

March 17, 2011

From: Linda Meltzer, 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 357th UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, March 15, 2011

UFS Chair Sandi Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in Room 9204/05/06 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for March 15, 2011.

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 15, 2011.

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports.

A. Chair Activities. (Oral and Written)

B. Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matthew Sapienza presented an analysis of Gov. Cuomo's Executive Budget as follows:

- Governor Cuomo issued the Executive Budget proposal on February 1 and could be voted on April 1.
- The Budget for fiscal 2012 reflects 10% cuts for CUNY to fill the \$10B shortfall for the state.
- For the senior colleges, there is an \$83 million cut proposed for FY 2012. This is a new cut and additive to the reduction of \$11.9 million from the FY 2011 budget, and remains in the FY 2012. This totals a \$95 million reduction impact for senior colleges. Over the last four years through 2012, senior cuts will have had a total of over \$300 million in cuts.
- Matthew Sapienza said these cuts will require tough decisions in how to manage reductions. Higher energy costs and fringe benefits and such were funded previously.
- The 5% tuition increase which went into effect for Spring 2011 equates to \$40 million and helps to mitigate the cut for senior colleges.
- Community Colleges will also receive a 10% cut in Fiscal 2012 based on the proposed budget. However, based on different calculation for junior colleges, more state aid could offset the cut if more students enroll.
- For community colleges, the new cut for 2012 is estimated at \$17 million. This is a far more significant cut in comparison to \$275K for fiscal 2009.
- On a positive note, Gov. Cuomo kept the TAP program in line with Gov. Paterson's budget plan at a \$5k award level.
- Sapienza pointed out that both the Senate and Assembly completed their Budget proposals on time. There are new bills circulating that potentially

could restore about 50% of the Community College cut, but he added they would like to see that level increased. The Senate proposal does not recognize the tuition increase though the Governor's proposal does.

- Sapienza is hoping that the Budget is done on April 1 so that there would help planning needed to be done for the following school year.
- Mayor Bloomberg's City Executive budget proposal is on a later time table, expected to be issued in early May.
- Sapienza pointed out that the cuts to CUNY colleges in FY 2011 had been \$11.8 million, but was reduced to \$7.8 million and with the tuition increase in Spring 2011 is close to a wash. However, the Fiscal 2012 budget indicates a cut \$ 16 million, and additive to the State Budget cuts. Last week Bloomberg announced 4% cuts and it will affect community colleges. This is a change from budget proposals in the past which allowed for some protection for community colleges.
- CUNY has been and will remain actively engaged in Albany dialogue with legislators.

C. New Business- UFS Statement on CUNY's Proposed General Education as follows and consists of five points as proposed:

- I. The faculty of CUNY understands and appreciates the many obstacles faced by other students in obtaining their undergraduate degrees, and admires their perseverance. The faculty strongly supports exploring improved means of expediting degree completion as long as those means are compatible with existing academic standards.
- II. The three overriding principles that must control all policy-making in this are(1) college faculty authority over each college's curriculum (2) the authority of each campus to preserve its own distinct academic mission and personality within the CUNY system and (3) students' rights to clear, consistent and timely recognition of transfer credit across CUNY.
- III. We strongly recommend that the administration recognize the separate nature of the issues of transfer, which is an operational matter, and general education, which is an academic and curriculum matter. Future reports and future committees should respect that distinction.
- IV. We believe that transfer problems may be addressed more effectively by various measures including enhancing academic advising, upgrading technology to allow faculty to see transfer students' whole transcripts, making the TIPPS system workable, creating a TIPPS for the entire curricula, and continuing articulation as as dual-joint degree efforts. We also suggest that the role, function, and transferability of the University's associate degrees (AA, AS, and AAS) be clarified and made more precise to students.
- V. **(Note: As proposed)** Finally, the proposed cap on general education credits at the senior colleges is too small. Campuses must be given more flexibility in this regard consistent with paragraph II above.

New V.**(Note: As Amended)** "Colleges must have flexibility in determining their general education credit structure."

The Proponent, UFS Executive Committee endorsed 7-2 as originally proposed.

Academic Senate Agenda—April 12, 2011—Attachment D

A call for and a vote was taken on changing the wording of “V” from above to “Colleges must have flexibility in determining their general education credit structure.” The vote passed to amend as seen as “New V”.

After significant debate, there was a call for and a vote on an Amendment to delay a vote for more discussion, however that vote did not pass by a large margin.

After inclusion of the amendment above and voting down a delay, the General Education Framework was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.