

Queensborough Community College  
Academic Senate

**To:** Emily Tai, Secretary, Steering Committee  
**From:** Susan Jacobowitz, University Faculty Senator  
**Date:** April 26, 2006  
**Re:** Minutes

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The 319<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate  
The City University of New York  
Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

- I. The agenda was approved.
- II. The minutes of the February and March 2006 plenary sessions were approved.
- III. Reports. Susan O'Malley gave verbal comments on her written report.

She is very excited about the appointment of Michelle J. Anderson as Dean of the CUNY Law School.

She doesn't know much about Garrie W. Moore, who has been appointed Vice Chancellor for Student Development.

She was surprised by the resignation of Emma Macari, the Vice Chancellor for Facilities – she is retiring. The new facilities committee had established a good relationship with her.

Anthony J. Tamburri was appointed Dean of the John J. Calandra Italian American Institute – Susan feels it is good to have a scholar appointed.

The Report on Doctoral Science Programs prepared by the external team of reviewers is in and it seems quite favorable – an important sentence reiterates that it is important for there to be doctoral candidates at the various campuses so that undergraduate students can have the exposure in terms of work and study.

About sixty people attended the UFS Spring Conference, “How Satisfied Is the CUNY Faculty?” The proceedings will be published in June.

All of the Campaign for Success reports are in now; they can be requested from provosts.

A second draft of a policy entitled “Recommended Procedures for Handling Student Complaints about Faculty Conduct in the Classroom” has been sent by Vice Chancellor Shaffer. It incorporated UFS suggestions – he wants to be prepared against possible attacks from the outside. If students don’t have a procedure available from within and can’t pursue, they are more likely to go outside. It should be handled first at the department and college level, and this statement will help made procedures clear to both students and faculty.

Over 700 people registered for the conference on “Black Male Youth” taking place on April 26, 2006. There will be a follow-up to the NY Civil Rights Coalition request to the U.S. Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights.

Emily Tai was appointed to the Committee on Faculty Development to determine this year’s graduate recipients but couldn’t make the meeting – Susan Jacobowitz agreed to step in.

The Retention Report is poorly written and has inaccuracies – a desire was expressed during the plenary session that the UFS create a statement in response, setting the record straight from the point of view of faculty. The people who generated the report are all administrators. There is concern about the labeling of some courses “killer courses.” A copy of the report can be e-mailed to those who are interested.

There was a verbal report on the first admitted class to the new graduate school of Journalism. It was felt that there had been great applicants and that the program has been well-received – it’s ranked with schools like Columbia, McGill and NYU. There will be a big age range in the class (21-53); there’s a high number of women; some foreign students have been accepted; the diversity range is 30-50%; 20-30% of the accepted students come from CUNY. The point was made that there was a feeling that this school should really address the needs of those who might not have other opportunities available for graduate study when it was reported that foreign students and students who had graduated from schools like Harvard had been accepted. The rejoinder was that these kinds of admissions might be important for the reputation and ranking of the school – the higher the status of the program, the more benefit for all of those who attend.

- IV. Nominations for Officers and Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee were taken. People can also nominate themselves before the next plenary session, when the vote will take place. Instructions on who is eligible to run and on the nomination process were distributed before the meeting.
- V. Panel on Conversion of Face-to-Face Courses to Online Courses. Bill Divale, Kimberly Reiser (Nassau Community College/SUNY) and Phil Pecorino gave presentations. Whether or not these courses should have to go through curriculum committees was discussed – Phil especially feels that once a class

is approved, it shouldn't have to go through a new approval process just because of a change in modality. There are concerns about who will own materials that are prepared, about whether or not faculty will be "ordered" to put classes online (or denied permission to put classes online). There is concern about whether or not online instruction is a good thing for students and for education in general, but there are those who feel that this is a change that has already been made and a lot of people have already accrued a lot of experience in this area. Phil prepared a handout on the course approval process for a class to be taught in the online modality that looks very helpful. Bill has also had a lot of experience. There is also concern that this kind of instruction – which has a tremendous potential to increase access to education – be done well. It isn't cheap and it might not be easy. Faculty will need technical support and training and it will take some investment in order to convert courses. This is a conversation that will be continuing, particularly with the launching of OLBA.

VI. New Business. There was no new business.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Jacobowitz  
April 26, 2006