

**Queensborough Community College
Academic Senate**

To: Dr. Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee
From: Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, UFS representative, for QCC
Date: 29 March 2006
Re: Items on University Faculty Senate Agenda Plenary Session

**The 318th Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate
The City University of New York
Tuesday, March 28th, 2006, 6:00 p.m.**

Approvals. The agenda and minutes were approved.

Chair (oral and written). The Chair's Report included six items: (1) A Draft Report of Findings by the CUNY Task Force on Retention was released and is available. (2) A letter with supporting material concerning the UFS's objections to the Online BA has been received by State Education Assistant Commissioner Joseph Frey. (3) Lobbying Day, March 21, was an enormous success. (4) The UFS Spring Faculty Conference on Faculty Satisfaction at CUNY is scheduled for Friday, April 7th, at John Jay. (5) Susan O'Malley met with Vice Chancellor Selma Botman regarding the Campaign for Success and stressed that governance must be included at the conception of an initiative. (6) The School of Professional Studies has 2 deans and 9 administrators for 263 part-time students; the CUNYBA has 5 administrators and 1 full-time advisor for 750 full-time students.

Chancellor's Report. Chancellor Goldstein felt he had wonderful news to share: resources that we hope to get this year to operate and continue building seem to be forthcoming. There was an effort this year to construct a financial platform, to form a compact that would free up dollars for investment. We were looking for slightly over 100 million dollars. The Executive strongly enhanced the CUNY Compact. The Joint General Compact Committee has endorsed the compact as the vehicle to create the kind of investment we need. It included a modest tuition increase which will be covered by state support. In the past, we've only see mandatory costs met and a modicum included for growth. Where we are now: in the Executive Budget, the Governor asks for a tuition increase of \$300. The Governor also recommends for the first time an infusion of investment: slightly over 16 million. There are additional monies allocated to cover increased energy costs, etc. There's a deficiency of 18 million to fully fund the compact. The joint legislature committee recommendation is to add 21 million to the 16 million, so there will be 37 million in real investment money. Only the Governor could reduce this with his "red pen" and there aren't any indications that he would be inclined to do that. This will be the first infusion of real funds for a long time. There's a recommendation for another 700 million in capital investment for SUNY and CUNY, of which SUNY would probably get 400 million. There is 2.2 billion in the system already. In terms of capital and the operating side, this is our strongest position in memory. There has been TAP restoration of over 83 million. We were very concerned about the re-definition of "full-time" being moved from 12 credits to 15 credits; that would have affected

about 40,000 students at CUNY and would have been disastrous. This seems to have been averted.

With regard to the community colleges, the news is a little less ideal – there was a request for an increase in base aid. We have to work on the city side to have the tuition increase picked up or else we'll have to find a way to eat it. Hopefully there will be restorations from the City Council over and above what has been recommended by the Mayor. The community colleges have been in slightly better shape than the senior colleges due to a big infusion of investment a few years ago. We've also been active on the federal scene.

The Campaign for Success is getting traction. The Black Male Initiative is coming up.

The Science Review Team met for 2-1/2 days with faculty, students, administrators. There is a hope for more investment in science. A report with recommendations will be coming out.

The city and state are flush with cash now, due to a successful year or two on Wall Street. Nobody knows what to predict about further or sustained economic growth.

VP Botman, The Campaign for Success. There is a desire that more faculty be brought into the process of planning the response of each college and in the development of each plan. The Perez decision has put an emphasis on academic governing bodies setting policies, so it is important that faculty be brought in from inception.

Panel Presentation: The Teacher Academy. Schools of education are seeking to recruit and train middle and high school science and math teachers, to address the shortage. Right now you have to major in math or science to be a middle school or high school math or science teacher. If we don't have the undergrads in those fields, we won't have the licensed teachers. Top students in these fields get recruited to graduate school and into industry, so retention is a problem. Also, because of the realities and pressures of teaching in the New York City public school system, over 50% of teachers we develop are out of the field within 2 to 2-1/2 years. The idea is to target and attract strong candidates and give them tuition assistance or remission and guide them through an academic program that includes block programming and immediate work with selected schools in the form of internships. There was discussion about the idea that candidates should be calculus ready to be selected for this program – if students who need a little more preparation are also included, it will be easier to recruit more candidates. Two participating campuses have 11 candidates and 13 candidates respectively. There was also discussion about whether or not recruitment has to focus only on incoming freshman. It might be possible to recruit students who are further along with their studies and also focus eventually on community college recruitment as well. There was a focus on some of the challenges and difficulties inherent in this kind of initiative – the hope is that progress has been made and the program will continue to develop and improve.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jacobowitz
March 29, 2006