

From: Aránzazu Borrachero, 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 352nd UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, September 21, 2010

UFS Chair Sandy Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda for September 21, 2010

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2010

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

<http://tinyurl.com/2uq48rt>

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report (oral and written)

Research grants. The PSC Research Grant Program has been modified. The final decision on its current form was achieved after negotiations between the union and the CUNY administration. It will function as a pilot project and will be changed according to the results achieved. There will be a reduction of panels to 18 and a collapse of disciplines. The application due-date has been postponed until January. There is now the possibility of receiving larger grants (up to \$12000). Each campus should notify the faculty of these changes in detail through their pertinent offices.

Higher education in prisons. Prof. Emily Tai has been working on the initiative. There will be a conference in February on the topic. Finding adequate funding is a priority.

Multiple-position policy proposal. The Provost is pushing for a change in this policy in order to increase the statistics of full-time faculty teaching on campus.

B. Representatives to Board Committees – Fiscal Affairs [<http://tinyurl.com/3ybdxp9>]

A summary of the Recent Board of Trustee Committee Meetings has been distributed to senators, who are all encouraged to read and listen to Chair Benno Schmidt's reaction to the troubling budget presentation by Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget/Finance/Financial Policy Marc Shaw, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matt Sapienza.

The senators are also encouraged to take an active role in finding out what is going to happen with budget decisions in their colleges. Faculty must be part of the process of budget adjustments.

IV. Invited Guests

A. Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer, on E-discovery and other University policies.

Mr. Schaffer summarized the content of an e-mail message sent to CUNY last spring. The document pertains to the retention and disclosure of information in relation to litigation: once a CUNY member receives notice of litigation, s/he must suspend all deletion of documents from computers in the workplace. Basically, the same principles used with hardcopies of documents apply to computer documents. In the event of a litigation hold-notice, there is an IT designee in every campus who will work with the campus' legal person to ensure proper compliance of the policy. If any documents are destroyed, the sanctions may be very severe, and the College will be held accountable.

B. Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget/Finance/Financial Policy Marc Shaw and Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matt Sapienza, on CUNY's Budget.

Marc Shaw reported that there are serious concerns about the future of funding for CUNY. In Albany, the focus right now is the multimillion deficit, and discussions center around where to cut funds. CUNY must be prepared for the new governor cuts, as new governors prefer to implement budget reductions at the beginning of their legislature rather than closer to reelection time.

Matt Sapienza reported that the state budget was enacted in August (when it should have been enacted in April). Senior colleges will suffer the impact of a budget reduction of 84.4 million dollars. Community colleges will experience a 20 million dollar budget reduction. A tuition increase of 2 percent has also been approved for the future. TAP, childcare funds, and other important programs are also going to suffer. For TAP, there was an attempt to increase the number of credits required of recipients from 12 to 15, and this was supposed to be retroactive. This proposal, however, was put on hold and not implemented this year.

Senior colleges, in the past, were able to sustain momentum because they had sufficient revenues, but now they will have to make some hard decisions. A concern for community colleges is that state-aid has been partially generated from Pres. Obama's stimulus program. If this stimulus discontinues, then Community Colleges will face an additional reduction in their budgets. Mr. Sapienza also informed the senators that the mayor had just issued a mid-year budget reduction for all city agencies (5.5% this year and 8% next year).

C. Susan O'Malley, President, CUNY Academy for Humanities and Sciences.

The Academy is devoted to enhancing scholarship and research. They dispense travel funds such as the Stewart Travel Award, and receive money from the Office of Academic Affairs, among other donors. The heart of the Academy is the seminars that the Academy organizes and presents. Faculty, however, may also sponsor talks. There are 80 Academy members, but the Academy would like to have 100. Senators are encouraged to disseminate the Academy information and to invite faculty in their colleges to participate.

V. Approval of UFS Standing Committee Slate [<http://tinyurl.com/3248fwu>]

Approved by voice vote.

VI. New Business.

A. Resolution in Memory of Martha J. Bell [<http://tinyurl.com/3a7k7on>].

The resolution, which includes funds set to her memory, was introduced and distributed to senators. A motion for its acceptance was voted by acclamation. Copies of the resolution will be sent to Prof. Bell's survivors.

B. Resolution on Federal Support of For-Profit Universities

[<http://tinyurl.com/367wby2>]

Incidents of fraudulent dealings with Pell and other grants have been taped and are under investigation by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the US Senate. Because a significant amount of public funding is allocated to these corporative institutions, Chair Cooper has started a campaign and has written a letter to Sen. Harkin, Chair of the Senate Committee, in support of such investigation.

The resolution was unanimously approved and will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

C. 2009/2010 Annual Report of the Libraries & Information Technology Committee [<http://tinyurl.com/34gm7cu>]

The charges of the Committee for this year are the revision of library policies with special attention to technology, and a resolution regarding open access.

D. Faculty survey.

With relation to the CUNY wide faculty survey completed during 2009-2010, the senators were advised to pay close attention to the actions of their respective colleges regarding results: what changes are colleges addressing or not addressing?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.