written, and will be released very shortly after the writing phase completes.

The Campus Framework continues in its work to create an overall plan for the university. On Monday, the group made presentations focusing on the history of building plans at the university and other information. That group will next make presentations on the status of the plan at the April 22 and 23 open forums, in Hendricks Auditorium.

All these presentations were recorded, and should be going up on the Fast Forward website (fastforward.syr.edu) shortly.

Operational Excellence continues its work as normal, with no additional news to provide at the moment.

Trustee Reports

Everyone is encouraged to read the President's report to the Trustees on the GSO website, under the “About” section. These reports are made to the trustees at their roughly monthly Executive Committee meetings and detail current issues, planning, and other important information. If you would like to comment on the reports or possible content, contact gso@syr.edu.

Health Insurance

Student Affairs is going to be implementing a student health insurance requirement. All students will have to have ACA compliant health insurance in the coming years. The university will be offering a student health plan to all students, using a type of hard waiver system used at nearly all other US universities. This means that if you have no other insurance or do not wish to pick up other insurance, SU will enroll you in a student health plan. The details of the plan are being finalized now, and should be available immediately after spring break, but early looks are very positive. We will keep the Senate informed as to the details of the plan. New students, fellows, and international students will fall under this requirement in fall 2015 with all students following suit in fall 2016.

Officer Elections

Anyone interested in running for an officer position is encouraged to talk to the Executive Board about their positions. The President, Internal and External VPs, and Comptroller are elected at our April 22 Budget and Elections meeting. Please consider running! While there is work involved, the positions are also very rewarding and offer many opportunities to network and connect with individuals both within and outside the university. Anyone thinking of pursuing a career in higher education administration should strongly consider running for a position.