

Report to QCC Academic Senate re: UFS Plenary Meeting

**The 395th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University Of New York
Eighth Floor, Room 0818, 205 E. 42nd Street
Tuesday, November 29, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Katherine Conway called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes for October 25, 2016

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

III. Invited Guests

A. Invited Guest: Chancellor James B. Milliken

Chancellor Milliken remarked on the following:

- Chancellor Milliken indicated that he wished to comment upon the recent resignation of former President Lisa S. Coico and the Interim Report of the Inspector General:
<https://ig.ny.gov/sites/default/files/pdfs/CUNYInterim.pdf>;
- Notwithstanding that some findings in the report represented conditions that had existed some five years earlier, the Chancellor indicated that he and his administration took the findings and recommendations of the report extremely seriously, and that he was prepared to work with the Board of Trustees to insure the highest levels of integrity, accountability, and transparency, going forward.
- New guidance was being provided to CUNY leadership (including campus presidents).
- All external lobbying contracts have been terminated;
- There is a moratorium on all non tax-levy salary supplements for new CUNY presidents and administrators;
- The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the current CUNY Executive Compensation Plan, and recommending changes. External reports will be reviewed for guidance concerning best practices in this area.
- Search committees are underway for a new president of CCNY (chaired by Trustee Barry Schwartz); and John Jay College of Criminal Justice (chaired by Trustee Charles Shorter). Chancellor Milliken expressed the hope that, going forward, “appropriate” individuals could continue to be identified to serve on search committees, including, perhaps, external individuals.
- A new CUNY program for Foster youth, established in partnership with NYC agencies, has been established. The program will hope to remedy, for those students involved, the current 6% graduation rate for such students nationally.
- The Chancellor’s Research Fellowship, first established by Interim Chancellor William Kelly, would continue into its third year as an opportunity for two-year college faculty;

- McKinsey Management Consulting Firm has been identifying efficiencies in administration that could allow money to be reallocated for more urgent institutional priorities. McKinsey also did a campus audit of Kingsborough Community College and Queens College.
- The Chancellor's "Strategic Framework," a follow-up to the Four-Year Financial Plan and the CUNY Master Plan, entitled "Connected CUNY," is nearly ready to be shared with college presidents, and will then be shared with faculty governance. One key priority is working with primary and secondary schools so that students will be college-ready, and successful upon graduation from CUNY.
- Chancellor Milliken also indicated that he had signed a letter to President-Elect Trump, defending the interests of immigrant students, students eligible for the DREAM act ("DREAMers"), and currently protected by DACA. He described how he had supported this legislation, despite some local pushback, while still in Nebraska, and noted the increase in scholarship support at CUNY. The Chancellor also praised the "Citizenship Now!" services being offered to students, as well as the Facebook sessions, that had been conducted, and would be conducted.
- The Chancellor acknowledged the service and careers of retiring Vice-Chancellor Frederick Schaffer and Jay Hershenson. Vice-Chancellor Hershenson will be going to Queens College to serve as a Vice-Provost of Marketing and Communications. They were recognized and thanked for their work, and it was indicated that further thanks would be forthcoming.
- A single question followed, regarding the appointment of a Dean of Graduate Studies at Queens College

B. Invited Guest, I: Richard Rothbart, President of the Research Foundation

<https://www.rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/news/default.aspx>

- Director Rothbart furnished a history of the Research Foundation, which was chartered by the New York Board of Regents in January, 1963, as a separate, non-profit, entity. Its purpose would be to act as a go-between between grant entities and faculty, enabling faculty to process their grant expenses on line. The Research Foundation is administered by a Board of Directors that includes the Chancellor, and two members he appoints; the President of the CUNY Graduate Center; two senior college, and two community college, presidents; four research-active faculty; four "at-large" faculty; and one graduate student. The Research Foundation staff, meanwhile, include a President, a Chief Financial Officer, and four other governing officers, as well as nearly 12,000 various persons on the RF payroll at any given time, who might receive health, or even retiree, benefits.
- The RF makes sure that grantees are in compliance with various requirements (IRB standards for human subject research; animal research ethics, etc.) and supports audits of various facets of compensation, including employee retirement and health plans. It works with campus grant officers; the RF also administers the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program; the CUNY Charitable Gift Annuity Program. Fees for the administration of these various programs furnish some of the RF's revenue; additional revenue is secured from tenants at two buildings on the west side of Manhattan.
- The RF's administration of major grants (such as those received from the NSF, the NIH, and Ford Foundation), includes a proportion claimed by each college for the "indirect costs" of "Finance and Administration." The Federal Indirect costs can become "soft money" available to be utilized by campus presidents at their discretion. The largest indirect cost recovery yield from state and municipal (NYC) grants is usually a modest amount of no more than 6-9% at maximum. These grants may, nevertheless, be sought because they contribute to aspects of a CUNY institutional mission. In other cases, Indirect costs may be a substantial source of enrichment, and the RF's responsibility is to "negotiate the highest rate possible," although

President Rothbart forcefully asserted that this amount was separate, and had no impact upon the success or failure of a grant.

- Because the number of grants was declining, the RF had put particular energy into supporting grantsmanship, with “Award Pre-Proposal Support,” (APPS). Established at the close of 2015, this new program allows grantees to attend various workshops for grant-writers, and participate in “Peer Review,” an online network for honing a grant application by submitting it for reviews and suggestions to fellow CUNY faculty. A forum for Arts and Humanities scholars is scheduled at BMCC for Thursday, December 8. A Customer Service officer will also begin on December 1, 2016 in order to more successfully address faculty concerns. Access to Pivot and a new database, entitled “GrantForward,” will also be made available.
- A new Faculty Travel Program will also be piloted, where funds would be provided to ask for money from private foundations (airfare and hotel would be supported).
- A website redesign is also underway
- Finally, an NSF seminar, held at John Jay, and open to all colleges in the New York area, is planned for spring
- Among the questions raised, the main area of interest was the question of whether indirect costs were deducted from the amount of the grant (apparently, the NSF does do this); indication that the RF charges about 5-61/2% for administering indirect costs; and a hope was expressed that programs in Education would also be supported with Grant Discovery opportunities.

C. Invited Guest: Vice-Chancellor Matt Sapienza and Chief Financial Officer

- VC Sapienza reiterated some of what the Chancellor had said about how policies and procedures regarding guidelines for Auxiliary Associations. Given that some of these arrangements were made in 1983, and so it is possible modifications will be proposed.
- There will be no more discretionary funds for lobbying
- Each CUNY campus submits a financial plan and *must* consult with faculty leaders. This process must be more transparent on campus.
- Both the Governor and the Mayor will present Executive Budget proposals in January. CUNY is acting for a four-year extension of the predictable tuition policy, at the rate of \$100 for Community Colleges and \$250 for Senior Colleges.
- New York City is being asked for \$32 Million for the Senior Colleges, although as of this writing, Mayor De Blasio has been concerned that NYC not be asked to pay for anything the governor should pay for.
- SUNY is also asking for a predictable tuition increase, although the plan they have submitted has a differentiation in tuition amounts by campuses.
- \$35 Million from NYC would cover a 3hr teaching load reduction for faculty. This is being considered in conjunction with a PSC Committee on Labor Management. There is some discussion about the way the time would be used: additional advisement? Research?
- In response to a query about whether soft money could be used to assist part-time students, Vice-Chancellor Sapienza indicated that the “Bridge to Completion Program” helps to pay for students who are within 30 credits of finishing, but have run out of TAP funding.
- CUNY Central has also found efficiencies: last year, the Central Office sustained a 6% Budget cut; this year, there would be a 5% cut. VC Sapienza praised McKinsey for assisting with the process of discovering efficiencies.
- To a question about past financial issues at the School of Professional Studies, the Vice-Chancellor indicated that transparency at SPS could be improved. There were also concerns expressed by faculty about a “culture of luxury” that could be misperceived, given the difficulties faced by many

CUNY students. It was also indicated that former Chancellor Goldstein will be collecting the stipend established by the Board of Trustees until 2018.

IV. New Business

V. Reports

Chair Conway then gave her report:

- Chair Conway and Vice-Chair Barker met with Vice-Chancellor Rabinowitz and University Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Annemarie Nicols-Grinenko, and discussed satisfaction levels with faculty mentoring;
- Chair Conway also reported a dazzling visit to the CUNY School of Journalism, as they tracked national issues regarding voting access during the election, utilizing social media; the board of the CUNY Academy; and the governance body at Kingsborough Community College.
- Upon request, the UFS Executive Committee had supplied a number for the PMP: the number of net increase in faculty from year to year;
- Chair Conway has requested an all-funds budget, and indicated that funds in the Research Foundation were also publically available;
- Chair Conway wished the very best to Jay Hershenson and Frederick Schaffer, and noted that Gayle M. Horwitz has been Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.
- Chair Conway also discussed the event at Columbia Teacher's College, where Jill Biden spoke, as well as the Chancellor
- Chair Conway indicated that it would soon be possible to register for the forthcoming UFS Conference on April 28 on Governance, featuring Board of Trustees Chair William Thompson, Queens College President Felix Matos Rodriguez, and the President Barbara R. Gitenstein, President, The College of New Jersey, who was the 2006 winner of the AAUP Ralph S. Brown Award for Shared Governance.
- Chair Conway advertised the UFS Blog, and indicated (after some comments from faculty) that her very thorough UFS Plenary notes would be available there.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Emily S. Tai**

(Professor Tai would like to thank fellow UFS Representative Professor Todd Holden for his review of these minutes.)