

DATE: September 4, 2012
TO: QCC Academic Senate
FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Indra Avens
SUBJECT:

**The 368th Plenary Session of The University Faculty Senate of
The City University Of New York
Tuesday, September 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 September 4, 2012

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of May 16, 2012

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

II. Reports

A. Chair Terrence Martell – Chair Martell reported that during Summer 2012 he met with Executive Vice-Chancellor Allan Dobrin; Executive Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer; and other CUNY officials. As the new leader of the UFS, Martell tried to stress the University Faculty Senate’s readiness to build bridges and work together with the CUNY administration and make the best of a difficult budgetary situation, but also emphasized that Pathways is a separate issue. At all meetings, CUNY administrative leaders appeared ‘neutral at best’.

In August, the second UFS lawsuit was filed, alleging CUNY’s violation of the Open Meetings Law and procedural process law. The CUNY response to the suit is due in October, and the UFS reply to that response is due in November.

The first lawsuit is now before the judge. CUNY administration has filed a motion to dismiss, and we are awaiting the judge’s decision on that motion.

The Chair announced the establishment of three new subcommittees:

- a) Subcommittee on Technology (Phil Pecorino, Jay Weiser, Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome) to examine how technology affects how we teach and conduct research. Briefly: “How is what we do impacted by what they do?”
- b) Subcommittee on Communication (Karen Kaplowitz, Emily Tai, Jay Weiser), to examine how the UFS Executive Committee communicates with the faculty and beyond;
- c) Subcommittee on Enrollment (Kathleen Barker, Michael Barnhart, Katherine Conway), to examine enrollment management issues, e.g., the proportion of undergraduate to graduate students, transfer to non-transfer students, in-state to out-of-state students.

Both the UFS and the PSC are meeting to look for alternative ways of dealing with intra-CUNY transfer issues. Neither body is satisfied with the data presented so far by the CUNY administration.

At the UFS Conference planned for October 12, 2012, three working groups will present the results of their investigations:

- a) What data we need but do not have to answer the question: What is the real source of excess credits in student programs? Three possibilities to look into are: students changing majors; students taking double majors; student curiosity. There is very little provided by the Office of Academic Affairs to support the necessity of Pathways.
- b) what are alternative transfer solutions that have been adopted at other schools?
- c) how do articulation agreements between CUNY campuses affect transfer policy?
- d) what alternative transfer policies could the UFS propose?

Chair Martell summarized the letter he and PSC Chair Barbara Bowen had sent to faculty: This is about our students. Vote your conscience. We, the faculty are responsible to make the right decision in the best interests of our students. The CUNY administration would like to make the implementation of Pathways seem inevitable, but it is not.

During the question and answer session, a representative from City College reminded everyone that in the last 10 years, City College and Hunter have both seen a 15% drop in African-American enrollment, and would the working groups be considering this issue? The chair replied that it is necessary to raise awareness of this fact.

B. Discussion of OAA's Projects for the Coming Year (Prof. Pecorino)

Phil Pecorino introduced the Office of Academic Affairs' Projects for the Coming Year document as the one we should look to for signs of CUNY Central's next moves concerning a whole range of CUNY-wide programs. Prof. Pecorino proceeded to comment the goals point by point, always asking: who bears the cost? who decides these goals? what is the faculty role in creating/changing/ implementing programs? what resources are actually available? where are the data or assessments justifying the expansion of "successful" programs? Dr. Pecorino wished to impress on faculty that it is necessary to get into the OAA process early, if the faculty wants to have any input.

C. Representatives to Board Committees (oral) No reports were presented.

D. Reports on Campus Conditions/Pathways (oral) Faculty members from each campus testified that CUNY faculty as a whole are unwilling to proceed with implementation of Pathways while basic questions of governance have not been resolved, and while faculty dissatisfaction with the lowering of standards

have not been addressed. Some campuses and/or governing bodies have refused to proceed with implementation, while others have adopted a wait-and-see attitude while preparing course offerings tailored to the requirements of Pathways. There is widespread uncertainty as to how to proceed in the face of adamant demands by the CUNY administration to adhere to pre-determined deadlines.

IV. New Business

- A. Standing Committee Memberships** – will be assigned and announced, and will be posted on the UFS website.
- B. CUNY's Dedicated Sick Leave Program** – Conway explained how faculty may donate sick leave or annual leave days to fellow members who have used up their 160 days of sick leave. Members should go to cuny.edu – Human Resources – Benefits for details and the form to fill out.

Standing Committee Meetings: None this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Indra Avens
Queensborough University Faculty Senate Representative