

April 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 358<sup>th</sup> UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, April 12, 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 April 12, 2011.**

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of March 15, 2011.**

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

**III. Reports.**

**A. Chair Activities. (Oral and Written)**

**B. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein provided highlights Gov. Cuomo's Executive Budget voted in and discussed other CUNY matters as follows:**

- Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget recently voted on reflects a total of \$335M cuts for CUNY over 3 years (probably in less than 3 years).
- While this is bad news it "pales compared to other higher public education institutions."
- In 2008 and in 2010 there have been initiatives to bring together top leaders in public higher ed to understand the political dynamics and how to manage balance sheets going forward to advance student goals.
- Chancellor Goldstein has been meeting in Albany with the Higher Education Committee, assembly and Senate as well as the Lieutenant Governor to get insight into how Gov. Cuomo is working to reduce rancor and focus on jobs. It is important to keep in mind that New York State is the tale of two very different regions of downstate and upstate, the latter particularly hard hit economically.
- Chancellor Goldstein will be meeting with Governor Cuomo soon. The .Gov. is working on job development using the universities to create 10 regional Councils around large cities of NYS with each Council headed by Chair (Gov.) and two co-chairs. One co-chair will come from the University and the other will come from commerce.
- Goldstein wants CUNY involved in the New York City council given CUNY's experience in getting money to support its resources. For example, CUNY has done research used to benefit NYC. This initiative is likely to be announced in the next couple of weeks.

- With respect to the CUNY budget and loss of \$335M cuts, Chancellor Goldstein pointed out that there was a lack of recognition for the recent 5% tuition hikes recently authorized. While Governor, assembly and Senate had all given there green light individually to the tuition increases, there has been some posturing akin to a “Kabuki dance” and tuition hikes have been left out of the final budget during the bargaining process and tried in court. Ultimately, Goldstein believes this hole will be “adaptively corrected” that is, tuition hikes will be recognized in the revenue targets over the next few months.
- The bigger issue, is not the one time tuition increase but rather figuring out a way to formulate tuition increases through a rational policy. The current master multiyear plan will expire in 2012. Chancellor Goldstein has been addressing a rational plan similar to that of SUNY which would reflect for CUNY: \$50 million investment, savings owing to efficiencies; philanthropy; redesign of operations; entrepreneurial ways and rational tuition increases.
- Goldstein pointed out the Albany may be sensitive to the plans of some of the larger SUNY schools attempting to raise tuition significantly (as much as 75%) and this is expected to be addressed by the legislature in the next few weeks.
- Another issue being addressed and of particular importance CUNY is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and whether the state will support the program or will need to be self-financed which will be a problem. Goldstein compared TAP to the federally funded Pell Grants (together they equal about \$10,500 in student aid) and whether some monies for PELL will be removed as some of the members of the House are recommending. As of this writing it appears that the funds were reinstated till this September.
- Chancellor Goldstein discussed his ongoing road trip to visit all the CUNY campuses which will continue in the Fall. He is happy at the positive response of his coming to the campuses reflected in solid attendance by faculty and students.

**C. New Business- UFS Statement on CUNY’s Proposed General Education and Transfer Resolutions as two separate resolutions:**

**RESOLUTION ON GENERAL EDUCATION**

The University Faculty Senate strongly recommends in order to preserve the richness of general education that the general education requirements at the undergraduate colleges of CUNY be composed of 30 credits plus at least an additional 16 credits to be resolved by the appropriate curriculum committees of the colleges, rather than the proposal in the Draft Resolution of 36 + 6.  
*Passed as proposed 41-10-5.*

**RESOLUTION ON TRANSFER**

The University Faculty Senate strongly recommends ON TRANSFER that:

1. For externally accredited programs (e.g., nursing, engineering) and other high-credit majors, clear cut University-wide course requirements be developed to ensure student success in the transfer process.
2. An appeals committee be created by the UFS and the OAA to decide on requests from colleges for waivers.
3. Curricular counseling for students be extensively improved.

ON TRANSFER PROCESSES:

1. Improved technologies
  - linkage of college catalogs
  - TIPPS for program to program
  - transcripts available electronically to advising faculty
2. Clarify to students that A.A.S. degrees are not designed for transfer to four year colleges, and that to transfer they will have to take additional courses to satisfy more intensive general education requirements.
3. Discipline Councils - Funding to support periodic meetings of Discipline Councils which would work to create a mutual understanding of course content and outcomes in their areas to facilitate the transfer process.
4. Any University-wide curriculum committees or task forces that are created shall consist of at least one faculty representative from each CUNY unit elected by each college's faculty governance body or by the college's faculty. The committee will establish mechanisms to include student consultation before making final recommendations.
5. Articulation agreements must be elaborated for as many majors as possible. Faculty at colleges with significant transfers between any two colleges (e.g., BCC and Lehman) should work out detailed agreements on the most common programs. *Passed as amended unanimously, 59-0-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.