

Report to QCC Academic Senate re: UFS Plenary Meeting

DATE: 1 December 2015

TO: QCC Academic Senate

FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Todd Holden

SUBJECT:

**The 390th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University Of New York
The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue
Room 9204/5/6
Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda for December 1, 2015

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes for October 27, 2015

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

III. Invited Guests

A. Invited Guest: Chancellor James B. Milliken

The main points of Chancellor Milliken's presentation were:

- Although he stated he would not be discussing collective bargaining negotiations, he did say that the faculty are the backbone of the university and deserve a fair contract. He stated he met with the PSC today and more bargaining sessions are scheduled. He stated that the low offer recently presented represents CUNY's poor fiscal situation. He also stated that investing in the faculty currently at CUNY is the best use of a tuition increase.
- A CUNY-wide strategic planning process has begun. A framework to focus the planning will be coming out soon. Chancellor Milliken encouraged faculty comments and feedback through the steering committee (<http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/21stcenturycuny/steering-committee/>). The goal is to develop a master plan to act as an umbrella document to give a CUNY wide focus for campus level strategic plans.
- A 3.4 billion dollar Budget request was presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees at their last meeting. It includes a request to reauthorize the state's predictable tuition policy, no tuition increase at community colleges, up to \$300 per year tuition increase at senior colleges, and \$167 million additional funding for CUNY this year. He mentioned that since 1992 tuition at CUNY has been increasing while state aid has been decreasing, which is not rational for students. TAP and Pell grants are now included in budget calculations. He stated that CUNY offers an incredible return on investment and expressed his strong support for Maintenance of Effort legislation. Additional information is available at <http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2015/11/25/cuny-trustees-approve-budget-request->

[including-no-increase-in-community-college-tuition-for-2016-and-continuation-of-predictable-tuition-policy/](#)

- Online education legislation has been signed which allows better coordination and transfer of online credit with other institutions.
- The Maintenance of Effort bill was delivered to the governor on 12/1/2015 and he has 10 days to act on it. Chancellor Milliken expressed strong support and cautious optimism for this bill. He also stated that the impetus that brought this legislation this far bodes well for the future.

After the presentation, a number of questions came up, including:

- A question about lobbying alumni. Chancellor Milliken stated that he absolutely supports such efforts. He also opined that students would be the best lobbyists and distinguished alumni the second best.
- The possibility of making the winter session a separate term from spring to clear up student confusion when registering. Chancellor Milliken said he would look into this.
- A question about the current situation at the CUNY School of public health. Chancellor Milliken discussed efforts to try to improve the school, including having the Dean report directly to the Chancellor, strengthening the consortium, and creating a new graduate school in public health and health policy. Chancellor Milliken also said that current undergraduate programs would be kept at their current campuses.
- The possibility of scheduling a CUNY holiday on Veteran's Day was brought up. Chancellor Milliken said he would look into this.
- A request was made to have CUNY's budget for executive compensation reported separate from HEO salaries. Chancellor Milliken said he would look into this.
- A request was made for a consolidated CUNY financial statement. Chancellor Milliken said he would look into this.

B. Invited Guest: Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Vita Rabinowitz

Provost Rabinowitz's presentation primarily focused on CUNY-wide results of the COACHE Faculty Satisfaction Survey. The presentation will be posted at <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/FacultyAffairs/COACHE.html>. The major points were:

- This was a well-run survey and remarkable in several ways including:
 - It was the first to have community colleges included as well as senior colleges and professional schools.
 - We had a high response rate of 47% across all for CUNY.
 - All full-time faculty were surveyed.
 - All community colleges except Guttman were surveyed.
 - Every college has disseminated survey results (usually including the provost reports).
- A number of the items were gone over. Overall, the Graduate and Professional School faculty were much more satisfied than other faculty. Also senior college faculty tended to be a little less satisfied than community college faculty.
- The items CUNY faculty found best about the university included location, colleagues, and diversity.
- The items CUNY faculty found worst about the university included compensation, teaching load, and lack of support for research and creative work.

- Provost Rabinowitz expressed a desire to reduce the amount of time some associate professors spend before promotion to full professor, and to have significant milestones or other major recognition after promotion to full professor.
- Provost Rabinowitz stated that CUNY central would try to improve our situation by prioritizing a new contract, sharing COACHE results (via an office of academic affairs website and other means), and giving more recognition and support for faculty both centrally and at the colleges.

After the presentation, a number of questions came up, including:

- Is there a senior administration e-mail directory? It was stated that this should be available on the CUNY website (a list of senior administration phone numbers is available at <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration.html>).
- A question was asked about how useful workshops are as a means of faculty support. Provost Rabinowitz replied that workshops offered were of the highest quality, including NSF supported and honed workshops with follow-up included.
- Would CUNY survey adjuncts? Maybe, but since there is no COACHE for adjuncts, something else would need to be developed.
- To a question about too much workload and committee work being given to junior faculty, Provost Rabinowitz replied that campus provosts should set help Chairs to set the proper tone through orientations.
- To the question about our 27 hour workload, Provost Rabinowitz agreed that relief was needed.
- To a question about why CUNY does not have something similar to SUNY's distinguished Service Professors, Provost Rabinowitz replied that CUNY should better recognize our great teachers and citizens.

C. Invited Guest: Peter Knuepfer, Chair of SUNY University Faculty Senate

The main points of Dr. Knuepfer's presentation were:

- Advocacy played an important part in making the language about experiential learning in Gov. Cuomo's budget more reasonable.
- There are several new leaders in Albany who are listening to their colleagues. It was suggested that now would be a good time to reach out to our local legislators.
- Concerns about recent spates of intolerance on SUNY campuses were brought up.
- Dr. Knuepfer announced a joint CUNY/SUNY poster session at the legislature in Albany on Feb. 4, 2016.
- Dr. Knuepfer expressed a desire to improve LGBT faculty support.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.