

Minutes of the Special Plenary Session  
of the University Senate  
of the City University of New York  
May 6, 1970

The Chairman, Professor Robert S. Hirschfield, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Eighth Floor Lounge of the Graduate Center. All members were present except Professors Ames, Cheng, Cooper, Edgar, Elias, Feinberg, Hale, Hausknecht, Hickok, Kahn, Lean, Levenstein, Manfredonia, Miller, Navas, Polishook, Pomilla, Rosenfield, L. Schwartz, Sedgwick, Seltzer, Sheinwold, Weston, Wilson, and Wolfe. Professors Nathan Schmukler (CUNY-AAUP Council), Lewis Schwartz (Lehman), Lloyd Sealy (John Jay), Harriet Gilbert (Mt. Sinai), and Dr. John Hose and Mrs. Kathleen Sullivan were also present.

- I. Minutes of the Twelfth Plenary Session were unanimously approved.
- II. Communications and Announcements: The Chairman reported (1) that Chancellor Bowker was unable to attend this session because of a meeting with the BHE Law Committee; and (2) that the Queens College and John Jay Governance Proposals had been accepted by the BHE.
- III. Actions Taken: After considerable discussion a series of resolutions relating to the crisis occasioned by the Cambodian and Kent State situations was adopted. The Chairman requested Professor Samuel Hendel to chair a drafting committee to rework the statements. Dr. Hose was directed to send copies of the Cambodian resolution to President Nixon, Vice President Agnew, Attorney General Mitchell, House Speaker McCormack, members of the New York delegation to the House of Representatives, Chancellor Albert Bowker and the public press. Dr. Hose was directed to send the Kent State resolution to President Nixon, Attorney General Mitchell, Governor Rhodes of Ohio, Senators Goodell and Javits, and the public press.

1. RESOLVED: That, while it is the practice of the University Faculty Senate not to take positions on matters of national, foreign or domestic policy which are not directly related to university governance, the following members of the Senate, acting as individuals assembled in special session, resolve to express their opposition to the escalation of United States involvement in the war in Southeast Asia and to demand that the President and Congress act immediately to terminate our involvement in that war.

Votes: For-29; Against-9; Abstentions-4.

Note: It was agreed to request Senators supporting the Resolution to affix their signatures to it.

2. RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate of the City University of New York - composed of the elected representatives of the faculties of the largest urban institution of higher education in the nation - condemns in the strongest possible terms, the apparently undisciplined and irresponsible

actions of the Ohio National Guard and the callous disregard for human life which resulted in the tragic and wholly avoidable deaths of four Kent State University students.

And further, that the Senate demands that a full and complete investigation be conducted, by a body of recognized impartiality and integrity, into the events surrounding this tragedy to determine the facts and that, if warranted, criminal charges be brought against those responsible for these deaths.

Votes: For-29; Against-9; Abstentions-4.

3. RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate, along with the University Student Senate, calls upon the CUNY community to set aside Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8, as a period in which both faculty and students may participate in appropriate peaceful activities regarding the war in Southeast Asia and the events at Kent State University.

Votes: For-33; Against-4; Abstentions-4.

Note: It is the sense of the Senate that the University should remain open and functioning for the remainder of the academic year. Vote: unanimous.

It is the further sense of the Senate that the University Administration must exercise its responsibility for implementing the sense of the Senate. Vote: 2 against.

It was unanimously agreed that the Executive Committee should express the Senate views to the Chancellor and to the Chairman of the BHE.

4. RESOLVED: That, grades be awarded only upon completion of course work.

Votes: Against-2.

Note: It is the sense of the Senate that this resolution does not preclude a particular unit's prerogative to rule on grades.

- IV. University and College Governance: It was unanimously agreed to defer the discussion on this subject until the next session. The Chairman indicated that the Queens College and John Jay Governance Proposals would be distributed to the Senate. A motion that no referendum re governance be held in the last three weeks of the semester and that discussions of governance be continued was defeated (13 opposed; 12 for).

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Staudt Sexton  
Secretary