

March 3, 2010

From: Joel Kuszai and Aránzazu Borrachero, UFS Members/Queensborough Community College

To: Barbara Blake-Campbell, Secretary, QCC Senate Steering Committee
Emily Tai, Chairperson, QCC Senate Steering Committee

Att.

Report on the 349th UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, March 2, 2010

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda for March 2, 2010

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 2, 2010

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report (oral and written)

The chair did not make oral comments but rather referred the UFS to his written report, which addressed the following issues:

- Completion of the UFS Faculty Experience Survey
- Proposals for restructuring the PSC-CUNY Awards Program
- The strengthening of connections to the University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA)
- The initiative to promote public higher education for prisoners
- A panel to select the interim president of the New Community College (NCC)
- The lack of faculty members in the committees working on the proposed NCC
- The unanimous opposition of the UFS Executive Committee to the draft governance structure of the proposed CUNY School for Public Health
- The creation of a Subcommittee of the Faculty Role in Student Admissions
- The Chancellor's proposal of a new CUNY Sexual Assault Policy
- An Anti-Tobacco Advisory Committee established by Vice Chancellor Logue
- New York State plans to cut community colleges base budgets, which stand in contrast to President Obama's support for community colleges
- Future nominations for officers and members of the UFS Executive Committee

B. Update on UCRA, Professor Joe Wilson (oral)

Professor Wilson gave a brief report about the University Committee on Research Awards, mentioning that the PSC and the Office of the Chancellor are currently studying different formulas for possible restructuring of the PSC Research Award Program.

Prof. Kathryn Richardson added that the search for faculty to serve as liaisons (review

panel leaders) is still open.

C. Chancellor Goldstein (oral)

The Chancellor addressed the UFS regarding the Governor's budget. CUNY is working very hard with SUNY in responding to their common problems.

The current financial crisis is calling for tuition raises, which the Chancellor describes as "regressive". CUNY, however, lacks a tuition policy to respond to the crisis more soundly.

Some proposals for tuition policy have been considered as an alternative to general tuition increases. One of them is to take tuition off the appropriations process – that is tuition would be levied and all of the money would go back to the college. According to the Chancellor, the Legislature would never embrace this measure.

Another proposed action is to modify the appropriations process. Land use is an example of how the university could create revenue. This is a possibility for SUNY, which has considerable extensions of land, not so for CUNY. Purchase University, for example, would like to build senior citizen housing on or near its campus, which would be a source of revenue, and would increase community involvement.

For CUNY, the Chancellor favors a "differential tuition" measure, but only for different programs (not among campuses). He believes that MBA programs, to cite an example, could and should be more expensive than programs whose graduates will join the workforce with considerable lower salaries.

The Chancellor repeated his claim that, back in 2007, he warned the UFS about the "storm clouds" gathering in the state fiscal situation. CUNY has managed its resources well, he says, which will sustain the university for the moment, but he predicts dire budgetary times for at least two years.

Achievements and upcoming positive events:

- A campaign to celebrate women in the sciences at CUNY
- Retention rates are increasing incrementally
- Graduation rates are increasing incrementally
- CUNY is attracting some of the best students it has ever seen
- Enrollments are record high, which is a mixed blessing: resources are needed if the quality of our education is to be kept at a superior level
- There is a new School of Public Health (first public school of public health in the area)
- The Chancellor' will be speaking on Community Colleges at the Center for Educational Innovation at the Harvard Club, where he will announce the extraordinarily positive results of ASAP and the efforts to create a new community college at CUNY
- The Decade of the Sciences is moving along well; new science facilities are present at the university
- The Mayor will be making an announcement soon, but the Chancellor does not want to give away its content
- Fundraising is strong in spite of the financial environment. Of the proposed \$3 billion target, \$1.7 has already been raised

D. Representatives to Board Committees (written)

UFS Students Affairs Committee, Carmen Martínez-López, Chair (oral & written)

Prof. Martínez-López directed members to her written report. She raised the issue that for many years this committee had been inoperative.

E. Presentation of Faculty Experience Survey, Professor Kathleen Barker (oral & written)

The Chair made a motion to recognize Professor Kathleen Barker for her work on the Faculty Experience Survey. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Professor Barker discussed the results of the FES, and gave some directions to interpret the data. She remarked that the response rate for full-time faculty was 39% -- very good for an academic study. The pool of respondents was well balanced between 2 and 4-year schools, mirroring proportionally the total numbers of the university itself. The response rate of part-time faculty was higher than the 20% minimum considered valid for this type of study.

Professor Barker gave a general overview of the report, pointing out trends and making clear how the data was organized by campus, by faculty type, by race, and by gender.

The full report is available at <http://www.cunyufs.org/FES/>

IV. New Business

There was not any new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.