

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

I. Approval of the Agenda for March 31, 2009

The agenda was approved by voice vote

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 3, 2008

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chair (Oral & Written)

Chair Manfred Philipp's oral and written report touched on the following issues:

- The Budget Crisis
- Lobby New York State and New York City legislators and executives
- Blackboard
- The Spring Conference, which is presently scheduled for May 8th
- The new Community College in Manhattan
- Student retention data
- The Joint Resolution on the PSC-CUNY Research Awards
- CUNY School of Advanced Science Research Center
- CUNY School of Pharmacy
- CUNY School of Public Health
- UFS Faculty Experience Survey

B. Executive Vice Chancellor Allan Dobrin & Chief Information Officer Brian Cohen, 6:30 pm

Executive Vice Chancellor Dobrin reported that there are three working groups presently considering ways to ensure the financial solvency of CUNY. These groups are looking at three ways of dealing with the current financial environment:

1. Monetizing CUNY Assets
2. A review of all budget line items at the micro-level. Non-core programs like College Now would, if necessary, be eliminated before cuts are made to core programs (faculty and student support).
3. Rules Changes: A review of policies that could lead to cost savings.

Chief Information Officer Brian Cohen reviewed the problems the entire CUNY community faced with Blackboard and other web programs this past semester. Mr. Cohen blamed the failures on hardware failures at the CUNY data center and lack of adequate vendor support once the problems arose.

CUNY has put into place short-term, mid-term, and long-term Disaster Recover programs. A back-up data center is presently being established in Syracuse, NY. Mr. Cohen, however, warned that the Disaster Recovery (DR) program would not protect the data from software problems, as restoring data from the back-up would still be vulnerable to the same software issues.

Mr. Cohen said he was looking for suggestions from the colleges on how they are planning to deal with future breakdowns of Blackboard.

C. Representatives of the Board Committees

The Committee on Presidential Transition reported on the recent and sudden retirement of Brooklyn College president, Christoph M. Kimmich. Concerns about the guidelines being circumvented were expressed.

IV, Nominations for the Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee

The following UFS Senators were nominated for the position of member-at-large of the Executive Committee:

Nominee	Institution
Terrence Martell	Baruch College
Ann Friedman	Borough Of Manhattan Community College
Leslie Jacobson	Brooklyn College
Rishi Raj	City College of New York
Sandy Cohen	College of Staten Island
Stefan Baumrin	CUNY Graduate Center
Michael Barnhart	Kingsborough Community College
Philipp Pecorino	Queensborough Community College

V. Joint Resolution Concerning the PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program

The Joint Resolution Concerning the PSC-CUNY Research Awards put forward by the UFS Research Committee and the University Committee of Research Awards was approved by voice vote. This resolution called the chancellor's taskforce an inappropriate body to alter the present arrangement and called for it to be disbanded.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm