

Report to QCC Academic Senate re: UFS Plenary Meeting

DATE: 3 February 2016

TO: QCC Academic Senate

FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Todd Holden

SUBJECT:

**The 391st Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University Of New York
Eighth Floor, Room 0818, 205 E. 42nd Street
Tuesday, February 2, 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 December 1, 2015

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

III. Invited Guests

A. Invited Guest: Chancellor James B. Milliken

- Chancellor Milliken started off by announcing that the Community College Faculty Research Fellowship program has been renewed for a third year. This will support 20 CUNY community college faculty.
- The rest of the presentation dealt with brought up with Gov. Cuomo's executive budget of 1/13/2016.
- Chancellor Milliken was supportive of the proposal to extend predictable tuition increases (of \$300 per year) for another 5 years.
- A proposal to shift \$485 million of CUNY's budget from the state to the city coupled with \$240 million set aside for a labor agreement with the PSC was characterized as unacceptable for Mayor de Blasio.
- Regarding the governor's recent demand for efficiencies and criticism of administrative salaries at CUNY and SUNY, the chancellor cited CUNY's 1961 legal formation as an independent, integrated institution, responsive to the needs of the city. It was pointed out that significant resources are needed to fulfill this. The high administrative salaries were also presented as comparable to those in other state university systems.
- The recent request by CUNY management for non-binding mediation was cast in the context of the disparity between shrinking resources coming from the state, the need to conform to salary patterns, and other increasing needs at CUNY.
- The chancellor pointed out that audited financials are available online showing that painful budget reductions have been made across CUNY, including at CUNY central.
- The chancellor pointed out that CUNY has achieved efficiencies through consolidation and will look to find other areas where consolidation is possible.

After the presentation, a number of questions came up, including:

- A question about how “rational” the current tuition increases are in the eyes of our students. Chancellor Milliken pointed out that many students use financial aid to pay for tuition, costs are increasing, and finding efficiencies is limited.
- The chancellor was asked why the administration is not more fervently aligning itself with the faculty and staff to engage the governor on behalf of CUNY. Chancellor Milliken said he was vigorously doing what he thought best to get the best result for CUNY.
- A request was made to have CUNY’s audited financial results broken down at a finer level. The chancellor said this sounds like a fair request.
- Several questions were asked regarding CUNY’s great contributions to society (such as documented in the book “Passing the Torch”) and how to better advocate for the resources we need. The chancellor pointed to the faculty along with the students and alumni as the best lobbyists for CUNY.

B. Invited Guests: Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations Jay Hershenson and Vice Chancellor for Budget and finance Matthew Sapienza

Vice Chancellor Sapienza reported on the details of CUNY’s budget in the context of the governor’s executive budget, including the following:

- There is a projected \$66 million increase for senior colleges including \$51 million from a \$300 tuition increase and \$17 million increase for fringe benefits.
- Other mandatory cost increases were not funded (\$27 million total).
- Five more years of tuition increases are proposed (\$300/year). The vice chancellor voiced his strong support of these predictable tuition increases.
- This executive budget gives no increase for community college base aid (which has declined since 2009). CUNY will be requesting that the legislature add a base aid increase into the final budget.
- A number of programs, including ASAP and childcare programs, are cut in this proposed budget. The chancellor’s office will be lobbying to get these items restored in the final budget.

Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson continued the presentation, emphasizing the need to publicize and promote CUNY including:

- We need to lobby Albany now in synchronization with the legislative schedule.
- ¾ of all New York PELL grant recipients attend CUNY.
- 14% of CUNY students live outside of New York City.
- Each college is involved in outreach to the borough presidents.
- A “Support the CUNY Value” website has been launched to help explain the value of CUNY (<http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2015/12/11/support-the-cuny-value/> and supportcuny.org).
 - The supportcuny.org website contains a tool to e-mail all relevant political recipients with at once.
 - There will be a social media drive in the next 60 days to get the message out.
 - The chancellery will be reaching out to newspapers, business leaders, etc.
 - 39 current state legislators are CUNY alumni.

After the presentation, a number of questions came up, including:

- Questions about the net increase of faculty relative to enrollment. It was stated that full-time faculty have increased by 650-700 people. This number would probably somewhat larger if not for the recent retirement incentive and the time needed to fill retiree lines. It was also acknowledged that student enrollment has increased strongly in the last five years.
- Some concern was expressed over short term or special programs that require applications and red tape to get resources when the need for resources is already clear. The vice chancellors expressed a desire to give campuses what they need.

IV. New Business

Manfred Philpp, Professor of Biochemistry at Lehman College, and UFS Chair from 2006-2010 was acknowledged on his last day at the UFS.

V. Reports

A. Representative to the Board of Trustees committees

A written report was available at the meeting

B. Jane Katz on CUNY Athletic Conference (written and attached, with Q & A)

Dr. Katz gave a brief overview of women in sports at CUNY detailing some of the great progress made between the time before Title IX. and the present. She also emphasized the enhancements sports makes to the mind, the body, and interpersonal relationships.

C. Chair's Report

The Chair made some brief announcements including:

- The chair noted his disappointment in the governor's recent negatively referencing our former chancellor by name in his recent letter.
- The reason for the January classes to listed as spring semester was given. If we were to list these as a separate session, the federal government would consider CUNY to be a trimester college and students would be required to enroll in three terms to get federal financial aid.
- The Experiential Learning Taskforce report is expected to go to the chancellor on 2/3/2016.
- Faculty were encouraged to reach out to our representatives to voice CUNY's needs and promote CUNY's worth.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.