

UFS Chair Sandi Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in Room 9204/5/6 at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

I. Approval of the Agenda for February 28, 2012

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 13, 2012

Minutes were approved by voice vote with a friendly amendment (typographical error) from Professor Mike Vozick (available at <http://www.cunyufs.org/MINUTES%20OF%20THE%20363rd%20PLENARY%20SESSION.pdf>)

III. Reports

A. Associate Vice-Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matthew Sapienza

Associate Vice-Chancellor Sapienza furnished a Budget Update. Governor Cuomo's preliminary budget furnishes a "stable fund situation" for senior colleges in fiscal 2013, in which an increase of \$137 Million, \$67 Million of which will be derived from recognized tuition revenue, will enable CUNY to meet obligations for funding "mandatory needs" (fringe benefits, for example), and such expenses as funding for Adjunct health insurance. Community Colleges will also be stable, as the \$2122 allocated per FTE has not been cut further, and there are no proposed changes in TAP. Funding for critical maintenance is also maintained on both senior and community college campuses. Mayor Bloomberg's Preliminary Budget, which will also require the assent of the City Council, likewise proposes no reductions for the community colleges, and the funding of mandatory needs. The Vice-Chancellor also urged that faculty governance leaders be included in the budget decision process.

- Chair Cooper also recognized the Associate Vice-Chancellor's office for its generous support of William Stewart Travel Awards, which fund conference expenses for untenured faculty.

B. Chair, Sandi Cooper

- Professor Kathleen Barker, chair of the UFS Status of the Faculty Committee, was thanked for her thorough report on the feasibility of Long-term planning for courses; she was also recognized for her initiation of a meeting with Administrative personnel and Professional Staff Congress representatives, regarding difficulties/delays with TRS disbursements to retiring faculty.
- The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) will be piloted on four CUNY campuses this spring.
- The Open Access project spearheaded by Professor Morris Hounion is underway. Meetings are also being initiated with Vice-Chancellor Allan Dobrin and Brian Cohen to discuss the expansion of faculty representation on the IT Steering Committee.
- Several members of the Board of Trustees are also concerned about the recruitment of a more diverse faculty; a report has apparently been issued that has not yet been promulgated.
- A website with guidelines regarding the Pathways initiative has been established: <http://www.cunyufs.org/Guidelines.pdf>. An open meeting sponsored by the PSC is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2012.
- The UFS is also following the possibility that the 1986 Handshu Agreement may have been violated by current surveillance of Muslim students on CUNY campuses. This matter is being investigated by the ACLU, the NYCLU, and the Brennan Center for Justice, although there was some expansion of investigative discretion after 9/11.
- Professor Carmen-Martinez Lopez, UFS representative on the Affirmative-Action Committee, was also thanked for an outstanding report, available at <http://www.cunyufs.org/ReportUAACFall20111219.pdf>

363rd Plenary Session, Report (continued)

IV. New Business

A. Resolution on the Common Core:

- A resolution on the “Common Core” passed, after lively discussion, with 58 yeas; 2 nays, and 4 abstentions. The text of the resolution is here:
<http://www.cunyufs.org/RESOLUTIONONTHECOMMONCORE.pdf>

B. Resolution on the UFS Endorsement of Pending Legislation Regarding the Trustees of CUNY

- A resolution, endorsing proposed legislation to create commissions to select Board of Trustee members for CUNY and SUNY institutions of public higher education passed with 53 yeas, 3 nays, and 2 abstentions:
<http://www.cunyufs.org/resolutiononcommissiontoselectCUNYtrustees.pdf>

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Tai