

**DATE: April 9, 2013**  
**TO: QCC Academic Senate**  
**FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Indra Avens**  
**SUBJECT:**

**The 374th Plenary Session of The University Faculty Senate of  
The City University Of New York  
Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Skylight Room (Room 9100) at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

**I. Approval of the Agenda for April 9, 2013**

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of March 5, 2013**

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

**II. Reports**

**A. 1.**

**Invited Guests, Iris Weinshall, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management, and Jennifer Freedman, head of the CUNY Facilitator Group**

CUNY 2020 is a recent \$55 million appropriation from the New York State budget establishing challenge grants available to all CUNY senior and community colleges. The \$55 million is actual cash from the budget.

Governor Cuomo and CUNY are working to establish a challenge grant structure modeled after a similar program initiated at selected SUNY campuses in 2011, and subsequently expanded to all of SUNY in 2012.

All senior and community colleges are eligible to compete for these dollars for either individual or joint projects. Weinshall said some details are still in discussion such as the actual amounts of individual projects. The hope is to give grants to many projects in the \$5-7 million range rather than larger amounts to fewer projects.

The projects should emphasize “transformational goals” that involve CUNY and the community and stakeholders (corporate partners) and have a job focus on industry sectors in NYC.

Grant submissions should have a four-part mission. The master plan submission should address:

- Academic excellence and student success
- Integration, by encouraging collaboration and partnership
- Ways to leverage resources and investments
- Have an implementation plan with a timeline

The main goal is goal is to develop new initiatives on the campuses based on strategic partnerships. More specifics will evolve over next few weeks.

As examples, Weinshall shared four SUNY projects which have been approved:

- Environmental Health & Medicine Joint Institute studying several diseases, e.g., lyme disease
- New Workforce Development Center to develops workforce readiness
- Science & Education Center
- Manufacturing Sector Collaboration that will promise jobs to an estimated 300 grads

The tentative schedule for CUNY 2020: applications to be made available in May, preliminary submissions to be due in June/July, and final submissions to be due in September 2013. A college can submit more than one proposal. The preliminary submission will likely be as short as one page. Both faculty and administration can propose projects. Winners will be announced in late Fall.

Question and answer session with Iris Weinshall:

How will a college coordinate funding with a strategic partner when the State funding dries up? Ms. Weinshall: If the project is successful, other funding will come along.

How will strategic partners be vetted?

How can the desired goal of CUNY 2020 – economic development – be measured?

How can the results (e.g., success, failure) of the project be determined within a year's time only?

Ms. Weinshall admitted these questions still need to be worked through.

## **2. Karen Greenberg, Executive Board, UFS .**

CAPRA, the Committee on Programs and Research, has awarded a non-Honorary degree to the CUNY Institute for Computer Simulation. Honorary degrees are voted by the individual campuses.

**3. Kay Conway, Community College Caucus.** UFS Spring Conference on April 19, 2013 will discuss the how the CUNY budget process works. Faculty who wish to influence the budget process (lobby) or just understand better how higher student tuition is put to use, are encouraged to attend.

## **B. Chair's Report, Terence Martell, Chair of UFS.**

Chair Terence Martell thanked the UFS Senators who have served in the 2012-2013 academic year.

In reviewing UFS activities during the past year, Martell said it was a year when CUNY Central learned that if they want faculty engagement and support for their initiatives, they need to reach out to the faculty in advance of deciding major issues.

One of the goals of the UFS is to smooth out the tech process – especially to have input on privacy issues as they relate to the uses and application of technology.

The Chair expressed satisfaction that the NYS budget has come in at 2.54 billion for the senior colleges, representing a 97 million increase. Now the UFS is looking to see a \$20 million increase in the budget for community colleges. CUNY has to let the Governor know which are our priorities. We expect a decision during the summer.

Hunter College will be instituting an Academic fee associated with certification.

The Chancellor seems to want the centralization of the various college foundations – until now they were separate and autonomous on each campus. This issue is important in relation to the CUNY 2020 program. When money comes into a campus-based foundation, it does not come into CUNY as a whole. Why couldn't a CUNY foundation be one of the partners in a CUNY 2020 proposal? This kind of arrangement might aid in extending the longevity of a program if and when CUNY 2020 funds dry up.

Phil Pecorino noted that at QCC the board of the QCC fund answers to the college's president.

Kathleen Barker reported on CFSA pilot pre-retirement plan project.

Anne Friedman noted that the CCCRC committees have been reshuffled (from 8 committees to 3 committees) and re-constituted and will be working through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Then it will be decided whether the committees will continue their work.

### **III. New Business**

A resolution expressing opposition to the extension of the work of the CUNY-wide CCCRC committees was voted unanimously by voice vote, with one voice against and no abstentions:

#### **Resolution Objecting to the Extension of Pathways Common Core Course Review Committees**

Whereas, the CUNY Bylaws give the University Faculty Senate and college senates jurisdiction over curriculum, and

Whereas, the central Pathways committees have wrongly usurped the role of these legitimate senates, and

Whereas, although these committees had expired, the Office of Academic Affairs is now extending the life of these committees until the end of June 2013, and

Whereas, if the pattern holds OAA is likely to make these committees permanent,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate objects to OAA's further extension of these extra-governance curriculum committees and calls for a permanent end to them.

It was discussed that the danger is that these committees might become permanent structures, charged with deciding curricular issues (Pathways) that are properly the province of governance bodies on the individual CUNY campuses.

The following senators were nominated for the five seats at-large on the UFS Executive Committee. The election is next month.

Kathleen Barker (Medgar Evers)

Michael Barnhart (Kingsborough)

Stefan Baumrin (Graduate School)

Peter Brass (CCNY)

Kay Conway (BMCC)

Mojúbàolú Okome (Brooklyn)

Manfred Philipp (Lehman)

Enid Stubin (Kingsborough)

Emily Tai (Queensborough)

Jay Weiser (Baruch)

Jason Young (Hunter)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

