

Report to QCC Academic Senate re UFS Plenary Meeting

DATE: 27 October 2015

TO: QCC Academic Senate

FROM: QCC Faculty Representative to CUNY UFS, Todd Holden

SUBJECT:

**The 389th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University Of New York
The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue
Room 9204/5/6
Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

UFS Chair Terrence Martell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda for September 29, 2015

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Invited Guest: Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Vita Rabinowitz

The main points of Provost Rabinowitz's presentation were:

- Remediation: 82% of CUNY Community College students require remediation. Of those, 60% never emerge from remediation. As chair of the remediation task force, she plans to be more conservative on placement into remediation, improve the path out of remediation, and use evidence-based assessment to improve remediation. In order to do this, she is looking to leverage our successful programs such as ASAP and CUNY Start.
- Degree Completion: 3- and 6-year graduation rates have shown some improvement in recent years, but there is still a ways to go. She is looking to review transfer and articulation agreements (including reverse transfer where a student can receive an associate degree upon completing enough units after transfer to a senior college). She is also looking to assess Pathways, especially in regards to its goal to ease transfer.
- Improving teacher education: She is looking to improve certification scores and better align with common core. (This fits in with our UFS fall conference topic of NYC K-16 Education on Friday, November 13 at John Jay College. Those interested in attending should email Vernice Blanchard at vernice.blanchard@cuny.edu).
- Workforce development: She wants to improve worker education programs and help adults returning to school. A Task force to coordinate with industry is being formed.
- The Office of Faculty Affairs: will aid faculty advancement and development. A new University Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs has been hired, Annemarie Nicols-Grinenko.
- Research Innovation and Development: She wants more support research, particularly interdisciplinary, collaborative, and 21st century urban research.
- Experiential Learning: CUNY is gathering information from the campuses to address this new mandate.
- Strategic Planning and Master Planning: There is a University-wide effort in this area, including a new Master Plan in Spring, 2016.
- Digital CUNY and Global CUNY: She is looking to leverage online learning to open up student options and speed degree completion. As a measure of how we are doing, the CUNY SPS online sociology course has been rated the best in the nation. We are

looking to leverage the many New York City cultural institutions to improve our global studies.

There were a number of questions following the presentation. Based on my notes, Kay Conway has summarized them well in her e-mail and added some important information, so I include here comments here:

There were a number of audience questions/statements on a variety of topics including:

How we measure learning outcomes; concerns about the switch to Accuplacer from Compass for entrance exams (the VC stated that how the process is managed will be up to the Remediation Council but that she recognized the importance of multiple measures); considering measuring graduation rates at the 8 yr. rather than 6 yr. point; expanding the Remediation council to include more Math faculty, particularly faculty from campuses where remediation is taught; reexamining CUNY Start success in the context of passing not the exit exam but rather performance in subsequent math classes; CUNY needs to take the lead on education standards back from billionaires and corporate America; keeping in mind the importance of Veterans as they attend our campuses; the importance of Master's programs particularly in light of VC Sapienza's earlier presentation on the relationship between Masters programs and revenue (VC Rabinowitz affirmed the value of Master's programs though she emphasized the connection between having masters students and the opportunities it presents for faculty to teach as opposed to a "cash cow" view; but she restated that given the numbers of masters students in relation to the student body as a whole, remediation and graduation would have to remain the top priorities); concern that with the focus on ASAP, other programs may suffer; and consideration of continuing the Leadership Academy started by Chancellor Kelly.

There was a request that 2014/2015 PMP results be made available. Those data are available on the CUNY website at: <http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/6/about/administration/chancellor/office/performance-management/>

There was a discussion about the COACHE results, which have been distributed on all but three campuses. VC Rabinowitz is reluctant to interfere with/undermine campus leaders and distribute the results centrally, as that does not set the right tone for having the necessary conversations. She is confident that all of the results will be shared and discussions will ensue. (One of the three campuses has already scheduled a presentation of the results, with distribution to occur simultaneously). Campuses are taking different approaches to disseminating the material with some posting it electronically, some sending it via email, others distributing through the chairs or the governance bodies. Electronic distribution is preferable since black and white copies prevent examination of the red and green dots used to indicate responses. Committees are being formed to examine the data, some led by the Provosts, others led by governance leaders. The question was raised about including adjuncts in future surveys and VC Rabinowitz noted that CUNY was the first to survey community college faculty and she is willing to pursue an adjunct survey in future. Centrally the VC plans to convene a group to discuss COACHE and other faculty issues.

III. Reports

A. Student Affairs Committee

Leroy Lawton from student affairs recommended that we reach out to students and find out their concerns.

B. Pension Advisory Committee

Minor changes to the OPR retirement system are coming to make it cheaper and more efficient.

C. Status of Faculty Committee

The dissemination of the COACHE results were briefly discussed. They also recommended that senior college and community college faculty get reassigned time to do research at the Graduate Center.

D. Chair

Chair Martell stated that he believes we Provost Rabinowitz is good advocate for issues important to the faculty and encouraged us to support her in her efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.