

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

February 15, 1972

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Professor Ralph Sleeper, at 6:45 p.m. in Room 207 at the Graduate Center. All members were present except Professors Adelson, Chill, Collins, Crozier, Del Pellegrino, Dolciani, Donnelly, Dworetzky, Edgar, Egand, Eger, Eisenberg, Ekstein, Fifer, Gilbert, Gitlow, Handler, Heller, R., King, Larson, Lean, Manfredonia, Martey, Papalia, Rosenfield, Rudick, Schmukler, Serlin, Valinsky, and Professor Haig Bohigian, liaison to the Senate from the UFTC. Vice Chancellor Schultz and Dr. John Hose also attended.

- I. Approval of the Agenda: The tentative agenda was approved with the addition of two items under New Business: (1) a proposed resolution regarding Assemblyman Stavisky's amendment to section 224 of the education law, and (2) a report and resolution from the Undergraduate Affairs Committee concerning the 'contracting' of CUNY students to private colleges and universities in New York City.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the special plenary session on January 12 were approved.
- III. Communications and Announcements: Professor Sleeper announced: (1) the addition of two new Senators - Professor Frederick Collins of Medgar Evers College and Hilail Gildin of Queens College, (2) that Professor Evelyn Handler of Hunter College had returned to the Senate from a sabbatical leave during the first semester, (3) that information regarding the current budget crisis had been circulated to all department chairmen within CUNY, (4) that Professor Robert Hirschfield had been requested to chair a special committee for the purpose of conducting some informal lobbying concerning the budget crisis among various State legislators, (5) that the Graduate Faculty Policy Committee has requested increased representation for the doctoral faculty in the Senate. Pending a final determination of the appropriate number of representatives from the Graduate Center, the members of the Graduate Faculty Policy Committee have been invited to attend plenary sessions as observers, (6) that the Executive Committee has nominated Professor Edward Mapp to serve on the search committee for a University Dean of Libraries, (7) that he was serving on the search committee for a president for the Graduate Division, and (8) that the Senate Executive Committee had met with the BHE Executive Committee to discuss the role of the Senate *vis a vis* the Board. Professor Nathan Weiner, Vice Chairman of the Senate, reported briefly regarding this meeting.
- IV. Report from Vice Chancellor Frank Schultz on the CUNY Budget Crisis: In a brief address to the Senate, Mr. Frank Schultz, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning, summarized the present budget crisis confronting CUNY. He noted that Mayor Lindsay has confirmed in writing that he will fund the City's half of the \$455 million certified budget for CUNY. This amounts to approximately a \$38 million increase needed from Albany. The Vice Chancellor indicated that money was available in

Albany for CUNY, but that pressure on the legislators was needed to secure their votes on CUNY's behalf. To date there has been very little organized effort by faculty, students, or others in Albany. Vice Chancellor Schultz also answered questions regarding: (1) faculty salaries and cost of living differentials, (2) the number of students to be admitted to CUNY, (3) tuition, and (4) a possible CUNY-SUNY merger.

V. Ratification of Actions Taken at the Meeting of January 16: The following items were approved as amended:

- A. The University Faculty Senate has consistently and vigorously supported the Open Admissions Program and the concept of equal educational opportunity which this program embodies. In the Fall of 1969 the Senate played a major role in planning the freshman allocation system which the Board of Higher Education adopted in November of that year, and which has been in effect since that time. It is, therefore, with full sense of its obligations and responsibilities that the Senate expresses its present position on this matter.

The Senate recognizes that serious problems exist, both with respect to the funding of the Open Admissions Program and in regard to the allocation system. In the Senate's view, it is essential that a more nearly equal academic balance of students be achieved throughout the University if certain of the colleges are to avoid the complete destruction of their academic standards - an occurrence that would threaten the integrity of the entire Open Admissions Program.

The Senate is convinced that the modification of the freshman allocation system presently before the Board does not go far enough in redressing existing academic imbalances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate calls upon the Board of Higher Education to take such immediate steps as may be necessary to achieve the required academic balance among the colleges, i.e. a minimum goal for 1972 - 1973 of at least 30 per cent "A" and "B" level Open Admissions Program freshman be assigned to each college, and no more than 30 per cent "B" level Open Admissions Program freshman be assigned to any one college.

AND BE IT RESOLVED: That, the Senate calls upon the Board to clearly state that any allocation system adopted at its meeting of January 17, 1972 will be viewed as no more than an experimental plan for the academic year 1972 - 1973, and that immediate steps shall be taken, in full co-operation with the Senate, for the purpose of developing long term policies of freshman allocation which will guarantee optimum academic integration of the University.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, the Senate, in recognition of the serious fiscal crisis confronting the City University, calls upon both the Board and the Chancellor's Office to take all appropriate measures needed to guarantee the level of funding necessary to make open admissions a success.

It is the Senate's firm conviction that no allocation system can satisfactorily correct the academic imbalances and deficiencies which clearly exist without provision being made for the facilities and financial resources necessary to this task. Beginning with its "Report on Special Admissions Policy" of 12 February 1969, and continuing in a series of resolutions during the Fall of that year, the Senate clearly indicated that the success of the Open Admissions Program would be contingent upon the achievement of adequate funding levels. It cannot be assumed that faculty support for the Open Admissions Program will continue in the absence of adequate funding.

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- B. The University Faculty Senate is concerned regarding the Board of Higher Education's decision of December 20, 1971 to set a deadline of February 1, 1972 "as the date beyond which no recommendations for reappointment, tenure or promotion should be granted without evidence...of systematic student evaluation, except in such cases where the Chancellor presents cogent reason for further delay." The Senate believes that this resolution by the Board was made without due consideration being given to the status of the development of governance plans at the various units of the University and removes from context, giving undue emphasis to, a single item of the Board's February 9, 1971 "Statement of Policy on the Organization and Governance of the City University of New York."

The Senate supports the establishment of procedures for systematic student evaluation...of faculty, as well as student and faculty evaluation of administrative personnel, who also have significant impact on the educational process and who according to the Board of Higher Education, do not hold tenure in their administrative roles and are therefore, in effect, reappointed annually. In its "Principles of Governance" adopted in June, 1970, and again in its "Statement on Faculty Excellence" of November, 1970, the Senate urged the colleges "to establish formal means for considering the views of students..." The Senate also stated that the "adoption of uniform official procedures should ultimately be made on a college-wide basis." The Senate further noted in the "Statement on Faculty Excellence" that:

Ideally, a standard college-wide student evaluation form should be developed on the basis of consultation between faculty and students to be completed by students in each of their classes. Such forms should be submitted to departmental P & B Committees to be used in conjunction with faculty observation reports and other data in evaluating the ability and merit of all faculty members being considered for promotion or tenure.

Section 11.1d of the Board's Bylaws states: "The Board shall, in passing on recommendations regarding promotions and tenure, consider student evaluations of faculty classroom and teaching performance." The Senate views this section of the Bylaws as being defective in that no reference is made to any of the abovementioned criteria regarding student evaluation. This failure of the Bylaws to supply appropriate criteria permits the adoption of arbitrary, unsystematic, and possibly unfair and prejudicial procedures for student evaluation of faculty classroom and teaching performance.

The Senate notes also the absence in the Board's December 20 resolution of any mention of other major provisions of the Board's own "Policy Statement," such as the creation of academic review committees - committees which bear directly on the matters of reappointment, promotion and tenure. The "Policy Statement" clearly places equal emphasis on the establishment of academic

review committees, as well as student evaluation, in consideration of appointment, promotion and tenure recommendations. These academic review committees, in the words of the "Policy Statement" itself:

...should be chaired by the academic dean and its membership should be elected by the personnel and budget committee. Alternately, a majority of the members may be elected by the faculty with the rest chosen by the personnel and budget committee from among the departmental chairman.

In either case, it is clearly the intent of the "Policy Statement" that the membership of the academic review committees should be elective and not appointive as has been the interpretation in some quarters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate requests the Board of Higher Education to reconsider its position with a view to correcting the abovementioned deficiencies regarding student evaluation procedures and academic review committees, consistent with existing and future contracts, and in full consultation with the Faculty Senate, and that the resolution of December 20 be rescinded no later than at the regular January meeting of the Board.

AND BE IT RESOLVED: That, the Bylaws should be revised to indicate clearly that standard, college-wide student evaluation forms be developed on the basis of faculty-student consultation, and that such evaluations first be submitted to the faculty member for any comments he or she may wish to attach and then subsequently be submitted to departmental P & B Committees and that the summaries of these evaluations be included, together with the summary of the chairman conference on classroom observation and other data used in making recommendations for reappointment, promotion and tenure, in the personal folders kept at the departmental level where applicable.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, persons serving in the titles of Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, President, and Dean be evaluated annually by students and faculty under their jurisdiction.

- VI. Resolution from Professor Adelson Regarding BHE Ethics: Item laid over.
- VII. Report from Professor Ledley Regarding Faculty Welfare Trustees: Owing to time limitations it was agreed that Professor Ledley would submit a written report for circulation to the Senate.
- VIII. Report from the SGS Committee on the Single Session: A report and the following resolution regarding the single session were approved:

RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate endorses the following report of its Schools of General Studies Committee and instructs its Executive Committee to send copies to the Council of Presidents, the University Student Senate, the Legislative Conference, and the United Federation of College Teachers. We call upon the Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate to present this document to the Council of Presidents and to use this document as the basis for an exchange of views.

It was agreed that Professor Haber, Chairman of the SGS Committee, would be invited to the joint meeting of the executive committees of the Senate and the Council of Presidents to discuss the single session proposal.

- IX. Draft of a Code of Professional Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculties of the City University of New York: The Senate received a draft Code of Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculties prepared by the Faculty Interests Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Gordon Fifer.
- X. Resolution from the Library Committee: The following resolution proposed by the Library Committee was approved:

WHEREAS, the Master Plan of 1968 promised that "Library development will receive a high priority during the next seven years," and

WHEREAS, this development did not materialize and the libraries are thus caught in a tightening squeeze between ever-growing student bodies and inadequate book collections, physical facilities, personnel, and funding and

WHEREBY, this situation could be greatly improved by readjustments of faculty practices with regard to class assignments and by the acquisition of appropriate library skills by all students and faculty.

THEFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That, in the interest of the best utilization of existing facilities, the University Faculty Senate urges a much closer cooperation between classroom teachers and librarians with regard to the nature and scheduling of reading and research assignments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, the Senate urges the administration of all institutions to provide the libraries with sufficient funds and enough supporting personnel so that specialized skills of the librarians can be more fully utilized in the teaching of effective library use which all students should master, and in the preparation of bibliographies and the location of materials supporting the advanced and original research mission of the University.

Professor Kraft was requested to prepare a written report dealing with specific proposals for implementing the intent of the above resolution.

- XI. Approval of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Academic Freedom Committee: Professor Richard King, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Morris Silver, City College, were approved as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Academic Freedom Committee.
- XII. Approval of Membership of a Senate Bylaw Review Committee: Professor Bernard Baurnis, CUNY College, Frank Macchiarola, Baruch College; and Lloyd Sealy, John Jay College, were appointed as members of a special Senate Committee to review the Bylaws of the Board of Higher Education. Professor Macchiarola will serve as chairman of the committee.

XIII. Resolution Regarding Sale of Dissertations and Theses: The following resolution was approved:

RESOLVED: That, the University Faculty Senate of the City University of New York supports in principle the proposed amendment to section 224 of the education law introduced by Assemblyman Leonard Stavisky concerning the sale of dissertations, theses and term papers.

XIV. Proposal Regarding the 'Contracting' of Students: A proposal from the Undergraduate Affairs Committee regarding the resolution from the Regents Advisory Council concerning the 'contracting' of CUNY students to private colleges and universities in New York City was laid over until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Barry
Secretary