

President's Report

August 2017

Marc J. Cohen, Rey Muniz III, Carolyn Sheridan

June BOT Meeting

At the June Board of Trustees meeting the Board voted to once again raise tuition to the maximum legal limit. And once again, I voted against any and all tuition increases on SUNY Students. While I was at it, I also decided to share my thoughts in no uncertain terms. I explained that raising tuition should be the absolute last ditch measure in only the most extreme scenarios rather than a natural reflex year after year. I also called for a system-wide efficiency audit to ensure that every single cent is being spent wisely before we take a single penny more from students.

I spoke about the mounting debt crisis and the reticence of the state to step up and pay its fair share despite students paying for more than theirs for years. I reminded them that tuition increases have become so commonplace that the state expects them. Why dole out precious dollars when lawmakers know that SUNY will just rip it from the pockets of students?

Unfortunately, the board ignored my overtures and raised tuition to the maximum legal limit despite the opposition of their primary stakeholders. Regardless, I will continue to fight back against unfair tuition increases every single day for the remainder of my time as your President.

Pride Parade

I was happy to have been joined by so many of you at the 2017 NYC Pride Parade, supporting and celebrating the members and rich history of the LGBT+ community. More than 400 students from across the SUNY system marched that day alongside the entire Stony Brook University Marching Band. I'm pleased to advance a resolution commending them for their outstanding efforts.

Most importantly this was my first use of Facebook live.

Joint Advocacy

Together with Vice President Pereira and Rey, I joined my counterparts from the University of California System, the California State System, and the CUNY System in Washington DC. We met with more than a dozen legislative offices to discuss campus safety, affordability, sustainability, and health care. Collectively we spoke with our nation's leaders on behalf of more than 2 million students.

This meeting was the first of its kind and I'm confident that it is the first of many such collaborative efforts from coast to coast.

We also met with a representative from the Biden Foundation to discuss a new partnership focusing on preventing sexual assault and domestic violence. I'm very hopeful that this partnership will develop substantially throughout the next year.

MOE

Over the past few months the Student Assembly has been strongly engaged in advocacy for the enactment of the Maintenance of Effort bill passed by the state legislature in June. Maintenance of Effort for those of you who might be unfamiliar with the term is the concept that the State, at a minimum, should be funding SUNY at the level it did the previous operating year. Maintenance of Effort also means increasing funding to match any inflation related rise in expenses between operating years. Thanks in no small part to student advocacy, including from our legislative affairs team, the state legislature, with both Democrats and Republicans voting in favor, passed MoE before the close of session in June. Unfortunately the legislature passed MOE last year as well only for the Governor to veto the provision. It is widely understood within the higher ed advocacy community that Governor Cuomo intends to veto it again, but the Student Assembly is intent on putting as much pressure on him as possible to force his hand. We created an ad hoc MOE committee to spearhead advocacy efforts, ably led by Representative Conner Wolfe.

Under Conner's leadership, and in coordination with Director Ostro and the Leg Affairs team our advocacy team has made incredible progress in defining our goals and visions as they pertain to MOE advocacy.

Before we discuss the newest development I want to express in the strongest terms possible that this information is sensitive and should not be shared with anyone outside of this room. There are serious implications to the students of SUNY if this is treated trivially.

I am very happy to announce that we have and will continue to work with NYSUT and it's affiliates, the largest union in the country. What's more we have partnered with CUNYUS and NYPIRG to maximize our impact.

We are launching a full scale, statewide campaign completely with a statewide tour of public institutions where we will hold public events, give out stump speeches, and try to engage every state and local stakeholder in this process. In the coming weeks as this campaign comes to fruition, I'll be relying on all of you to lend your networks in an attempt to leverage our collective impact from Buffalo to Stony Brook, and from Westchester to North Country.

Truly, Advocacy is a team sport.

And that brings me to my final point: expressing my gratitude to the best team in SUNYSA history.

We have started this year with momentum unlike anything that's ever been seen before. With modest hiccups along the way, all of you have helped make our first few months together an unprecedented success. I hope we can keep this energy and enthusiasm up every single day through the end of my term. Thank you so much for doing what you do.

SUNYSA Miles: ~2,513.0

SUNYSA Monthly Totals	
June	2436.6
July	51
August	25.4

17-18 Meeting Log

Date	Event	Person/Details	Location
6/1/2017	Start of term		Albany, NY
6/4/2017	AJC Conference		Washington DC
6/5/2017	AJC Conference		Washington DC
	PLS Panel		
	Climate Summit		
6/6/2017	AJC Conference		Washington DC
	Climate Summit		
	Meeting re: SUNY Federal	Alex Krigstein	
6/7/2017	Climate Summit		Washington DC
6/8/2017	Mtg. w/ Jim Kennedy		Buffalo NY
	PTSA Installation Dinner	Williamsville School District	
6/9/2017	Call re: DC Event	Young Invincibles	
	Call re: SA	Matt Foster	
	Call re: SUNYSA Goals	Bruce Gyroy	
	Transitional		Saratoga Springs
6/10/2017	Transitional		Saratoga Springs
6/11/2017	Transitional		Saratoga Springs
6/12/2017	Swearing In Ceremony		SUNY Global
6/13/2017	Special BOT Meeting		SUNY Global
	Research Council Dinner		NYC
6/14/2017	Research Council Meeting		SUNY Global
6/15/2017	Call re: SUNYSA Budget	Peg Palmiere	
	Call w/ System Heads		

6/16/2017	Breakfast - Reinvention of CCs		Latham, NY	
	Call re: MOE Bill & End of Session	Althia Rodriguez-Rolon		
	Ice Cream Social	Chancellor Zimpher	SUNY System	
	Call re: Sr Rep	Katherine Holmok		
6/19/2017	Call re: SAVI Student Loan Tool	Aaron		
	Call re: Purchase	Bradley Cech		
	UAlbany Student Leaders Mtg		UAlbany	
	Tour SUNY Poly	Board of Trustees		
	SUNY Board Exec Session	Board of Trustees	Albany, NY	
6/20/2017	Board Meeting	Board of Trustees	SUNY System	
	Reception, Chancellor Zimpher	Nancy Zimpher	Kiernan Plaza	
6/21/2017	Board Meeting	Board of Trustees	SUNY System	
	Meeting re: Student Life	Chairman McCall	SUNY System	
6/22/2017	Constitution Day		Oswego	
	Interview re: Tuition	CBS Albany		
	Call re: Monthly	Andy MacCracken		
	Interview re: UAlb President	Legislative Gazette		
6/23/2017	Meeting re: Fees & SA Budget	EBoard, Valerie Nixon, Judy Nolan, Josh Sager, Joseph Ogden, Courtney Reed	SUNY System	
6/25/2017	SUNY Pride Parade		NYC	
6/27/2017	Call re: August EC Planning	Eboard		
6/28/2017 - 6/30/2017	Flight to DC		Washington DC	
	Senator Meetings	Meeting Sn. Murray		
		Sn. Harris		
		Sn. Gillibrand		
		Sn. Feinstein		
		Sn. Schumer		
		Sn. Sanders		
	Congressmen Meetings	CongressM. Meng		
CongressM. Pelosi				

	Inside Higher Ed Editorial Board		
	Biden Foundation	Lynn Rosenthal	
	Dinner	Dr. Kristina Johnson	
	Flight to Albany		
7/10/2017	UAlbany Orientation Event		UAlbany
7/11/2017	Meeting re: Tuition & Excelsior	Senator Neil Breslin	NYS Capitol
	Meeting re: Work in Progress	COS Muniz III	SUNY System
	Meeting re: SUNY RF	Dr. Cheek	SUNY RF
7/12/2017	Meeting re: Sustainability	Mary Ellen Mallia	
7/13/2017	Lunch Meeting	Julie Gondar	City Line
	Call	Grace Wang, Provost's Office	
7/17/2017	Meeting re: MOE Action	UUP	SUNY System
	Call re: Opportunities	Trustee Stan Litow	
	Call re: Research Foundation	Rep. Wolfe, Chair George, Direc. Kroll	
	Representative Call		
7/18/2017	Applied Learning Call		
	Meeting	Joe Bonilla	City Line
	Call re: SUNYSA	Josh A	
7/19/2017	Call re: Tuition	Eileen & Josh	SUNY System
	Call re: NYPIRG	Monique Maxwell	
7/20/2017	SUNY College Union and Campus Activities Professionals Presentation		SUNY System
	Advanced Prevention Summit Intro		Albany Capitol Center
	Cabinet Meeting	Executive Cabinet	
7/21/2017	Meeting	John Graham	SUNY System
	Meeting	Bob Sears, Police Chief Albany	Albany NY
	Meeting	Frank Wiley, Chief UPD	Uncommon Grounds
	Call re: UUP MOE Tour	CFO Braun, COS Muniz, Rep Wolfe	
7/27/2017	Call	Andy MacCracken	
	Farewell Lunch Provost		Angelo's 677

	Cartwright		Prime
	Reception, Provost Cartwright		SUNY System
8/7/2017	Call re: Registering Student Voters	Chairman McCall	
	Call re: Comms	COS Muniz, Press Sec. Batrez	
	Call re: Trump's Speech	Kiana Lom, Jerome Bost, COS Muniz	

8/8/2017	Call re: MWBE Partnership	Alex Bolotovskiy	
	Call re: Board Retreat Survey	Heather Trela	
	MOE SubCommittee Call		
8/9/2017	Call re: Catch Up/Advocacy	System Heads	
	Meeting re: Strategic Plan	Gareau LLC	SUNY System
8/10/2017	Meeting re: MOE Action	NYSUT, UUP, PSC, NYPIRG, CUNYUSS, SA	UUP Headquarters
8/11/2017	EC Meeting		Albany, NY
8/12/2017	EC Meeting		Albany, NY
8/13/2017	EC Meeting		Albany, NY