

November 2, 2009

From: Joel Kuszai, UFS Member/Queensborough Community College

To: Barbara Blake-Campbell, Secretary, QCC Senate Steering Committee
Emily Tai, Chairperson, QCC Senate Steering Committee

Att.

Report on the 346th UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, October 27, 2009

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. in Room 9204/05 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for October 27, 2009

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 22, 2009

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chair (Oral and Written)

The chair in brief remarks, the chair:

- Cited the written Chair's Report (see below).
- Mentioned the SUNY UFS plenary in Utica, describing SUNY faculty as "very concerned about the budget." A formal report is forthcoming.

Key topics in the Chair's written report included:

- The 2009 Fall UFS Conference "Funding Public Higher Education" has been rescheduled for Friday, December 11, 2009.
- UFS Faculty Experience Survey is now active.
- The Human [Subjects] Research Protections Program, which will regulate activities of CUNY IRB committees, goes to CUNY Trustees this month.
- The UFS has asked the University to outline preparations for H1N1.
- The UFS has asked the university to examine its implementation of the Workplace Violence Policy.
- The UFS Faculty Advisory Council to the Research Foundation as met with RF President Rothbard and VC Small to discuss formal training in research ethics, now demanded by federal research grants.
- The UFS Executive Committee is considering measures to strengthen CUNY's academic process, including: adding "good campus governance" to evaluation criteria in the CUNY Performance Management Process used to evaluate college presidents; encourage the University to do more to confirm academic qualifications of applicants and respond consistently and

appropriately when employees are discovered to be featuring non-accredited academic degrees.

- The Chancellor's Task Force on PSC-CUNY award process is expected to advocate significant restructuring of the grant program. The current proposal suggests a two-tier policy.
- CUNY Compacted-related efforts to increase tuition can be expected to continue. The NYS budget deficit is predicted to grow from \$2.1 billion in FY 2009 to \$4.6 billion in 2010 to \$13.3 billion in 2012.
- Planning continues for new community college, a School of Public Health (based at Hunter), and a doctoral-level School of Pharmacy (based at York).

B. Dean John Mogulescu on the New Community College Planning (oral) (6:35pm)

After an introduction by Manfred Philipp, University Dean John Mogulescu provided an update on the New Community College initiative before a panel from the UFS Executive Committee convened to respond. He was accompanied at the meeting by Tracey Meade, the Project Director, whom he acknowledged in his presentation. After his presentation, he took questions from Phil Pecorino, Sandi Cooper, Anne Friedman, and Lenore Beaky.

Key points in Dean Mogulescu's presentation:

- 18 months into the planning, with first year having been devoted to creating a planning team, writing and then circulating the Concept Paper.
- Truly surprised by the response to Concept Paper, both locally and nationally.
- Community Colleges a priority for the first time: Gates Foundation, Obama Administration and Mayor Bloomberg have all introduced initiatives directed at community colleges.
- Planning grants received: 560,000 from Gates Foundation, 300,000 from Carnegie Foundation, and 35,000 from Macy's Foundation, \$2 million from Mayor Bloomberg.
- Phase two is to encourage participation, volunteerism, committee work.
- In July 2009 committee structure was announced and 300 faculty and staff from across CUNY have since applied for committee work
- Seven committees have been established: to develop first year educational model, for facilities and technology, and others. For the full list he referred to the website. (See: <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/oaa/initiatives/ncc.html>.)
- Dean Mogulescu promised that faculty would be involved in shaping the governance plan, as well two important offices, the Office of Partnerships and the Center for Institutional Effectiveness.
- Phase two will also see the development of majors.
- Developing first-round hiring plan for foundational faculty, college leadership, as well as management positions to do the building of the college.
- One member from each community college sits on the steering committee.

- 13 working committees will largely determine whether the school opens in 2011 or 2012.
- Dean Mogulescu promised that CUNY faculty will be involved in planning.
- Closed by seeking support of faculty, encouraging direct contact, email, phone calls.

Panel Discussants: Phil Pecorino, Anne Friedman, Lenore Beaky, Sandi Cooper.

Questions raised by panelists included:

- Curriculum: limited majors, a program described as tightly designed, with no room for general knowledge
- Governance: department structure: will there be departments, P&B committees, and elected chairs?
- Applicability of findings, given unique admissions requirements.
- Academic freedom.

Key points raised in response to questions from the panel:

- The question of general education is an important one.
- This new design for the first-year experience will be something other than remediation.
- There may or may not be departments, department chairs, and P&B committees.
- Faculty committees will be involved in deciding whatever structure is adopted.
- There will be tenure-track faculty.
- This process is likely to unfold in the next two months.
- It will have open admissions.
- ASAP as one model.
- Academic freedom will be safeguarded.
- Stated: "Our intent is to see if we do things differently will we get a different result."

c. Vice Chancellor for Budget Ernesto Malave (oral) (7:35pm)

Vice Chancellor Malave spoke on the budget and the over-all financial health of the University.

Printed materials distributed by VC Malave included:

- Chancellor Goldstein's testimony to the NYS Senate Finance Committee on the impact of the Deficit Reduction Plan.
- Vol 3. No. 1 issue of Financial Disclosure, newsletter published by CUNY Office of Budget and Finance

- Press releases and summaries of Governor Patterson's Deficit Reduction Plan as well as NYS budget information.

Key topics raised by VC Malave's presentation:

- Had to raise tuition by 15% in order to raise the revenue to maintain the system.
- However, support from Albany offered some additional support for an investment program, which provided the means to add 200 full time faculty, as well as support for financial aid, counseling and veterans centers.
- Trustees have set aside 10 million for financial aid program to help students challenged by the increase in tuition.
- Textbook initiative: \$2 million for libraries to purchase textbooks, as well as other means to reduce the textbook burden at CUNY.
- Between junior and senior college, started off with \$53 million investment program.
- Governor Patterson has announced \$53 million budget reduction for senior colleges, worse than anticipated.
- SUNY is in a similarly difficult place, with dramatic differences between centers such Buffalo and Stony Brook and some of the smaller campuses.
- Community colleges are likely to see only slight budget reductions (\$4-5 million), and last year saw none at all.
- While CUNY has largely been spared, the future is uncertain at best.

D. Prof. Stan Altman, Interim President of Baruch College (oral) (7:50pm)

Speaking as a member of the faculty who has transitioned to a position of leadership, Stan Altman, Interim President of Baruch College made a presentation to the UFS. His main points are as follows:

- Appropriate for a member of the faculty to be running an institution.
- Special responsibility. Faculty rarely invited to the table to discuss the strategic issues and as a result insight into what's really going on gets lost. Faculty, once at the table, must have a broader perspective.
- How to maintain strong and excellent institutions in an environment where we don't have all the resources we need?
- Faculty are the stewards, must work in partnerships. How do we (faculty) become a partner in the institution?
- There is a need for trust in collaboration. His examples were taken from his own career at Baruch and previously at Stony Brook.

E. Representatives to Board Committees (written)

IV. New Business

Maria Perez Gonzalez, Chair of the Senate at Brooklyn College, was given an award as faculty governance leader.

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp urged everyone to help raise the response rate to the UFS Faculty Experience Survey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Joel Kuszai
UFS Member/Queensborough Community