Senate Minutes: 3/8/01.

The College Senate:


Guests: Alice Fuller, Bernard Gantt, McThadeus Holden, Nadine Posner, Nancy Ritze, George Sanchez, David Taylor.


Excused: Kathleen Berger, Marty Cohen, Mary Coleman, Donna Mangiante, Mal Mathews.

* There were several names on the list that I was unable to read.

I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Ruth Bass, at 12:30 PM.

II. Announcement made that the notes from the last Senate meeting were not available, as Donna Mangiante was unable attend today. Marjorie Garrido will take notes instead.

Ruth Bass announced that speakers stand up and identify themselves so that the Chair can properly acknowledge them.

Because of the Chancellor’s visit, committees were asked to postpone their reports until the April 19 meeting or to make abbreviated reports.

III. Chancellor Goldstein’s Comments:

a. Discussed the budgetary problems that have plagued BCC in recent years and connected those problems to the decline in enrollment. While he believes that “The life of an institution is the influx of new talent”; he explained that budgetary constraints has kept BCC from hiring new faculty. The se problems, according to Chancellor Goldstein exist in of CUNY’s campuses. He also stated that we cannot expect for the state to fund the institution and that we need to find new ways to increase funding to the University.

b. Prof. Skinner asked about how these budgetary concerns will affect BCC’s recruiting efforts. The Chancellor’s response was to present CUNY as the University for the people of New York City and to emphasize that each individual is valued. Recruiters should stress that the prospective student
should trust the educators to guide and determine where the student ought to
start. He also cautioned that we, as educators, ought to be aware of how each
prospective student defines success. He also acknowledged that CUNY has
many distinguished faculty at all of its colleges.

c. Chancellor Goldstein stated that he does not think that students attend a two-
year college with the intent to obtain a degree. Prof. Ryan stated that there has
been an increase in the number of students who want to obtain the foundation
that will allow them to transfer to a four-year school. Students in the Liberal Arts
curriculum have increased. Similarly, Prof. Gliner affirmed that many of our
students want to obtain an Associate’s degree and move on to a four-year school.

d. Tyrone Josie asked about the tuition remission for full-time doctoral students.

e. Chancellor Goldstein spoke of the sharing of resources across campuses. Prof.
Gonster asked for clarification and the Chancellor explained that we are moving
in the direction of integration and sharing campus resources. He is against
closing any CUNY campus, but is for expanding the administrative support
services that could be shared by more than one campus, which would help
improve the economic situation at CUNY. Prof. Zaidi spoke to the “corporate
restructuring of the University” and the negative impact that such perceptions
have on faculty. The Chancellor disagreed, denying that we are becoming like
corporate America, but confirmed that the University is not only changing but
ought to change. He urged that all CUNY campuses collaborate to find different
ways of generating revenue. Prof. Cummins asked about travel for students if we
accept integrated programs. The Chancellor’s response was that integrated
programs would allow faculty to have smaller classes but did not fully address
the issues of travel.

f. Prof. Fuld mentioned BCC’s need for classroom space and the issue of the “core
curriculum”. Dr. Finkelstein also brought attention to the need for classroom
space, by asking about the students that might come to BCC if Lehman and other
four-year schools reduce the number of freshmen they admit. Allan Glasser, as
the Associate Registrar, confirmed the need for classroom space. The issue of
classroom space came up several times, to which the Chancellor responded with
some confusion as he found it hard to understand the need for classroom space
when enrollment numbers have been in decline. He reported that next year there
will be another one billion dollar budget and that the need for buildings would
have to be ranked in order of importance. In addition, he is looking into
obtaining space in buildings such as the old Alexander’s Department store on
Fordham Road, which can be utilized for satellite units of the college. This is
what many hospitals have done with much success. In terms of the core
curriculum, he deferred to Vice Chancellor Louise Mirrer who is looking at the
issue carefully. According to the Chancellor, there will not be a core curriculum
for all campuses, but rather, a core curriculum for each campus.

g. Prof. Read asked the Chancellor if he understood the difference between the lack
of state support for CUNY and the support that goes to other state colleges, to
which the Chancellor responded that he did not understand it, but that it is a
reality nevertheless. His opinion was that the University has not been vocal

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enough in demanding funds from the state and urged everyone to organize faculty groups to go to Albany. He believes that it is an obligation that we all have. Questions had to be curtailed, as the Chancellor had to attend another meeting.

IV. Committee Reports and Action Items
a. Academic Standing - no report.
b. Curriculum Committee - postponed any actions to be voted to the April meeting.
c. No report by Deans' Committee.
d. Governance and Elections Committee - no report.
e. Instruction and Professional Development – Prof. Williams distributed copies of the new faculty evaluation instrument, which will be voted on the April meeting.
f. Space, Facilities, and Physical Plant - report will be given at the next Senate meeting.
g. Student Activities – a representative from NYPIRG announced that representatives will be on campus on 3/28/01. It was also announced that there will be a Sexual Harassment workshop, which will take place on 3/13/01 at the Roscoe Brown Student Center.
h. Student Government – Carmen Perez made a statement on behalf of students that the last motioned passed (Math 12) was unfair and rushed. She made a request to reconsider but was told that such a request must have been made by someone on the prevailing side on the day the motion was considered.

University Faculty Senate - no report.
Faculty Council - will hold brief meeting on March 8, 2001.

h. University Student Senate - no report.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Garrido