

Minutes of the Nineteenth Plenary Session of the
University Faculty Senate of the
City University of New York

February 3, 1971

The Chairman, Professor Robert S. Hirschfield, called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. in the third floor Studio of the Graduate Center. All members were present except Professors Adelson, Bailey, Blank, Dolciani, Egand, Engelsohn, Gabriel, Gadol, Gittell, Haber, Hale, Hardy, R. Heller, Hirschhorn, Jensen, Kinsella, Light, Manfredonia, Martey, Papalia, Silver, Rosenfield, Sacks, Schmukler, Seltzer, Serlin, Sharav, and Volpe. Vice Chancellor Timothy Healy, Mr. Haig Bohogian of the United Federation of College Teachers, and Dr. John Hose also attended.

I. Minutes: The minutes of the eighteenth plenary session were unanimously approved.

II. Communications and Announcements: The Chairman reported the following:

1. Schedule of future Senate meetings:

Tuesday, March 23, 1971
Wednesday, April 28, 1971
Mid-May (date to be announced later)

2. New Senators: The Chairman welcomed Professor Park Beck of City College and Professor Marjorie Smiley of Hunter College. Professor Beck was attending the meeting in the absence of Professor James Shields of City College, a regular Senate delegate.

3. Report of the Charter Revision Committee: (distributed without prior action by the Executive Committee). Senators were requested to forward their comments regarding the document to the Senate Office. The Executive Committee will study the proposed revisions as well.

4. BHE Actions on College and University Governance: The Chairman summarized the actions of the Board at its January 25, 1971 meeting. (a) the BHE reaffirmed its November decision to retain the elective procedure for department chairmen, (b) reaffirmed the November decision to create Academic Review Committees at each college, (c) create a Council of Presidents to replace the Administrative Council, (d) approve non-voting representation for faculty and students on all functional and special committees of the BHE, (e) abolish the present college committees of the BHE, (f) authorize a college evaluation audit every five years by a panel chosen by the BHE from outside the University, (g) permit presidents to create advisory councils if they so desire, (h) made student membership on P & B Committees permissive if part of a local governance plan, (i) Chancellor granted the authority to manage the BHE agenda; all agenda items to be approved by Chancellor or committee of the BHE; and (j) BHE directed colleges to evaluate teaching effectiveness and means of its measurement.

III. Actions Taken:

1. Joint Resolution re: BHE Governance Guidelines: Professor Belle Zeller presented the following resolution which had been drawn up and approved by representatives from the Senate Executive Committee, the Legislative Conference, the UFCT, and the CUNY Council of the AAUP:

RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate sponsor the formation of a joint committee consisting of representatives of the Senate, the Legislative Conference, the United Federation of College Teachers, and the CUNY Council of the American Association of University Professors whose immediate task shall be to examine the recent "Statement of Policy on the Organization and Governance of the City University of New York," which was approved in substance at the meeting of the Board of Higher Education on January 25, 1971, in the light of the policy guidelines adopted by the University Faculty Senate, the existing collectively negotiated contracts, and AAUP policies.

Further, that, the Chairman of the Senate be directed to request that the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education defer consideration of the policy guidelines for a period of ten days beyond its February 9 meeting.

And further, that, the joint committee report back to the Executive Committee of the Senate and its respective organizations its analysis and recommendations as soon as possible, but no later than February 16, 1971, for the purpose of presenting the joint views of the organizations involved to the faculties of the City University and the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education.

2. Election to Fill Vacancy on the Executive Committee: Professors Sylvia Martin and Nathan Weiner were nominated to stand for election to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee caused by Professor Sleeper's move to the vice chairmanship. Professor Martin was elected by a vote of 35 to 21 and 1 abstention.
3. Report of the Open Admissions Committee (distributed): Professor David Valinsky, Chairman of the Open Admissions Committee, commented on the report and indicated that a meeting with Senate liaison officers had been scheduled for February 17 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 537 at the Graduate Center for the purpose of discussing means of gaining direct open admissions information from the colleges.
4. Proposed Resolution from Professor Julius Bloch: (distributed) Professor Bloch discussed his proposal for a Senate Task Force on Open Admissions. Following discussion it was agreed to charge the Open Admissions Committee with the work of gathering information on open admissions and reporting to the Senate. Professor Valinsky invited Professor Bloch to join the Open Admissions Committee.

5. University Baccalaureate Degree:

- a.) Dr. John Hose gave a brief oral report regarding the responses that had been received from Faculty Councils and curriculum committees which had considered the CUNY B.A. proposal.
- b.) Resolution re: Chancellor Bowker's Statement of August 27, 1970: The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate categorically rejects Chancellor Bowker's statements of August 27, 1970 in his report "The University Degree- Individualizing the Educational Process at the City University," that "...the faculties have sought to prevent the initiation of change within the colleges, and that they have largely ignored their responsibilities both for teaching and for undergraduate curriculum reform."

That, this blanket indictment of the faculties is not only gratuitous, but false, has been clearly demonstrated by the willingness of the faculties to assume their responsibilities squarely and to promote progressive reform of their own institutions through the adoption of the "Statement on Faculty Excellence" - a statement which has been widely praised throughout the University and by the Chancellor himself.

And further, that, the use of irresponsible and unsupported attacks upon the faculties as an obvious excuse for promoting educational change without regard to the views of the faculties is academically unsound, unprofessional, and a disservice to the entire University community.

- c.) Memorandum of Information from Professor Ralph Sleeper: (distributed): Professor Sleeper commented on his proposed revisions in and additions to the report of the Birenbaum Committee on the CUNY B.A. proposal. A motion to accept the Birenbaum Report as amended by the Sleeper memorandum was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Virginia Staudt Sexton
Secretary