

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 pm in Room 9204/05 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

### **I. Approval of the Agenda for February 8, 2009**

Agenda was approved by voice vote with two modifications:

1. Chancellor Goldstein would not be available to address the Senate.
2. Bonnie Nelson of John Jay College of Criminal Justice will report on the technical problems CUNY has been dealing with regard to Blackboard, CUNY Portal, and other digital data systems.

### **II. Approval of the Minutes of December 8, 2008**

Minutes were approved as distributed.

### **III. Approval of Rules of Procedures**

Approved by voice vote.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Chair (Oral & Written)**

The report of UFS Chair Manfred Philipp was posted on the UFS website. Dr. Philipp reported that there is slow by substantial progress on faculty experience survey, and that Chancellor Goldstein is committed to providing financial support for this survey.

#### **B. Chancellor Mitchell Goldstein: 6:30 pm**

Chancellor Goldstein could not attend tonight.

#### **C. Representatives to Board Committees (Written)**

Reports were distributed.

#### **D. Outreach to Albany—Prof. Martha Bell, Brooklyn College**

Prof. Bell provided a report on CUNY's outreach to the state government in Albany.

1. Now that the State Senate is controlled by the Democratic Party, Democratic senators need to be lobbied with special attention to Senator Carl Kruger (Chair of the Senate Finance Committee) and Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee). Letters can be written from the following website: [www.supportCUNY.org](http://www.supportCUNY.org).
2. The state budget could be approved early this year (March 1<sup>st</sup>)
3. Lower than expected budget cuts for Community Colleges is a distinct possibility.
4. If the state budget is not approved by March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be "Higher Organization Lobbying Day" when various organizations (NYPRIRG, CLAC, for instance) will visit legislators in Albany.
5. Key issues: A) Reductions in TAP Funding, and B) Any funds generated by the tuition increases should go to the university.
6. Prof. Bell will distribute a list of State Senators that should be solicited to support funding for higher education.

### **E. CUNY's Endowment Management Policies Committee?—Prof. Terrence Martell, Baruch College**

Professor Martell provided the following report on CUNY's Endowment Management Policies Committee.

1. This committee oversees the investment of the CUNY endowment.
2. This committee is not involved with raising funds for the endowment.
3. This committee is not involved with decisions on how to spend funds from the endowment.
4. CUNY's endowment is approximately \$118 million, which is, in Prof. Martell's words, "not very large as endowments go."
5. Given the current financial situation CUNY's endowment is down.
6. Individual colleges are separate corporations, and this committee is not involved in overseeing how the endowment for these colleges is invested.

During the Q&A, it was determined that reports on how the endowments for the colleges are invested can be found online by searching "Form 990," "+ zip code", and "+ the name of the college."

### **F. CUNY Academy of Arts & Sciences—Prof. Susan O'Malley, Kingsborough Community College**

Prof. O'Malley reported that the CUNY Academy of Arts & Sciences is being reinvigorated. This academy is open to all faculty members throughout the university. She urged members of the UFS to join the academy, participate in its events, and spread the excitement to colleagues.

### **G. Update on the Proposed New Community College—Prof. Frances Ruoff, Kingsborough Community College**

Prof. Ruoff provided the following report on a meeting the Community College Caucus had with John Mogulescu, Dean of the CUNY School of Professional Studies earlier on February 4<sup>th</sup>. This meeting focused on the status of the proposed new community college in Manhattan.

1. Dean Mogulescu expressed interest in more faculty and student involvement as planning moves to "Phase 2."
2. Funding for the new community college will come from New York State, New York City, and outside organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
3. Funds for the new community college will not be taken from existing community college budgets for now. Dean Mogulescu indicated that this might not always be the case.
4. The new community college will not take classroom space or library space from other CUNY schools.
5. Issues regarding the types of programs offered, degrees conferred, courses requirements, articulation agreements, remediation programs, laboratory and library facilities, and Middle States accreditation are still unclear. Goal is for students to get terminal degrees and find jobs as well as being about to transfer credits to four-year colleges.

6. The new community college will focus on full-time students only. Goal is for students to earn 20 credits by the end of their first year. Exact admissions policy is still unclear although Dean Mogulescu said that the new school will not “cherry-pick” its students.
7. The new community college is designed to reduce dropout rates, especially for minority students.
8. The new community college will be far more comprehensive than a pilot program to reduce dropout rates. The Chancellery had previously rejected a pilot program.
9. Articulation is a major concern. Not sure how it will work. A program might be dropped if it cannot be articulated
10. The new community college is not a model for the existing CUNY community colleges, as it will accept only fulltime students. Definition of a fulltime student is not clear.
11. The program is based on national data, not CUNY data, or data from big city community college.

Dr. Philipp indicated that Dean Mogulescu will be asked to report on the new community college at the next Plenary Session of the UFS.

#### **H. Report on Blackboard and CUNY Portal—Bonnie Nelson, John Jay.**

Bonnie Nelson provided the following report on the severe problems the university has been recently experiencing with Blackboard, the CUNY Portal, eSims, LDAP and others digital data systems.

1. Problems with Blackboard started last semester with the migration to Blackboard 8.
2. Problems got severe on January 9<sup>th</sup> when maintenance in the CUNY data center caused the air conditioning to fail, which in turn damaged the servers.
3. Blackboard is not the only problem. CUNY Portal, eSims, and library systems are experiencing failures as well.
4. Situation remains in a state of flux. Repairs of the servers are still underway. IT has been putting in a heroic effort to resolve these problems.
5. Blackboard, which has been operating sporadically, is currently running and new patches to the software have been installed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm