

**Queensborough Community College
Academic Senate**

To: Prof. Kathleen Villani, Secretary, Steering Committee
From: Dr. Rosemary Iconis, UFS representative, for QCC
Date: 12, December 2006

**The 324th Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate
The City University of New York
Tuesday, December 12th, 2006, 6:30 p.m.**

I. Report of the Chair

- Distributed written form

II. Approval of the minutes

**III. Invited guest – Vice Chancellor Schaeffer
Draft policy on computer use and privacy**

- It has been modified by the task force multiple times.
- The most recent revision provides for the event of physical intrusion of a faculty member's office.
- The relationship between this policy and confidential and sensitive research areas was addressed by Vice Chancellor Schaeffer through dialogues with the President and others at John Jay College.
- Questions from the Senate floor were taken.
 1. Information about other policies being drafted by the Vice Chancellor's office, i.e. research misconduct, conflicts of interest was requested. A desire that information be shared with the UFS in a more timely manner was expressed.
 2. Concern about the ability to efficiently and legally provide absolute privacy and confidentiality was expressed. It was encouraged that the University provide the faculty with the resources and information needed as soon as possible.
 3. A faculty member suggested that faculty consider taking themselves off of University servers to assure privacy.
 4. A concern about maintaining privacy when doing research involving extremely sensitive topics (Item #12 of the policy) was discussed.
 5. The question was raised: Is there a mechanism for enforcement if a faculty member's privacy is invaded (i.e. hard drive copied)?
 6. The specific meaning of the policy's statement forbidding the use of "partisan political activity" on the University computer system was brought up.

IV. President Barbara Bowen gave a brief oral report in lieu of a written one.

- The PSC believes that several items in the privacy policy contradict the contract and must be addressed.
- The PSC delegate assembly voted to unanimously oppose the policy regarding student complaint procedures.
- The PSC has testified on CUNY’s budget request. They believe that the request is not nearly ambitious enough.
- Questions from the Senate floor were taken.

Whether or not we need a student complaint procedure because of the information already contained in the contract, .e. Article 21, was discussed.

V. The relationship between the UFS and the PSC was clarified.

- Institutionally, it is not the duty of the UFS to defend the contract.
- It is important to keep the two organizations separate.

VI. Resolution

- Dr. Pecorino, representing the Executive Committee, read the statement regarding the UFS’s opposition on the proposed policy on computer use in the absence of a more general University policy on privacy and confidentiality.
- The pros and cons of voting on the resolution were debated (i.e. refer the motion back to the Executive Committee or vote on the motion).
- A vote on the motion was taken; the resolution did not pass.

VII. Professor Alfred Levine reported on the budget.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Queensborough Community College
Academic Senate**

To: Prof. Kathleen Villani, Secretary, Steering Committee
From: Dr. Rosemary Iconis, UFS representative, for QCC
Date: 30, January 2007

**The 325th Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate
The City University of New York
Tuesday, January 30th, 2007, 6:30 p.m.**

IX. Approval of the agenda as amended

X. Report by Chancellor Goldstein

- i. Tomorrow the Governor will release his new budget.
- ii. The establishment of a Commission for Public Higher Education was announced by the Governor at his State of the State Address.
- iii. CUNY must continue to build its full-time faculty; it is estimated that another 150 to 200 faculty will be added to CUNY by the end of the academic year.
- iv. Chancellor Goldstein entered into a dialogue with Mayor Bloomberg about our community colleges. The Mayor has mandated about 20 million dollars to community colleges.
- v. CUNY ranked very well in the Humanities, the Arts, and to some extent, the Social Sciences in a new faculty scholarly productivity index (a new methodology for ranking doctoral programs in the U.S.).
- vi. There is a concern that in the next few years, CUNY will lose a large number of faculty; ideas are needed about how to attract highly credentialed new faculty.
- vii. A search will take place for a new president of the College of Staten Island.
- viii. A new vice-chancellor for facilities, design and construction was recently announced.
- ix. It is critical that we find ways to house new faculty and students if we are to be a competitive institution.
- x. Questions/concerns were raised by the group. Concerns included:
 1. Difficulties in the recruitment of new faculty: it needs to be done earlier to be successful; losing newly hired faculty members to senior colleges from community colleges or to private institutions from senior CUNY colleges.

2. The relationship between academic freedom and a faculty member's right to deviate from using a text used uniformly by other members of a given department.

XI. Report of the Chair – supplied in written form

XII. Report by Ernesto Malave on the CUNY budget

- Neither significant reductions nor implementation of new programs are expected when the Governor's new budget is announced tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.
- The College mid-year financial report was supplied in written form; the information contained in the various sections, i.e. summary of requested budget increases, comparison of expenditures to resources, were highlighted.
- Questions/concerns were raised by the group. Concerns included:
 1. The increases in tuition primarily affect CUNY's international students which is unfair.
 2. The ability to hire a significant number of new faculty.

XIII. Discussion of the Statement of Policy on Multiple Position

The UFS has not taken a position on the proposed policy.

XIV. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.