

December 18, 2010

**From:** Linda Meltzer, 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 355<sup>th</sup> UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, December 14, 2010**

UFS Chair Sandi Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. in Room 9204/05/06 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

**I. Approval of the Agenda for December 14, 2010.**

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of November 16, 2010.**

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

**III. Resolution to Honor the Late Bernard Sohmer was distributed.**

The University Faculty Senate, saddened by the death of its former chair, Professor Bernard Sohmer (1998-2002), expressed its deep appreciation for the decades of his devoted service to the City University.

As Chair of the University Faculty Senate, he was a vigorous and tireless voice for the City University's faculty and students, and an articulate and incisive spokesman for our multiple missions and our responsibility as a public university.

When Chair of the UFS, he discharged with grace and success the difficult task of representing the faculty when the City University was under attack by city and state politicians.

At CCNY as a classroom instructor in Mathematics, a faculty Senate Chair, and as a Dean during some of the college's most difficult transitional periods, Bernie remained cool and thoughtful, a wry and wise voice rising above the clamor of dissension.

We mourn his passing, and we miss his friendship and the presence of his wise counsel which continued for the years after he left the Senate chair until his death.

We urge unanimous endorsement of this resolution, the re-endorsement of the Resolution of appreciation for Dr. Bernard Sohmer from 2002 and a period of silence to mark our regret.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously, followed by a moment of silence.

**IV. Surprise Guest Speaker Chancellor, City University of New York, Matthew Goldstein.**

- Chancellor Goldstein expressed appreciation for the unanimous resolution. Chancellor Goldstein made brief comments on the continued difficult fiscal

climate in Albany, expecting a rough ride to continue in the next two years. He pointed to the incoming Cuomo Administration as one reason for optimism. Chancellor Goldstein will be making two major speeches on “Financing Higher education in the coming two months.

- He then addressed a few questions from the UFS related to the new Community College in Manhattan, proportionality of Fulltime faculty to Parttime faculty there and in the upcoming tough times and in relationship to long term goals previously stated of 70:30 of fulltime faculty to parttime or adjunct faculty. Chancellor Goldstein remains steadfast to previous stated goals but recognizing the tough financial environment will dictate part time hires likely to outpace near term hires.
- Chancellor Goldstein addressed Stuyvesant Town Housing as of potential interest based on the ability to get favorable tax benefits.

**V. Invited Guests, Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra Logue and Associate University Provost Julia Wrigley discussed the report “Improving Student Transfer at CUNY.”**

EVC Logue highlighted some of the key findings of the report:

- Among key issues is whether a course gets credit upon transfer. At CUNY, it has been determined on a course matching system where if a student takes a course at one CUNY college and transfers to another CUNY college and that course is not taught, no credit will be given.
- The issue arises when a student doesn't have its full AA or AS degree at a CUNY Community College, and is short one course as to whether credit is given. There is no problem if the student has received their two year degree.
- Executive Vice Chancellor Logue addressed the different types of transfers within the CUNY system: students from junior colleges to senior colleges, and even students from senior colleges to junior colleges.
- CUNY, through its report, are studying ways to change the transfer process to more easily count all credits so that students can move more freely, subject to Admissions policy.
- Students as well as faculty advisors should know what the requirements are but the current system is a challenge.
- This is an important topic in the NY Assembly as the chair of the Higher Education committee asked about CUNY Transfers, compared CUNY system to other schools in other states.
- According to the report addressed by Logue, our system is in part responsible for our students graduating with excess credits, higher costs for students, longer time to graduate and impactful to TAP as well.
- Change in the Transfer Process in the embryonic stage and campuses and faculties should decide on framework, look to other states.
- Wants “College Now’ to be aligned with this and hope to have high school students have greater remediation at the high school level and paid for by the Department of Education.
- EVC Logue said about one third of AA/AS students transfer, and not necessarily with the best 60 credits to enter a senior college.

**VI Vice Chair Terrence Martell Provided a Response from the Executive Committee. QCC Emily Tai, of the Executive Committee added own comments.**

Vice Chair acknowledged the need for improving the student transfer program but wants a systematic review supported by facts. Martell found in parts that the data provided by the above-mentioned report is not supported well. His main challenges:

- Vice Chancellor Martell questioned the total cost of excess costs which he believes is inflated by several notable areas such as first time freshman who may not yet be in the transfer pool.
- Also, there are questions as to why a student has excess credits which could be due to a variety of factors (eg. Changing a major, bringing up their GPA) not fully dealt with in the report.
- Higher graduation rates are correlated with higher credit rates.
- Bottomline, more analysis is needed.

**Emily Tai, Queensborough CC, Executive Committee** spoke of findings of QCC compared to SUNY and Georgia college, in her review of their learning goals and outcomes, finding equally disquieting difficulties to trace credit requirements.

## **VII. Reports**

### **a. Chair (Activities written)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. before addressing the last item of the agenda which was Progress Planning for February 4 Conference on Higher Education in the Prisons.