

May 17, 2010

From: Aránzazu Borrachero, 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 351st UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, May 11, 2010

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda for May 11, 2010

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

A resolution was introduced to honor outgoing Chair Manfred Phillip as eminent Chair Emeritus. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 13, 2010

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report (oral and written)

The Chair referred to his written report.

B. Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Alexandra Logue (oral)

Vice Chancellor Logue informed the senate of the furlough bill signed by the Governor two hours prior to the Senate session. Furloughs were included in a budget package, which forced approval by state officials. Some aspects of the furlough measure are as follows:

- It is not certain that the furloughs will take place. The Union is presenting a restraining order in court and this action might stop the implementation of furloughs.
- Community Colleges, Research Foundation employees, federal-money employees, managerial and confidential employees are not affected by furloughs in the bill. The Chancellor's office, however, has decided to include managerial employees should the furlough be implemented.
- Senior Colleges' personnel, including non-teaching adjuncts, will be affected.
- The furloughs will reduce a week's pay by 20%. They will take place week by week until the legislature passes the budget.
- The first furlough week will be May 17-23 and the furlough day will be Friday. If final exams fall on Friday, the furlough must be taken on another day.
- If a second week of furloughs is implemented, the Chancellor's office is asking for the faculty not to be included, because as soon as commencement is over payment of faculty is on "back-pay".

Vice Chancellor Logue also stated her belief that the governor to come will want to get financial matters in balance at the beginning of her/his term, and CUNY may suffer financial cuts then. She assured the members of the Senate that CUNY's administration is doing everything possible to protect us from that, but the fiscal year 2012 is looking very troublesome. The Chancellor's office is studying the possibility of taking financial advantage of CUNY's assets (such as land property). There is also an early retirement incentive plan on the discussion table as well as a phased retirement proposal.

There is some good news from the mayor in the form of money to be dispensed to Community Colleges and ASAP programs. Vice Chancellor Logue stressed the good relationship of the chancellor both with Albany and the mayoral office.

In the area of enrollment, Vice Chancellor Logue said that we have had even more applications than last year, which saw an 8% growth in FTEs. This year, the target was set to a 3 % limit. Admissions offices estimated that as last Friday (May 7) we already had received enough applications to fill all colleges. Registration numbers, compared to last year, are 20% higher at this time. Earlier applications have contributed to this increase.

Some problems will derive from this increased enrollment. For instance, there is the issue of conditional students. Senior colleges or BA programs are not permitted to enroll students who need remediation. Sometimes, students meet admission requirements for a BA program, and still need remediation (because of the College consideration of separate tests scores as well as average scores). These students take immersion courses over summer to pass remediation. If they do not succeed, they will not be able to go to a Community College because all of them will be full to capacity.

IV. Nominations for Officers and Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee

Attorney Jay Weiser conducted the nomination and election process with the following results:

Chair: Prof. Sandi Cooper.

Vice Chair: Prof. Terrence Martell.

Secretary: Prof. Karen Kaplowitz.

Treasurer: Prof. Anne Friedman

Members-at-Large:

Michael Barnhart

Stefan Baumrin

Campbell Dalglish

Kathryn Richardson

Emily Tai

V. Old Business

A. Statement on Academic Credentials (oral and written)

Prof. Beaky read the Executive Committee's modifications to the proposal regarding deliberate deception on academic credentials (presented at the previous Senate meeting by Prof. Pecorino). Modifications were approved.

B. Representatives to Board Committees (written, available at meeting)

Vacancies on the UCRA. Prof. Richardson announced UCRA nominations again. The Research Award Committee still needs candidates to coordinate some panels. She reminded the senators that the whole process of awarding grants is under negotiation between the Chancellor's office and the Union. The negotiations are confidential at this point.

VI. New Business.

A. Statement on Retroactive Granting of Associate Degrees (Prof. Beaky, oral and written).

This proposal tries to avoid the penalization of students that move to Senior Colleges before receiving an Associate Degree. The position of the USF is that CUNY should notify them when they have completed the requirements for an Associate Degree even after they have transferred to a Senior College. This process is practiced by two Community Colleges and has resulted in a 5 to 10 percent increase in graduation rates. The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Resolution to Honor Prof. Lenore Beaky.

Prof. Beaky will be leaving her post as UFS Vice Chair and will be retiring as well. The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.45 P.M.