

**Queensborough Community College
Academic Senate**

Date: 12/1/2008

To: Devin McKay , Secretary, Steering Committee

From: Robert Sweetnam UFS representative, for QCC

Subject: Report on UFS Plenary November 25, 2008

Items on THE 339th PLENARY SESSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School , 365 Fifth Avenue
Room 9204/05

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

6:30 p.m.

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order

I. Approval of the Agenda for November 28, 2008

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2008 Plenary Season

The minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Report of the UFS Chair

Chair Manfred Philipp referred members of the Senate to his written report, and indicated that Chancellor Goldstein would not be able to attend the meeting due to a death in the family. Chair Philipp introduced Vice-Chancellor Allan H. Dobrin.

B. Report of Executive Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Allan H. Dobrin

Vice-Chancellor Dobrin indicated that the current 82 Million in Budget reductions were currently being absorbed by means of various budgeting strategies, including the pause on administrative hiring. He warned, however, that new cuts were anticipated, with probable implications for the Community Colleges, from the Mayor's office, in January. Good news, however, was the way in which the Governor's call to raise tuition would allow 20% of the money raised to be retained for investment in the university. There was, moreover, an understanding that this percentage might well increase. Vice-Chancellor Dobrin indicated that TAP will absorb an increase for the most needy students; he also indicated that there would be work/study programs and book fund established. 29.7 Million will be allocated for full-time faculty; 5 Million will be allocated for the new CUNY School of Public Health. There will be also be money for Health and Safety expenses.

C. Report of Professor Kathryn Richardson, Chair of the UFS Research Awards Committee

Professor Richardson discussed concerns over the \$50.00 honorarium offered to faculty proposal reviewers with appointments outside CUNY. It has been suggested that the cost of grant administration could be lowered or stabilized if these honoraria were eliminated. Some disciplines, however, are resistant, maintaining that such honoraria are necessary to attract expert reviewers. Professor Richardson also solicited suggestions from the UFS membership regarding

possible directions for the next task force report, which would be reviewed, as was the previous report, by Vice-Chancellor Gillian Small.

C. Representatives to Board Committees

Reports are posted on the UFS website.

IV. Resolution of Condolences to Dr. Bernard Sohmer on the death of his wife, Margot Sohmer.

UFS members would be informed of particulars to contribute to the Smile Train.

V. Report from Dr. Philip Pecorino, member-at-large of the CUNY IT Steering Committee

Dr. Philip Pecorino reported that the IT Steering Committee had been created by Vice-Chancellor Dobrin regarding polices and purchases relating to IT CUNY-wide. The operation of the committee has realized significant advantages for the University and the individual units of CUNY. It has the potential for realizing the benefits of an integrated university with regard to purchasing and vendor services. It also poses a challenge for units wanting autonomy in certain areas. He also discussed challenges anticipated with CUNY First, including the implementation of a common e-mail system, and issues regarding network security. Upcoming shortly the Council of Chief Librarians has forwarded a proposed policy on the Filtering of internet sites by local IT units that will be presented to this committee and then possibly to the BOT.

The IT Steering Committee did not originate the current CUNY Policy on Computer Use. The Task Force of Vice Chancellor Frederick Shaffer that did so has yet to return to review the operation of that policy and the need to go further with a Policy on Privacy and Confidentiality.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.