

**Queensborough Community College
Academic Senate**

To: Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee
From: Susan Jacobowitz, University Faculty Senator from QCC
Date: September 28, 2005
Re: Summary of UFS Plenary of 9-27-05

University Faculty Senate Plenary Session: 27 September 2005

- 1) The agenda was approved.
- 2) The minutes of the previous plenary session were approved.
- 3) Professor Bernard Sohmer was honored with University Faculty Senator Emeritus status.

4) Chancellor Matthew Goldstein spoke. He is planning to propose the CUNY Master Plan. He explained that there hasn't been investment in CUNY beyond refurbishing. CUNY receives two billion dollars a year which is a small sum for a university of this size and stature. He is obligated by state law to write a Master Plan that covers a 4-5 year period and present it to the Governor and Board of Regents for review and approval. But the plan sits on shelves in offices and is never funded. It's an arduous process to get the best ideas but it's never been funded except in the area of mandatory costs. Chancellor Goldstein feels that we need half a billion dollars over four years to be fully funded. He wants to bifurcate – the mandatory \$300,000,000 of the 500,000,000 is essentially dominated by (1) collective bargaining; (2) benefits; and (3) energy costs. Everyone is concerned that energy costs will be on the rise for the obvious reasons.

The other \$ 200,000,000 would be the true investment that we're asking the State of New York to embrace. It would cover the hiring of 800 faculty (in addition to the 900 who have been added since 1998) and would provide for student support and instrumentation. These are the services and people we need to grow.

Chancellor Goldstein explained that, every year, TAP is assaulted and then restored. Once TAP is restored, the legislature feels that CUNY and SUNY have been taken care of.

A plan is being proposed to raise the funding from a variety of sources:

1. the State of New York
2. philanthropy – develop this important revenue stream (\$1.2 billion target of which already 620,000,000 has been pledged)
3. try to address fixed and recurring costs
 - a. another early retirement initiative-ERI
 - b. blur boundaries separating disciplines – create new interdisciplinary departments
 - c. solicit a lot of ideas, re-think personnel practices, try and find creative ways to re-shape campuses
4. productivity and efficiency – continue centralized spending;
5. consider tuition hike of 3 to 5% per year while protecting our most vulnerable students. The funds raised by this method would remain on the local campus to be used in a manner supporting the Master Plan and decided upon by a group involving students as well as administrators and faculty. In this manner financial aid via TAP would be turned into operating aid.

5) Executive Vice Chancellor Selma Botman

The Vice Chancellor gave a presentation on a proposed CUNY Online Baccalaureate Program. Her presentation and the questions and comments that followed ran long, so Dean Steve Shepard's report was postponed.

With regard to the Online program, the idea is to encourage degree completion by establishing a degree program online. This would be in keeping with our educational mission. Ideas are being sought for how this could and should be done – it has to be participatory, courses need to be developed, we need to conceptualize the degree and it has to be up to the standards of other programs. There was a question about how to structure and where to house such a program – it is being proposed that the School of Professional Studies host the program. In the Fall of 2006, the first class will be admitted.

There was contentious questioning and many comments – some felt that this was presented as a fait accompli rather than a proposal and there are many concerns. The next plenary session will be devoted to discussion about this within the UFS.

6) Panel Presentation on Privacy at CUNY

There was a panel presentation on the issue of a Privacy Policy by Harold Sullivan, Philip Pecorino and a Stefan Baumrin. Many of us think that we have a right to privacy which apparently we don't have at the present time within CUNY. The discussion revolved around the issue of searches of computers, files and personal property. The panel needs feedback from faculty on what we feel we need in order to do the kinds of work that we do as faculty. We are a faculty rather than employees so some understanding/policy needs to be reached bearing that in mind. Right now there are no exclusions from searches in terms of locations or property kept on campus.