

Minutes of the Sixteenth Plenary
Session of the University Faculty Senate
of the City University of New York
October 6, 1970

Professor Robert S. Hirschfield, Chairman, called the meeting to order in Room 207 of the Graduate Center at 5:50 p.m. All members were present except Professors Conrad, Donnelly, Emery, Gabriel, Gittel, Hale, R. Heller, Hirschhorn, Johnson, Kahn, Kinsella, Lehrer, Manfredonia, Mapp, Rosenfield, Sargent, Scudi, Seltzer, Silver, Steigman, Volpe. Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, Chancellor Albert Bowker, Miss Miriam Firestone, Dr. John Hose, Professor Henry Eilbert (Legislative Conference) and two UFCT representatives, Mr. Haig Bohigian and Mr. Anthony De Melas also attended.

I. Communications and Announcements:

a. The Chairman, Professor Hirschfield:

1. welcomed the following new Senators: Professors Catherine Barry - (Kingsborough), Julio Hernandez-Miyares - (Kingsborough), Joseph Papalia - (NYC Community College), Israel Glasser - (NYC Community College).
2. noted the return from leave of absence of Miss Miriam Firestone, Administrative Officer of the Senate.
3. called attention to the report on the Alamac Case in the Newsletter and indicated the two-pronged approach (placement and academic freedom) being taken on the case.
4. commented on determination of possible dates for Plenary Sessions, asking for a show of hands as to most convenient time for Senators: 2nd Tuesday (16 votes); 2nd Wednesday (12 votes); rotation of days (4 votes).
5. called upon Dr. John Hose, who announced the new Liaison Senators at each college as follows: Baruch-Professor David Valinsky, Brooklyn-Professor Nathan Schmukler, City-Professor Joan Gadol, Hunter-Professor Gordon Fifer, John Jay-Professor Lloyd Sealy, Lehman-Professor Lewis Schwartz, Queens-Professor Ralph Sleeper, Richmond-Professor Barry Bressler, York-Professor Frank Pomilla, Teacher Education-Professor David Ausubel, Graduate Division-Professor Alex Heller, Mt. Sinai-Professor Paul Anderson, Manhattan Community-Professor Michael Shmidman, Bronx Community-Professor Sylvia Martin, Kingsborough-Professor Ann Marie Leonetti, New York Community-Professor Edward Mapp, Queensborough-Professor Anthony Manfredonia, Staten Island-Professor Lawrence Schwartz.

6. reported on Faculty Participation on Student Hearing Panels. (Faculty and Student Senator were invited to submit names of members). Selection of members was made from names recommended by members of the Senate and the Executive Committee. According to BHE Law Committee, the conclusions of the panels are determinative. Panels make decisions, not recommendations.
7. introduced BHE Chairman Dr. Frederick Burkhardt who spoke briefly and indicated he would participate principally as an observer.

II. Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor commented on the following:

1. Size of OHV Freshman Class - ca. 35,000; physical plants have been expanded; funds are inadequate.
2. BHE meeting on Governance, Oct. 21: Speakers from different groups to be heard
3. Student Hearing Panels: (a) Removed from immediate campus (b) Devoted to questions whether students were guilty as charged.
4. Four Presidential Searches are being conducted.
5. Two week Recess (10/27-11/07) is being watched with interest.
6. Fee structure remains a serious problem. (a concern of Wagner Commission)
7. University decree: discussion of proposals under consideration, experimentation viewed as desirable.

III. Actions Taken

- a. Report on Professional Obligations of the Faculty prepared by Professors Valinsky and Roberts in conjunction with the Faculty Interests Committee was distributed and discussed by Professor David Valinsky upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. After Professor Valinsky gave the background for the preparation of this Senate Report, including a brief discussion of the Rees Report, he moved the adoption of the report. Following considerable discussion concerning possible revisions the Report was defeated by a vote 25 - no; 21 - yes.

Recess for dinner was called by the Senate Chairman at 2:45 p.m. at which time BHE Chairman, Dr. Frederick Burkhardt and Chancellor Bowker departed. At 8:15 p.m. the session reconvened. A motion to reconsider the Report on Professional Obligations of the Faculty was made and defeated.

b. University Governance:

1. Proposal Statement of the University Senate Regarding the Report to the BHE of the Board's Ad Hoc Committee for Guidelines on Governance (drafted by)

adoption by Professor Ralph Sleeper. Unanimously passed. Miss Firestone, Senate Administrative Officer, was directed to send copies of the statement to BHE members and to the College Presidents. The latter were requested to distribute copies to their faculties and to have copies posted on college bulletin boards and made available in libraries.

2. Position Papers of the Legislative Conference, UFCT, and CUNY Council of AAUP re: Chandler Report were distributed and briefly discussed.

3. Senate Executive Committee Proposals re: the BHE Governance Report, August 12/70 (distributed) After Professor Sleeper began discussion a motion to table action on the Executive Committee proposal was made and defeated. Consideration was then given exclusively to Section I of the Executive Committee proposal. After discussion and revision the following amended version of section I of the Executive Committee Proposal was approved with 20 yes, 7 no votes and 3 abstentions:

The Chandler Report argues that the college president "must be given the ability to exercise his management of the college at the department level through an administrative officer responsible to him. This means that the department chairman should be an administrative officer appointed by the president and serving at the pleasure of the president."

The Faculty Senate takes a substantially different view of the department chairmanship than that which is assumed in the Chandler Report. While it is true that departmental chairmen do have certain administrative responsibilities, it is clearly inappropriate to conceive the chairmanship as primarily a "management" position. The chairman is the chief academic officer of his department. As such, his major role is the educational leadership of his professional colleagues and those students working in his department. He must be chosen primarily for his academic achievements, his general knowledge of his field, and his ability to command the respect of his peers, as well as for his administrative ability. For these reasons and others, the proposal that department chairmen be appointed by the president must be rejected.

However, to clarify the University Bylaws dealing with departmental chairmen, the following provisions are recommended:

1. The voting members of a department shall by majority vote elect a chairman subject to confirmation by the president.
2. If the president refuses to confirm a candidate he shall inform the voting members of the department in writing explaining why the candidate is unacceptable and calling a meeting of the department's voting members to discuss the matter. The purpose of such a meeting shall be to resolve the disagreement between the president and the voting members of the department.
3. In the event that the president and the department are unable to resolve their disagreement as to the selection of a department chairman and to agree on a mutually acceptable chairman, the department's original candidate shall be confirmed if a majority of the voting members of the department indicate their approval of the candidate in a new election. If the original candidate fails to achieve a majority vote, the person recommended by the president shall be voted on by the department's voting members and shall be elected

if he receives a majority vote. Should the person recommended by the president fail to receive a majority vote, the matter shall be referred to the College P & B Committee for resolution by secret ballot. (In any college where the P & B Committee is appointed by the president the matter shall be referred to a committee composed of the elected department chairmen).

4. A department chairman shall be elected for three years and may be reelected. At any time during the term of a department chairman he shall be removed from office upon petition of one third of the voting members of the department or at the directive of the president, if such petition or directive is submitted to referendum of the voting members of the department and receives the approval of at least two-thirds of those members.

Several proposals for immediate Senate action were made (1) Circulation of petitions opposing appointment of department chairmen to be signed by Department Chairmen and faculty members (2) Send copies of petition to UFCT, LC, and Mr. Quinn to secure additional signatures.

It was further unanimously voted that the Executive Committee should select an Implementation Committee. Furthermore it was recommended that the Senate work in consultation with Legislative Conference, UFCT, and AAUP.

- c. Non-Senate Members in Senate Committee - S.G.S.: Professor Leo Haber, Chairman, requested that Professors Jacob Judd and R. Sexton be added to his committee. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Staudt Sexton