

**Queensborough Community College  
Academic Senate**

To: Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee  
From: Susan Jacobowitz, UFS representative, for QCC  
Date: 1 February 2006  
Re: Items on University Faculty Senate Agenda Plenary Session

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**The 316<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate  
The City University of New York  
Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006, 6:00 p.m.**

**Approval of the agenda.** The agenda was approved.

**Approval of the Minutes of December 2005.** The minutes were approved.

**Old Business.** The Letter of Intent for the new online BA/BS degree in Communication and Culture had been distributed for review. It was felt that the problems with procedure and budget were very seriously. The Resolution on the Proposed Online BA in Communication and Culture that resolves that the University Faculty rejects the letter of intent was approved.

**Reports.**

**Chair.** Susan O'Malley gave an update on her activities, including her testimony with regard to CUNY funding the day before. She set the stage for the speakers who were scheduled to address the UFS.

**Chancellor Goldstein.** Governor Pataki has recommended a budget. In general, this is the strongest chance for CUNY. There are problems at the dollar level but there is a high likelihood of their being remediated. We're starting with a substantial increase, which is rare. CUNY is well-positioned and held in high esteem. There is a great sense of optimism and hope for resources. It will be a busy spring; three presidents are up for review, at BMCC, Hunter and CCNY. There are positions to fill: Dean of Honors College, Black Male Initiative and a number of others. There is a panel of distinguished visitors making recommendations on doctoral education in the sciences. In order to attract the best students, CUNY wants to be able to provide support in the form of a good financial package. Chancellor Goldstein wants to see campuses empowered with degree-granting authority. The consortial model remains important. The structural biology center will be a model for higher education today. CUNY is at the forefront in developing the model. Chancellor Goldstein stressed once again the importance of working collaboratively, across disciplines. He would like to see this change in the traditional structure. Questions for Chancellor Goldstein included a follow-up on Dean Steve Shepherd's presentation on the new graduate degree in journalism, one about continuing

support for sciences education and one about whether or not workloads at senior colleges are comparable.

**Vice Chancellor Fredrick P. Schaffer.** VP Schaffer spoke on the Perez decision, saying that most things are already in place in support of the Open Meetings law. Governance plans should be amended so that alternates are in place – some legislative bodies have trouble achieving a quorum. Even with a quorum, a few negative votes can block a resolution or some change that might be considered needed by the majority – under those circumstances, he believes that Presidents can take requests directly the Board of Trustees. Because of the Freedom of Information law, final votes have to be recorded and attributable but the record doesn't have to be in the meeting minutes as long as it is available somewhere, upon request. A “closed ballot” can replace the “secret ballot.” People can vote privately, on a piece of paper, as long as the voter is identified. The results can be tabulated in private and a list of who voted and how an individual voted created. Again, the specifics of the vote don't have to be published in the minutes of the meeting as long as they are held somewhere as part of the permanent record, available upon request. VP Schaffer stressed that it is the legislative nature of senate-like bodies that makes them subject to the Open Meetings law. There were questions about the lack of transparency and perhaps accountability with regard to P&Bs but there is nothing in this decision that would suggest that P&Bs should not operate as they have historically.

**Vice Chancellor for Budget Ernesto Malave.** VP Malave spoke about the State Budget. It looks as if the idea of the compact has worked and that the state has finally been enticed to come up with real funds. There is a feeling of optimism. The two proposals from the legislature that concern us have to do with the idea that TAP should be pre-financed for GED recipients. If they complete 24 credits, it will be reimbursed. Some feel that this might prove problematic for us but it is an attempt to address the problem with proprietary colleges like Interboro using up TAP funds and leaving students without opportunities. There is also talk about changing full-time from 12 credits to 15 credits. This would be a hardship for our students since so many of them work so many hours; it's potentially illegal and it looks like the Governor will remove this as a provision. The basic good news is that we start with increases, particularly for the senior colleges.

**New Business.** The Resolution on the Consortial Nature of the Natural Science Doctoral Programs in CUNY was postponed because we no longer had a quorum. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Jacobowitz  
February 1, 2006