

October 23, 2010

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 353rd UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, October 19, 2010

UFS Chair Sandi Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:08 p.m. in Room 9204/05/06 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for October 19, 2010.

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 21, 2010.

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

a. Chancellor Goldstein (oral)

Chancellor Goldstein addressed the UFS regarding the Governor's proposal of a CUNY/SUNY platform where students, through tuition increases would generate revenue for higher public education. Previously, the Chancellor did not believe the state legislature would relinquish authority over tuition to the governing Boards of the college. Additionally, the Chancellor is concerned that CUNY students are financially more challenged v. SUNY students and need greater protection.

The current economic downturn in NYS, and throughout the country, is impacting public education and NYS's weak balance sheet.

For CUNY, Chancellor Goldstein believes a rational tuition program would work. He backs the CUNY Compact, a plan previously proposed by the Chancellor and the Board.

The Compact calls for:

- Shared financial responsibility among NY State, NYC, private philanthropy, and the students.
- Mandatory costs would be covered by State and City.
- Rational tuition policy reflecting small, incremental increases rather than the unpredictable levels of flat years followed by upward price spikes.
- Correlation of tuition hikes with Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to ensure vulnerable students are protected.

The Chancellor spoke of needing to spread risk, improve operations for greater productivity gains in certain areas. Chancellor Goldstein is opposed to Retrenchment policy, and use as a last resort. The Chancellor did not take any questions after his oral report.

b. Chair's Reports (oral and written)

The Chair referred to her written report.

The Chair Cooper discussed CUNY Votes campaign which is on YouTube, and encourages students to shop for B&N discounted apparel to wear for going to the polls.

The Chair discussed the tough economic disaster facing Albany, and is in touch with SUNY Albany. Cooper circulated Retrenchment Guidelines in event of disaster, and recalled retrenchment in 1975-1976.

IV. Old Business.

A. UFS Former Chair Manfred Phillip received the plaque awarded to him when he was outgoing Chair as an honor.

VI. New Business

A. Presentation of how to access the Chancellor/University Reports Online by Manfred Phillip. (Oral/Online). Phillips provided us with a view how to find Chancellor's University report, broken down by College and by Academics, Personnel Matters and Fiscal Affairs.

B. Two Resolutions on CUNY Compact were introduced and discussed at length(oral and written). The UFS voted to postpone action on the two resolutions contained in the document until the next plenary on November 16 to allow more time for deliberation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Meltzer
UFS Representative
Queensborough Community College, CUNY