

DATE: February 18, 2014
TO: QCC Academic Senate
FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Barbara Rome
SUBJECT:

**The 379th Plenary Session of The University Faculty Senate of
The City University Of New York
Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Skylight Room at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2013

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Motion to send letter of condolence to family of Mike Gothic

IV. Invited Quests

A. Brian Cohen, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer:

(See Attachment)

Update on past year

Collaboration reinstated Technology committee

Opportunity UFS Technology Committee

USF Library and Information Technology Committee

IT Steering Committee

CIS/Faculty collaboration on IT Projects: blackboard upgrade, piloting virtual labs, Textbook Savings RFI, John Jay RFP, and other ways to reduce the cost of course materials, licensing enterprise software
Software Licensing Update, MATLAB (site license under negotiation), Turnitin (license under negotiation), Adobe Creative Cloud (more access), Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (remains in place, recently extended to include Microsoft academy across the university)

Blackboard upgrade December 2013 major enhancement enable new features and functionality. Survey on Blackboard hometab will solicit faculty/student feedback on upgrade, will be available February 24 for most campuses, and on March 21 for 3 community colleges. Currently there are 232,498 active users Spring 2014

Library System upgraded to Aleph version 21 and will go live with the new system in Summer 2014. Testing and data conversion is now under

way. Provides enhancements: easier for users to search resources, item availability updated, secure integrated authentication process for logging in. April 2014 no longer uses SSNs but will use EMPLIDs for all CUNYfirst schools.

Network Upgrades significant upgrades in 2013, added Bronx Community and Hostos College to fiber network, upgraded one of the two CUNY-wide Internet links from 2 to 5 Gbps, upgraded link to Queens College, City Tech, and York College to 1 Gbps. In Q1 2014 a second CUNY-wide Internet link will be upgraded from 2 to 5. Improves speed
CUNYfirst implemented at 15 colleges and serves over 210,000 students. Implementation at fourth wave colleges in March 2014.

Virtual Computer Labs at CUNY VCL allow students to access computer lab programs from anywhere with internet access. Students log on anytime via secured website, once connected students can choose any computer lab program, students can then open the program and begin working

Textbook Savings Initiative Less than half of CUNY students buy textbooks, usage of textbooks on library reserve is extremely high. Costs of textbooks has increased significantly for CUNY students. Established new Campus Bookstore/Textbook exploratory committees. Issued RFI to explore current and future vendor plans to lower textbooks costs for students. RFP expected in Spring 2014. Looking into different options for students for purchasing books a more integrated solution.

B. Rachel Stephenson, Director, CUNY Service Corps: Presentation (see Attached) Provide students with paid internships to help build resumes. Students work 12 hours a week, providing service while getting paid. Allows student to be aware of what is going on in their community. Launched last fall 2013 after Hurricane Sandy.

V. Reports

Representatives to Board Committees

Faculty Staff and Administration University (See Attachment Comparison of instructional staff and faculty staff)

Chair 41st annual conference will take place on April 6,7, 8. (see attachment) Pathways modifications concern to have contact and credit hours to line up. Fall 2014 colleges can allocate number of credit hours for contact hours. Faculty members sitting on CCRC will be selected through college processes. Community Colleges cross campus initiatives award up to 20 research fellows 2 courses release time to fulltime tenure faculty who are dedicated to research and publication.

CUNY Executive Budget: 2014-15 (see attachment) increase of 102.2 million dollar increase for senior colleges. Community colleges the FTA remained the same. Capitol budget no new funds.

Spring Enrollments down

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.