

Report to QCC Academic Senate re UFS Plenary Meeting

DATE: October 9, 2012

TO: QCC Academic Senate

FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Indra Avens

SUBJECT:

The 369th Plenary Session of The University Faculty Senate of The City University Of New York Tuesday, October 9, 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 October 9, 2012

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 4, 2012

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

II. Reports

A. Chair Terrence Martell –

The executive Committee of the UFS has decided to focus on four of the 45 projects listed by the Office of Academic Affairs of CUNY Central on its website as projects the UFS should monitor closely:

- a) project to develop and implement productivity measures for CUNY; review existing productivity measures across the nation, institute pilot programs in at least four CUNY colleges.
- b) project to assess curricular programs; 'close the loop' on Academic program reviews; plan for 50 new programs a year; review of proposed programs.
- c) project to increase online and hybrid courses; design appropriate and accurate metrics in terms of FTEs; extend seminars, institute more online courses and degrees, create an online General Education curriculum.
- d) project to create CUNY-wide guidelines for assessment of CUNY General Education courses.

Karen Kaplowitz invited UFS members to go to the UFS site to add to the list of OAA projects members think should be monitored. Vice-Chancellor Logue has agreed to meet with the UFS Executive Committee. The goal is to develop a protocol for faculty participation in these and other OAA projects.

B. Guest, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Ronald Spalter and University Director of Sustainability Tria Case, on Energy and Sustainability at CUNY (with slides) –

Facts: CUNY represents 1% of total electricity usage in NYC, and 10% of government usage of electricity in the city. CUNY has 30 million sq. ft. of space. 42% of electricity use goes for lighting.

Energy used to be a non-controllable expense. Starting July 1, 2012, the energy budget for senior colleges has been set at \$66 million. Incentive: if energy is saved, colleges get to keep the remainder, and use it for their own needs on campus.

Water usage is also a pressing issue. In 2020, there will be 50% less water for NYC for 8 ½ months.

The CUNY Sustainability Project has been created to address present and future need to conserve energy. Each campus devises its own strategies, for ex., at Baruch College “Take It With You” campaign is an effort to re-configure the waste stream. Other projects: Clean Tech Collaborative, Con Ed Scholars. CUNY Sustainability Project is a model for the city. The same processes will be adopted by other organizations. CUNY is committed to Plan NYC to reduce energy use by 30% by 2017.

CUNY ‘owns’ solar power in NYC, e.g., CUNY Faculty represent a concentration of expertise on solar power. CUNY has had 1000% increase in use of solar power. NYC solar map is available at nycsolar.com

College of Staten Island utilizes LED lights, or ‘digital light’.

CUNY ventures—an analytic tool to find out what is on the grid at any given moment. Partnering with Con Ed. Federal Dept. of Energy is a client. Information systems make data transparent, our energy consumption becomes public information.

CUNY campuses are considering partnering with solar companies: BMCC, LaGCC.

C. Representatives to Board Committees (oral) –

Kay Conway, UFS Executive Committee, UFS representative to CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS) governing council -

- a) First meeting to draft a Letter of Intent in order to establish B.A. in Urban Affairs. Sandi Cooper noted that from the SPS point of view, the more courses and programs go online, the better. UFS has three delegates on the SPS governing council.
- b) Announced “Budget Workshop” of the Community College Caucus, scheduled for Friday, November 2, 2012, CUNY Bldg, West 41st Street. (*Note: this Budget Workshop was cancelled, due to Hurricane Sandy, with a rescheduled date TBA.*)
- c) Announced evening social for UFS senators from the community colleges, to be held at Kay Conway’s home, Monday, October 22nd, 2012.

D. Reports on Pathways (oral)

Terence Martell – UFS has been researching causes of “excess credits” and their true cost, and if it is a transfer issue or if there are other reasons why students accrue excess credits. In a good number of cases, students accrue excess credits by their own choice (e.g., due to change in major, curiosity).

Fact: students entering CUNY as first-time freshmen on average accrue 7 excess credits, while students entering as transfer students accrue an average of only 2.67 excess credits. These statistics show it is not unreasonable to question whether the issue of excess credits is a transfer issue at all. Yet the June 2011 BOT resolution instituting pathways is entitled: “Facilitating Transfer.”

More information will be available at the UFS Conference October 12, 2012. The chair urged faculty to vote their conscience in departmental and curriculum committee votes on Pathways.

Emily Tai: on resolutions voted Oct 9, 2012 by QCC Academic Senate
PSC resolution

Anne Friedman on English Composition courses 3 credits, 4 hours: BMCC, QCC, LaGCC, Bronx CC are all being supported, and urged to stand firm.

Francis Roux on English dept situation at Kingsborough

Phil Pecorino on Pathways as an assault on our professional identity, as well as on our intelligence and integrity

Rosalind Carey: Academic Freedom Committee is drafting a statement on academic freedom in relation to pathways (Now available at

<http://cunyufs.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2012/11/faculty-to-determine-curriculum-without-reprisal/>)

Sandi Cooper: where is AAUP investigation concerning Pathways? Does it have to wait for the lawsuit?

Stefan Baumrin: AAUP Committee on Governance has to meet to authorize an investigation

IV. New Business

A. Standing Committee Memberships slate was approved.

B. William Phipps on information sources for Pathways information.

--CUNY website

--CUNY Portal – Chancellor’s reports – Personnel – Financial

--Old UFS website

--New UFS website/*The Senate Digest* blog

--UFS-FGL listserv

Standing Committee Meetings: Committee on Academic Freedom, 5 pm
Committee on Status of the Faculty, 5.30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Indra Avens