

**Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York**

Academic Senate

To: Dr. Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee
From: Dr. Rosemary Iconis, UFS representative, for QCC
Date: 17 May 2006

**The 320th Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate
The City University of New York
Tuesday, May 16th, 2006, 6:30 p.m.**

Approval of the agenda. The agenda was amended.

- A. An officer of the Executive Board represented the UFS in expressing our gratitude to outgoing chair, Susan O'Malley, for her years of service.
- B. New members of the UFS were introduced.

Election of New Officers. Possible changes in balloting as a result of the Perez decision were discussed. The only contested election was for the candidates-at-large. The Executive Board proposed beginning with an unofficial straw ballot to afford the three individuals with the fewest votes the opportunity to withdraw. Questions regarding the purpose and legality were addressed. A count was taken and the body chose to proceed, instead, with the election.

Ballots were filled out and collected for all unopposed nominees: Chair (M. Philippi); Vice-Chair (L. Beaky); Secretary (M. Bell); and Treasurer (K. Kaplowitz).

Nominations to Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee were made. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Each of the eight candidates gave a two minute address to the body.

While ballots were being tabulated, Tolga Morowski of Brooklyn College read a resolution stating that the faculty at Brooklyn College deplores the censorship of student art work by the College's Administration.

Administrator, Charles Tobin, Professor of Art, Mona Hagler, and Graduate Student Zoe Cohen each spoke to the UFS. As described by Professor Hagler and Ms. Cohen, following the opening of the show, the Commissioner of Parks in Brooklyn felt that some of the works should be censored and the administration agreed to close the show. The students were not permitted to negotiate with the administration. The gate to the exhibit was locked -- no one could enter. The college moved the art work to another facility.

Charles Tobin acknowledged that some art work was, in fact, damaged and that Brooklyn College could have handled the situation much better.

The UFS was asked to support the resolution against censorship. Philip Pecorino added that it was an issue of academic freedom as well as First Amendment Rights. The UFS unanimously agreed to support the resolution.

Results of the voting for the five Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee were given. They are as follows: Baumrin (50); Bird (36); Cooper (60); Friedman (54); Harris-Hostick (42); Levine (47); Martell (34); Pecorino (53).

A report from the Academic Policy Committee was given. In the Fall, they will study initiatives in undergraduate education at CUNY.

Susan O'Malley gave a farewell address. She feels that there are too many administrative directives made without faculty input and that the hierarchical and corporate model that exists at CUNY is very unfortunate.