

**Queensborough Community College  
Academic Senate**

To: Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee  
From: Susan Jacobowitz, UFS representative, for QCC  
Date: 7 December 2005  
Re: Items on University Faculty Senate Agenda Plenary Session

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**The 315<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate  
The City University of New York  
Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 6:30 p.m.**

- I. Approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved.
- II. Approval of the minutes of November 2005. Approved with a minor change.
- III. Reports : Chair, Susan O'Malley, made her report:

Update on the Proposed Online BA Program for Degree Completers. At the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, everyone voted online for the curriculum committee, except Susan O'Malley. The Chancellor had called everyone at home to tell them that UFS concerns were a power play and should be ignored. Susan spent the meeting arguing that the document that was provided was insufficient. It was in no way substantial and this is a program that is supposed to start admitting students in the fall. She had no support – privately she was told that she didn't have the votes, so there was no reason for people to cross the Chancellor. Vice Chancellor Selma Botman said a letter of intent would be ready by this meeting but there is no letter of intent distributed so far. Faculty need to look at the whole proposal. Will it go forward without UFS approval? The Perez decision makes that seem unlikely, although it could happen. But it's not likely that these kinds of things will pass through the state board of education without faculty approval. The letter of intent is to be circulated to college presidents to see that there is no overlap. The major of the program will be "Communication and Culture." It was noted that Lehman and Brooklyn have programs that do overlap, although they do not involve online instruction. People who stopped working on degrees in other areas will not have other choices – there is only one major. It is not clear what will happen with out-of-state or out-of-country students. Also, SPS has no full-time faculty. It may be difficult if not impossible to be competitive in terms of quality without these kinds of resources.

Resolution on Miguel Malo's Sentencing. Susan O'Malley introduced a resolution asking that Miguel Malo be given community service rather than jail time as a sentence. It passed with four abstentions and no dissent.

Reorganization of Doctoral Sciences. A retreat was held recently; we have only preliminary information on how programs at individual campuses will be affected. There is talk of a new building, a science center, that would be built at City College. The Chancellor spoke at the retreat and talked about wanting to reduce the number of foreign students in science doctoral programs; there was talk of increased funding for two years for a smaller number, after which mentors would be expected to assist with grant funding. More information on this will be forthcoming.

The Perez Decision. This recent decision from the appeals court concerning Open Meetings Law will shift the balance of power on campus and faculty will need to get ready to assume an expanded role –the role of local governing bodies should no longer be viewed by anyone as merely advisory.

III. Report of the Chancellor: canceled as Chancellor Goldstein was involved in search activities.

III. Report of the Dean of the School of Journalism, Steve Shepherd

He reported on the new graduate school of journalism. There is no publicly-supported program in the Northeast – this will give students without \$35,000 a year in tuition a chance to study and practice journalism. The program will begin in September with 50 students and grow to 150 students. The program takes sixteen months and three semesters to complete, with a summer internship. Money will be made available for those students who would not be able to take an internship without help – perhaps a \$3,000 stipend. The program requires full-time study. Financial aid will be need-based. There will be media tracks but also subject concentrations in these areas of journalism: urban, business and economics, health and medicine. A fourth track focusing on arts and culture will be added the second year. There will be a community news service available on the web featuring video and text – this will be an outlet for student journalism. Broadcast students will produce programming for CUNY tv and a CUNY radio network will be formed. There will be full-time faculty, adjunct faculty and consortial faculty. The tuition is \$6400 per year plus fees, so the cost for students will be something like \$7,000-\$7,500 dollars. Recruitment is beginning – after initial evaluation of applications, there will be interviews and tests. The program intends to be involved in placement after graduation as well.

III. Reports: Professor Dean Savage on results of Faculty Satisfaction Survey

Results will soon be made available and will be made public. It is hoped that this data can be compared with data collected nationally. Queensborough rated very high, particularly when it came to collegiality and the relationship between faculty and administration. Reports concerning amenities such as restrooms vary in the degree of satisfaction reported by CUNY Faculty. No campus faculty seems to be satisfied with access to research assistants. The wide gap in the satisfaction levels within CUNY units indicates some problems that will need to be addressed. The results thus far report that faculty perceive things to be quite bad at certain colleges.

III. Reports from Representatives to Board Committees (submitted in written form)

IV. Old Business- none

V. New Business:

a) Resolution Regarding the CUNY Online B.A.

A resolution was passed stating based on information available the UFS cannot approve the online degree completion program with confidence at this time.

b) Professor Stefan Baumrin presented some preliminary remarks on the recent court decision in the Perez matter and its implications for governance in CUNY. He noted that there should soon be some response to the decision from the administration of CUNY. Upon receipt of that he will prepare a review and comment upon both the decision and the CUNY response and present them to the UFS EC. The UFS will receive a communication on this matter when those documents have been received and discussed by the EC.

c) Professor Manfred Phillip presented some remarks concerning the discussions now under way to reorganize the doctoral programs in the sciences. The UFS was invited to recommend faculty who would be involved in the discussions. One possible approach that was mentioned was that the doctoral programs in the sciences might be moved from the Graduate Center and into individual colleges. As more information becomes available it will be reported.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.