

DATE:
TO: QCC Academic Senate
FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS
SUBJECT:

**The 371st Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate of
The City University Of New York
Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in Room 9204/05 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for December 4, 2012

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 6, 2012

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote

II. Reports

A. Invited Guest, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein (6:30 pm)

1. Hurricane Sandy

- Effects and damage: 4 CUNY students lost their lives, 5 campuses, lost power, three of them sustained substantial damage. 7,700 students and 1200 staff are located in Zone A (flood zone)
- Rescue and volunteer efforts: Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund (CUNY-organized), CUNY volunteers in affected areas, availability of the vacation donation bank, CUNY faculty and staff lend their expertise to relief and rebuilding efforts.

2. Chancellor's activities and projects

- NYC Regional Development Council
- New NY Education Reform Commission
- STEM conference planned in collaboration with U.S. News and World Report and the Daily News in order to address the lack of students (esp. students from underrepresented groups) choosing STEM as their major field
- New CUNY community college

3. Pathways

- Chancellor's comment on CUNY faculty's stance toward Pathways: "My view is that the rule of law stipulates that when the governing board of a university creates a policy, then that is the policy of the university. As the CEO of this university, I have the obligation to carry out the policies of the board. What distresses me: you are saying 'we relinquish our right to have a seat at the table.' You say you do not want to play."
- After Chancellor's report, 10 minutes reserved for questions and answers. Some of the questions raised:
 - The CUNY Graduate Center is hiring new faculty while also restricting the number of new student admissions. A very

limited number of CUNY faculty are GC faculty. How will CUNY senior colleges attract top-ranked faculty if these faculty members are not given the opportunity to work with graduate students? The Chancellor responded that CUNY intends to hire new faculty across all colleges and all faculties. The Graduate School will hire faculty from outside CUNY.

- When the UFS and the PCS agreed to the reduction of total B. A. credits from 128 to 120 credits, it was with the explicit condition that faculty governance be recognized and respected. The Chancellor countered that the Pathways process has been most inclusive of faculty participation. If faculty “don’t want to do it” (e.g., participate in Pathways) “we’re going to by-pass the Senates, we’re going to get Pathways done.” Pathways will be implemented in September 2013. Modifications will be possible once Pathways has been reviewed and assessed.
- How will Pathways insure the scientific literacy of non-STEM students? The learning outcomes for science are laboratory course outcomes. Vice Chancellor Logue has e-mailed the campuses. Additional class time will be provided. “Three credits” is the amount of time the instructor spends with the whole class at one time. 6 credits of science are divided between Required Core and Flexible Core. It is possible to link two 3-credit courses.
- From Medgar Evers College: 1) ME did not pass any courses for Pathways. 2) When will the evaluation of ME administration be completed? Chancellor: I have not received that report. If there are remedies necessary, they will be done no later than Spring 2013.
- Faculty do want to participate in Pathways, but the process has to be meaningful. So far, anything initiated or contributed by the faculty has not been received by the CUNY administration. We are concerned about the skills gaps of students graduating from CUNY. In industry, students need foreign language skills, analytic ability, speech ability. Pathways neglects these areas. Chancellor: Pathways is a framework which we created. Many states have gone through similar changes by-passing all faculty governance, the changes were instituted by the governor or legislators. Pathways is “very much faculty-directed.”
- Viability of the Graduate School. Recent years have seen 2% per year enrollment growth in the colleges. What will happen when enrollments begin to decline in the senior colleges? Chancellor: Enrollment will depend on the feeder institutions. We allocated capital for the science programs at the GC. If the number of students admitted needs to be restricted, so be it.

B. Chair's Report

The questions to the Chancellor concerning the Graduate Center and concerning science education are important. The Chancellor should know that the UFS is aware of what is going on in these two areas.

The GC has been asked not to send up anymore new faculty names for appointment to the GC. A smaller number of students are being admitted, each admitted student will be fully funded. The CUNY administration may be attempting to transform the GC into a graduate school without consortial faculty. What does this development mean for faculty in the humanities across all CUNY campuses?

UFS and PSC have launched a national petition opposing CUNY Pathways.

Baruch College has submitted 30-50 courses to Pathways, none of which have gone through governance. Baruch students have initiated a petition opposing Pathways.

The chair's recommendation: let the administration do what it has to do, we will do what we have to do.

Questions and comments:

If the Chancellor is concerned about the rule of law, why does he not think that the actions of the Curriculum Committees on the campuses must be ratified by the Academic Senates?

At BMCC, moratorium on Pathways passed 50-16-2. The Academic Senate will not act on Pathways before the review has taken place.

Hostos CC: Pathways courses were not passed. Nevertheless, the President forwarded the courses.

Prof. Pecorino (QCC): Pathways policies have been in place long enough, it is time for a review.

C. Motion to put up for vote the following resolution:

Resolution Calling for a Review of and Moratorium on Pathways

Whereas, the CUNY faculty is committed to providing our students with an excellent education, and

Whereas, the University Faculty Senate has expressed its objections to both the process and substance of the Pathways curriculum many times, both formally and informally, both in writing and orally, and

Whereas, as the implementation of Pathways has progressed to each subsequent stage, the flaws of the Pathways curriculum have emerged more and more clearly to the faculty who will be teaching these courses and approving degree candidates, faculty

who have spent their professional lives and careers devoted to the education of our students, and

Whereas, faculty members have created courses under protest and in the context of coercion and because of the necessity of providing new courses for their students, and

Whereas, certain curricular problems have been identified at campus after campus, specifically the need for modification of the numbers of contact hours for courses in certain disciplines and the number of credits overall, and

Whereas, faculty at several campuses have declined to act to approve courses proposed by their own colleagues because of these curricular problems, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees Resolution of June 2011 which established Pathways calls for "all of these pathways policies and processes, including the Common Core, be reviewed and evaluated each year for three years beginning in 2013, and every three years thereafter, to modify them as necessary to improve them or to meet changing needs,"

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate calls upon the Chancellery to begin the required review in January 2013 and conduct this review in consultation with the University Faculty Senate, and

Be it further Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate calls for a moratorium by the Chancellery on all further implementation of Pathways until this initial and collaborative review is concluded.

Motion passed, 62-3-2.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

D. Diversity Action Plan (summary by Prof. Kay Conway)

IV. Nominations for and Election of Officers and Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee

A. For Officer

1. **Chair:** Terrence Martell (Finance, Baruch College)
2. **Vice Chair:** Karen Kaplowitz (English, John Jay College of Criminal Justice)
3. **Secretary:** Anne Friedman (Developmental Skills, BMSS)
4. **Treasurer:** Philip Pecorino (Social Sciences, Queensborough Community College)

The above-mentioned candidates were elected.

B. For Members-at-Large (10 nominees for five vacancies)

1. Kathleen Barker (Psychology, Medgar Evers)
2. Stefan Baumrin (Philosophy, Graduate School)
3. Virgena Bernard (Nursing and AH Sciences, Bronx Community College)
4. Roberta Brody (Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Queens)
5. Kay Conway (Business Management, BMCC)
6. Síocháin Hughes (Art, Hunter)
7. Mojubaolu Okome (Political Science, Brooklyn)
8. Emily Tai (History, Queensborough Community College)
9. Mike Vozick (Science, BMCC)
10. Jay Weiser (Law, Baruch)

The following candidates were elected:

- 1.

V. New Business

A.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Volchok, PhD