

February 16, 2010

From: Joel Kuszai, UFS Member/Queensborough Community College

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

Att.

Report on the 348th UFS Plenary Session of CUNY, February 2, 2010

UFS Chair Manfred Philipp called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the Multi-Purpose Room on the 2nd Floor of North Hall, 445 West 59th Street, New York.

I. Approval of the Agenda for February 2, 2010

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 24, 2009

Minutes were approved as distributed by voice vote.

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report (oral and written)

The Chair referred to the written report, which contains the following highlights:

- Celebration of life of Ernesto Malave to be held on February 5.
- UFS welcomed interim Vice Chancellor Marc Shaw to the Budget Advisory Committee meeting, also attended by VC Dobrin and Matthew Sapienza, recently promoted to Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget & Finance.
- With support of UFS, proposals for restructuring PSC-CUNY Awards Program has been put into PSC contract negotiation process.
- CUNY enrollment increases 14.3%; headcount at 251,000; transfers up 133%
- The governor's budget supports differential tuition in CUNY and SUNY, cuts TAP, and community college budgets by \$285 per student.
- Recent statements at Enrollment Management Council suggest the Central Office may seek changes to SEEK and College Discovery programs.
- School of Professional Studies has proposed "brick and mortar" curriculum competing with CUNY colleges, a violation of promises made to UFS and the SPS governance document. SPS is also seeking to remove the mandate to support doctoral students.
- CUNYfirst implementation has experienced problems where implemented, with glitches in hiring and application process.

- UFS Executive Committee has authorized formation of a new advisory committee to work on CUNY-wide research issues, and a committee to promote the UFS resolution on public higher education for people in NYS prisons.
- April UFS Plenary will include nomination process for UFS officers and other members of the UFS Executive Committee.

B. Eileen Goldman, CUNY Director of State Relations (Albany)

Eileen Goldman presented an overview of the state legislative process and budget timeline, as well as lobbying in the context of what she described as the “worst budget situation perhaps in history.” She also discussed the following issues:

- Current atmosphere and partisan split in the houses
- Control of Senate and redistricting are at stake
- If Atty. Gen. Cuomo runs for Gov., sitting senators may run for his position, opening up more seats.
- “There will be no avails” (new resources)
- Legislators would like to see budget done by March 26, (spring break)
- Watch Wall Street in February and March: tight revenues will mean the legislature will seek to pass a budget on time; more revenues may lead to a delay.
- Goldman discussed lobbying and advocacy, such as CUNY’s Legislative Action Committee (CLAC) and faculty involvement in Albany lobbying and local district visits with members of Senate, Assembly, and City Council
- As one of several ways CUNY faculty can participate, we need to reach out to key legislators, do homework about legislators, find out committee assignments, invite them to campus – show them our students, “who they are serving” (highly effective). Information and charts are available. [Note: VP Zins is CLAC contact at Queensborough].
- Goldman also briefly discussed the website SupportCUNY.ORG.
- Among other budget proposal figures, are the \$285 per student cut from community colleges and an overall TAP cut of \$75 per student.
- Apparently Goldstein opposes “differential tuition” by campus (as is the case at SUNY).
- “Programmatic differences” (?) might the way it works out at CUNY
- Lobbying Laws and Compliance: If you lobby, notify the CLAC rep & the President of your college and beware of new laws governing lobbying, such as “no gifts” (Starbucks not allowed, Dunkin Donuts is okay!)

c. Mary Kaye Kellogg, CLAC (Albany)

Kaye Kellogg discussed the new website SUPPORTCUNY.ORG and made the following points:

- SUPPORTCUNY.ORG website offers a means to do form letters without making them look like form letters.
- CUNY government relations also has its own website. Use it as a resource tool.
- Important CUNY lobbying dates:
 - February 12-14 – Caucus weekend.
 - April 16—18 Somos El Futuro.
 - June 7—Italian American Night.
 - March 87—Irish Night.

UFS members followed up with questions about lobbying rules, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA), as well as the possibility of a stock transfer tax as a means to make up some of the deficit.

D. Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair, Higher Education Committee, NYC Council

Freshman Council Member Rodriguez, a CUNY graduate, spoke to the UFS, introducing himself briefly.

E. Bonnie Nelson, CUNY/FIRST Tech. Advisory Committee

Discussing the organization, purpose and function of the CUNY/FIRST Tech Advisory Committee, Nelson made the following points:

- Blackboard: Faculty want right to innovate, while CUNY wants one standard.
- Questions/Concerns about privacy, protecting student information, etc.
- What about Blackboard as a portal to other, perhaps more local, innovative systems?

F. Leslie Jacobson, Faculty Advisory Council

Discussing the activities of the Council, Jacobson described the outcome of the Research Foundation meeting re: labor issues with RF staff settled “amicably.”

G. Michael Barnhart (Kingsborough), UFS rep. on Enrollment Management Council

Barnhart addressed enrollment issues as well as admissions and financial aid concerns. Making the point that early numbers for Fall 2010 show the numbers to be up, though it’s still too early to tell. Some of the main points raised in his presentation:

- Every college is reporting increased retention/admission rates.
- Every college has targets, which are being exceeded.
- Retention means less admission.

- Favored strategies to deal with admissions: close it early; eliminate phases of admission; adjust admission standards, especially re-admission standards, and transfers.
- Enormous increases in the number of transfer students, especially into community colleges. (360% increase in transfers at LAGCC.)
- Governance bodies need to be run through the admissions standards. Criteria should have faculty input.
- California close-out on students moving from JCs to SCs. That could happen here? Pay attention to this.
- Commencement of attendance: University Registrar says compliance is spotty across CUNY. We need to lean on our colleagues not to shirk this responsibility.
- What impact are enrollment pressures having on the mission of CUNY as open-admissions?

H. Shawn Rice, Co-Chair for Communications, Doctoral Student Council

Rice discussed concerns of graduate students at the School of Professional Studies regarding a change in a policy at the SPS affecting funding of graduate students. This change seemingly redirects “revenue generated” by SPS away from the original charge to support graduate students.

A lengthy discussion session followed in which the leadership of SPS under Vice Chancellor Mogulescu and the development and planning of a new CUNY community college were discussed. Exchanges among UFS members could be summarized as follows:

- Management of SPS and the specific policy change redirecting revenue away from support for doctoral students seems to reflect a new model for CUNY.
- UFS members are concerned that there is still no movement on governance and hiring at the new community college presumably set to open in Fall 2011.
- Lack of commitment to hiring full-time faculty; SPS use of adjunct and “consortial faculty” seems to be where the new community college plan is heading.

IV. Other business

Jerry Cuppin (?) was awarded a medal for his service to the doctoral graduate programs in science.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.