

University Affairs Meeting with Braden Hosch (Interim Chief Deputy to the President/Vice President for Educational and Institutional Effectiveness) - 02/11/2025

Meeting began with introductions.

- Alex began by informing Braden that the committee has many new members and asked Braden to explain his responsibilities.
 - Serves as chief liaison with SUNY. In contact 2-3 times a day.
 - Example: When the NIH announcement was released, he spent the weekend coordinating with Stony Brook's executive team and SUNY; end result was a coordinated lawsuit including 22 states
 - Makes sure the president's and university's priorities are addressed
 - Ensuring communication across the cabinet to make sure all relevant parties are involved in conflict resolution.
 - Office of Equity and Access reports to the Chief Deputy
 - Currently government relations do not report to the Chief Deputy.

Braden explained the current environment that we're in as "very dynamic" as it relates to the freezing of 3 trillion dollars of federal funding, restraining orders, and lawsuits. He offered the possibility that these actions of the federal government are designed to create log jams. Braden went on to explain that the current U.S. President's wide margin over his opponent in Suffolk County suggests that there may be support in our area for his executive orders.

David asked "are we starting to think about how we will think long term about how this might affect faculty/staff if these funds are permanently suspended."

Braden reassured us that they are indeed working to ensure the welfare of our faculty and staff and right now due to the restraining order, there is not an immediate need to create detailed contingency plans.

Pam informed Braden about how the Chancellor is well positioned to defend faculty at our University and Braden agreed. Pam questioned if our Chancellor would be a target of Donald Trump due to his previous work in the Obama administration.

Pam also brought up that the Provost met with the senate executive committee and suggested early retirement as a possible remedy to a lack in grant funding. Braden reminded us that this is the first year that they are able to financially support newer tenure and tenure-track positions. Braden stressed that enrollment is back up, so we need to add more faculty to keep a low student to faculty ratio.

Alex asked Braden for areas where the University Affairs committee could be the most helpful in interviewing

Braden recommended we meet with Scott Barrett (interim Vice President of Advancement) and Shawn Heilbron (Director of Athletics).

Braden stated that the major thing that SBU needs to do is to “figure out what it means to be a flagship university, and what that means to the state who never had a flagship before.”