

**CUNY University Faculty Senate 346th Plenary Session
November 24, 2009**

November 30, 2009

From: Joel Kuszai, UFS Member/Queensborough Community College

To: Barbara Blake-Campbell, Secretary, QCC Senate Steering Committee
Emily Tai, Chairperson, QCC Senate Steering Committee

Att.

Report on the 347th UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, November 24, 2009

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m. in Room 9205 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for November 24, 2009

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 27, 2009

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein (Oral at 6:30 pm)

Chancellor Goldstein opened his remarks to the UFS by acknowledging the life, career and passing of Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave, who died suddenly on Sunday, November 22.

Significant topics covered by the Chancellor included:

- Continued concern regarding Gov. Paterson's Deficit Reduction Plan (DRP)
- Presidential searches at CCNY and Baruch College
- Vice Chancellor searches: Student Development; Budget and Finance
- School of Public Health receives go-ahead official "school"; final accreditation will be complete in 2011
- New community college plans are moving well. Gratified for positive attention received across U.S., including Education Secretary Duncan and supporting foundations.
- Fitterman Hall now deconstructed. New building is designed and financed
- New School of Social Work groundbreaking took place the previous week in East Harlem

The Chancellor ended his remarks with upbeat assessment of CUNY's ability to weather tough storms. The University is held in high esteem, as seen by enrollment increases.

**CUNY University Faculty Senate 346th Plenary Session
November 24, 2009**

Faculty questions included concerns about the following topics:

- New “truncated” admissions process at City College may discriminate against students of color and other minority students.
- Admissions as domain of shared governance. Goldstein: “Faculty must take ownership of the admissions process—setting up criteria.”
- Criticism of the use of the rhetoric of “efficient markets” when discussing higher education generally and CUNY in particular.
- Chancellor Goldstein assured the UFS that green-lighted searches would continue, but college presidents should consult with Central before offers are made. He did not suggest that there was a problem, yet referred to the Governor’s recommendations scheduled for release in February.
- In response to the Chair’s question about cuts to CUNY in the DRP, Chancellor Goldstein described the anticipation of the “gathering storm” of “risk” in years prior to the economic downturn leading to the development of reserves which have served to buffer against some of the past budget shortfalls. Next year, he said, the situation will be much worse: “There will be sacrifices that we have to prepare for” but “we will weather these storms.”
- Claiming it is a “national objective” and a “national security problem,” Goldstein also suggested that in the future, there needs to be a “re-imagining of the relationship of public universities with their states” and that some kind of convocation of leaders of public higher education in New York will begin that discussion.

B. Chair (Oral and Written at 7:15 pm)

The Chair referred to the written report, which addressed the following topics:

- Sorrow for passing of VC Ernesto Malave, who had a distinguished career, rising from circumstances familiar to many of our students.
- UFS Fall Conference on “Funding Public Higher Education” is cancelled.
- UFS Faculty Experience Survey has been extended until December 1.
- The Board of Trustees voted to raise Chancellor Goldstein’s salary by 40,000 to \$490,000. They also voted to raise tuition by \$90/\$60 for senior/junior colleges at CUNY.
- Draft governance plans for the Doctoral Program in Public Health at the School of Public Health have been developed, subject to consideration by college senates, Graduate Council, and UFS.
- H1N1 update. Unlike other major institutions, CUNY decided not to request supplies of seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine.
- VC Small’s Task Force on PSC-CUNY Awards is scheduled to meet in December. The current proposal to have two tiered awards, one smaller and distributed at college level, and a larger award given serious peer review. The Council of Governance Leaders unanimously voted in opposition to the plan.

**CUNY University Faculty Senate 346th Plenary Session
November 24, 2009**

PSC-CUNY has agreed to take up the question in the next round of contract negotiations.

- The December 15 Plenary will be at John Jay College, and will feature Chancellor Goldstein, as well as State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, chair of the Senate's Higher Education Committee.
- UFS congratulates Cory Provost on election as chair of the University Student Senate.

In other remarks, the Chair discussed the following topics:

- CUNY First "is not working" are the reports from BMCC, QCC, and Queens
- Meetings with SUNY Faculty Senate counterparts reinforce awareness of the difficulties the SUNY system is experiencing, with SUNY centers suffering less exposure than the rural or regional SUNY colleges. Unlike CUNY, the \$90 million in cuts to SUNY are not action by the legislature.
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c. Professor Kathleen Barker (Oral at 7:20 pm)

Professor Kathleen Barker of Medgar Evers College, addressed the UFS about the UFS Faculty Experience Survey, and the response rate and concerns about validity and samples when reporting data about response rates, etc.

D. Representatives to Board Committees

The Board of Trustees Committee on Facilities Planning and Management met on November 2, 2009, and a written report briefly covered the following:

- Approved resolution to develop property at 2 Court Sq., Long Island City, NY, for CUNY School of Law Project.
- Approved CUNY Five-Year Capital Budget Request, FY2010-2011 through FY2014-2015.
- Approved new 15 year lease for 875 Sixth Avenue, NY, NY; also approved conversion from office to classroom space for the property planned to house the School of Professional Studies.
- Approved plans for a new 12-1/4-year lease at 162-10 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY. The space at Gertz Plaza will accommodate the CUNY Public Safety Academy, now at York.

IV. New Business

A variety topics and issues were discussed by the UFS, including:

- Phil Pecorino of QCC proposed that a letter be drafted to the family of Ernesto Malave, and that a moment of silence be observed. It was approved and observed.

**CUNY University Faculty Senate 346th Plenary Session
November 24, 2009**

- Cory Provost, new chair of the University Student Senate addressed the UFS, and took questions regarding: possible audit to determine the impact of tuition increases on economically vulnerable students; educational technology and the technology fee, as well as about his career and vision for the USS.
- Further discussion of UCRA, compensation for those “doing the guiding of the process.”

Meeting adjourned at 7:38

Respectfully Submitted.

Joel Kuszai
UFS Member/Queensborough Community College