

## Report to QCC Academic Senate re: UFS Plenary Meeting

**DATE: 31 March 2016**

**TO: QCC Academic Senate**

**FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Todd Holden**

**SUBJECT:**

**The 392<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session  
of The University Faculty Senate  
of The City University Of New York  
Eighth Floor, Room 0818, 205 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Tuesday, March 29, 2016  
6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell 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 February 2, 2016**

The minutes were approved by voice vote.

### **III. Invited Guests: Chancellor James B. Milliken**

- Chancellor Milliken started by discussing the current state budget negotiations and likely outcomes including:
  - A continuation of the state's funding for CUNY without shifting \$485 million to New York City's budget.
  - No additional tuition increase and possibly some funding in lieu of additional funds a tuition increase would bring in.
  - The likely inclusion of \$240 million to help settle our long overdue contract (although this is short of the \$330 million identified need for an equitable retroactive pay).
- The Chancellor remarked on recent anti-Semitic events and the working group he convened to address the issues which have recently come to a head at Brooklyn College. (Subsequent to the Chancellor's actions, the state senate recently used CUNY's supposed anti-Semitism to reduce CUNY's funding in their recent budget proposal.)
- The search for a new President at Brooklyn College appears nearly finished, and searches for presidents at Lehman, The CUNY School of Law, and Macauley Honors College are all progressing well.

After the presentation, a number of questions were asked, including:

- If the Board of Trustees would consider adopting the University of Chicago statement on academic freedom on the UFS agenda tonight, given CUNY's long and early support of academic freedom. The Chancellor was sympathetic and said he would take our actions into consideration, but wanted to wait for the report of a working group currently looking into the issue.
- A question about multiple and likely excessive fees required for graduate students, particularly education majors.
- A question about a College of Staten Island faculty member's testimony before the CUNY task force on anti-Semitism. Participation appeared to be coerced and even

“McCarthy-esque” to the questioner, while the Chancellor portrayed it as voluntary. The testifying faculty’s own discussion of the events (portrayed as balanced) can be found at <http://www.usacbi.org/2016/03/usacbi-statement-of-solidarity-with-faculty-and-students-under-attack-at-cuny/>

- A question about financially struggling students, with a request to give all students metrocards for transportation. The Chancellor replied that the City Council did fund metrocards for all Guttman students, but the cost for all CUNY students would be prohibitive. He also expressed a desire to expand ASAP, which also addresses this issue.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Resolution Affirming the University of Chicago Report on Freedom of Expression on Campus**

After discussion, the resolution passed without dissent (4 abstentions).

##### **B. Nominations for Executive Committee Officers and At-large Members**

Among those nominated for the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee were Phil Pecorino and Emily Tai from QCC.

##### **C. Demo of Dashboards on CUNY Website**

New dashboard websites for the Office of Institutional Research and the Performance Improvement Process were demonstrated.

It was noted that although the most dramatic threatened cuts to CUNY apparently will not be in New York State’s final budget, numerous instances of underfunded CUNY programs will likely remain, including the requirement for CUNY to cover the difference between the maximum TAP award and tuition, performance improvement funding, increased funding per FTE at community colleges (currently in only the assembly plan), only \$16.6 million rather than the needed \$29 million for fringe benefit costs, and the aforementioned insufficient \$240 billion for collective bargaining (when an additional \$90 million is needed to have parity with SUNY’s settlement). Everyone was encouraged to keep communicating with their elected representatives to improve the future of New York City and CUNY.

#### **V. Reports**

##### **A. Ideas for future UFS conferences**

The Senate was polled via paper questionnaires. Budget, and Governance, Remediation, and Technology & Pedagogy were among the popular ideas.

##### **B. Update from SUNY UFS Chair Peter Kneupfer**

Among topics discussed were:

- SUNY, like CUNY, is being funded at a barely sufficient level in the likely state budget.
- Dr. Kneupfer expressed gratitude that CUNY and SUNY leadership (including the faculty senates) were able to band together to advocate in Albany.
- Efforts to address experiential learning at SUNY, including the development of an internship and Co-op guide.
- Faculty diversity, including attraction and retention.

- The need for a stronger faculty role in senior staff and administrative searches.

Dr. Kneupfer was asked about a proposed dramatic increase in the number of degrees to be issued by SUNY by 2025. He responded that this might be achieved by “micro-credentialing” (involving only a few classes) rather than traditional degrees. There is a panel currently looking into how to achieve this “with quality”.

**C. Committee on Faculty, Staff, and Administration - Kathleen Barker**

Professor Barker discussed two recently passed governance plans for the School of Public Health and Health Policy and for the School of Medicine. In both cases, department chair appointments are controlled by the administration. At the School of Medicine, the administration will appoint the Chairs, while at the School of Public Health and Health Policy the administration will choose between two choices nominated by the faculty. Professor Barker was the only dissenting vote against these governance plans.

**D. Chair’s Report**

Chair Martell’s report included the following:

- He highlighted the excellent job our students did advocating for CUNY on the assembly floor in Albany on Poster Day.
- He reported on the draft report from the Experiential Learning Task Force. It contains no provision for an experiential learning graduation requirement. He noted that experiential learning is expensive, difficult, and, if required, would be an impediment to graduation. He noted that in the initial survey of CUNY campuses there was huge variation in what experiential learning was reported and likely in what was considered to be experiential learning.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 pm.