

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY

December 17, 1974

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Professor David Valinsky, at 6:55 p.m. in Room 207 at the Graduate Center. All members were present except Professors Auslander, Bailey, Berenson, Dworetzky, Freedman, Fichtner, H. Gilbert, Gildin, Goldstein, Heller, Hirschhorn, Howard, Kaplan, Kemp, Kreel, Krich, Leiter, Loughrey, Mackie, Manshel, Novack, Orlowsky, Pauling, Petrides, Prager, Shmidman, Uretsky, Wakatama, Wu, and Zalusky. Chancellor Kibbee and Dr. John Hose also attended.

- I. Approval of the Tentative Agenda: The tentative agenda was approved with the deletion of item No. 7, "Discussion of Proposed Charter Amendments," to provide an opportunity for the Executive Committee to consider the proposals again before resubmitting them to the Senate.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the special plenary session of November 26 were approved.
- III. Communications from the Chairman: Professor Valinsky reported: (1) on the current budget emergency and noted that the Chancellor would be available later in the meeting to provide the most recent information; (2) that the Senate's ad hoc committee formed to consider the Senate response to the Report of the Task Force on the Educational Mission of CUNY has met and copies of the Report have been distributed to all college governance bodies with a request that they respond with comment by February if possible; (3) a clarification of the Chancellor's view regarding the establishment of all-faculty governance bodies at the colleges (see item III 6. in the minutes of November 26, 1974). Professor Valinsky stated that the Chancellor had indicated that he was prepared to accept college governance plans either with or without all-faculty governance bodies; the Chancellor does not favor one governance structure over another, but feels that it is a local responsibility as to what form governance should take. Secondly, Professor Valinsky reported that the Chancellor had indicated that all-faculty governance bodies could, in his view, serve a very useful purpose and such bodies might be established as part of a regular structure of governance or external to it depending upon local wishes; and (4) that the Senate's Executive Committee has received copies of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry (Koster Committee) at City College, the Meer Committee Report of 1972, and two proposed resolutions prepared by the City College Executive Committee for submission to the City College Faculty Senate. Professor Valinsky reported that the City College Senate will meet on December 19 to consider the Report and the two resolutions. Following this meeting, the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee will discuss with the City College Senate delegation how the University Senate should proceed on the issue. Professor Valinsky also reported that Professor Michael Arons, Chairman of the City College Executive Committee, had met with the University Faculty Senate's Executive Committee to outline the procedures that have been followed in the "History Department Case" to date.

Professor Trefousse requested that the following statement be recorded in the minutes: "I associate myself fully with my colleagues on the Executive Committee in proposing that any discussion of the Koster Report await action of the City College Senate on December 19, with the proviso that it should be understood that the Koster Report by

no means meets the resolutions and stipulations of the University Faculty Senate of last year, and that any action on the part of the Koster Committee to censure one party for refusing to testify before it, when the Senate did not censure the other for failing to testify before its Academic Freedom Committee, is most extraordinary and that if it was found inexpedient to render a report on ex parte evidence by the Senate's Academic Freedom Committee, the same rule ought to apply to the Koster Committee."

Professor Silver congratulated the Executive Committee on their fairness in the handling of the "History Department Case," but noted that he was concerned about a possible failure on the part of the City College Senate to act and thereby leaving the accused faculty members no appropriate forum in which to speak. He therefore offered the following resolution: "In the event that Professors Adelson, Huttenbach, Page, Rosen, and Schwab are not cleared by the Faculty Senate of City College they will be offered the opportunity to address the January 21 meeting of the University Faculty Senate or alternatively a special meeting of the University Faculty Senate before January 21."

Professor Zimmerman challenged the right of the chair to permit a resolution to be introduced under the Chairman's Report. The chair was sustained by a vote of 34 to 27. Following brief discussion, the question was called and the resolution was lost 47 to 13 with 5 abstentions.

IV. Chancellor's Report: Chancellor Kibbee reported: (1) that Mr. Anthony Knerr has been designated by the Board as the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning; (2) Mr. James Murphy has been reappointed by Mayor Beame to the Board of Higher Education; (3) Governor-elect Carey has appointed two task forces of special interest to the University - one on Higher Education under the Chairmanship of John Meng and the other on School Financial Aid; and (4) regarding the current budget emergency. The total budget reduction will amount to \$18.9 million of which \$10.8 million can be covered by means of technical adjustments. This will leave an actual reduction of \$8.1 million amounting to 1.59% of the University's budget. The Chancellor noted that the colleges have been asked to respond with specific reduction plans by January 8, 1975 and that he has also strongly urged the Presidents to consult with faculty and students to the various stages of budget reduction planning and implementation at the colleges.

The Chancellor responded to the following questions from the floor: (1) Professor Bieler, York College - Is the BHE aware that the needs of the various colleges vary greatly?/ Yes; (2) Professor Kahn, Queensborough Community College - Are we to understand that the budget reduction of 1.59% is a University-wide figure and may differ from college to college?/ The percentage is constant, but the absolute dollar amount will differ from college to college in proportion to the size of the budget. The Chancellor indicated that he would be happy to share with the Senate the precise figures by which each college's budget is to be reduced; (3) Professor Greenbaum, Queensborough Community College - How can you simultaneously protect the contract and increase class size?/ The contract does not state that there may be no increase in class size, only that there may be no "unreasonable" increase using the 1971/2 figures for class size as one of the major factors determining what is and what is not reasonable increase; (4) Professor Haber, City College - Professor Haber noted that the budget emergency guideline with respect to adjuncts appears to be a means test. What about such considerations as competence and seniority?/ The guideline is not intended to eliminate considerations of excellence and program needs; there is no means test intended but merely the desire to prevent grave injustice to those who may have no other source of income aside from that derived from adjunct teaching; (5) Professor Trefousse, Brooklyn College - Is the BHE considering a cut in or elimination of emoluments for administrators?/ Administrative appointments have been frozen and proportionately the greatest budget reduction will come in the area of administration. Cutting administrative salaries has been discussed and if there is a city-wide policy the University will obviously comply, but we will not lead.

(6) Professor Miller, Kingsborough Community College - Has any thought been given to offering members of the staff unpaid leaves of absence?/ No serious thought has been given to such a proposal./ Professor Miller further inquired whether or not the so-called "humane principle" cited in the guidelines regarding the possible release of adjuncts might not open the door to letting married women go on the grounds that their husbands were employed?/ There will be no wholesale cut of adjuncts and I believe that the "humane principle" of attempting to consider an individuals other sources of income is legitimate when taken within the context of general educational needs./ Professor Miller noted finally that the BHE's guidelines on the budget emergency call for protection of remedial programs yet Kingsborough Community College is closing its English workshops./ The Chancellor noted that this decision might have nothing to do with the current budget emergency and might instead be an educational decision or one related to the earlier demands for accruals; (7) Professor Gelfand, Queens College - The guidelines on the budget do not mention library cuts. Are such cuts specifically excluded?/ The view of the Board is that cuts in libraries should not be made; (8) Professor Mapp, New York City Community College - At the campuses there is a feeling that there is little opportunity to participate in the budget reduction process. There needs to be a way to guarantee meaningful faculty input./ I have urged the Presidents, both in writing and at the Council of Presidents meeting, to provide for faculty and student participation. I will consider asking the Presidents to extent specifically the extent and form of faculty and student input; (9) Professor Soskind, Brooklyn College - The guideline referring to an optional closing of some campus buildings sounds like a lockout./ The proposal is that CUNY will close on December 23 and 30. The non-faculty unions have agreed to this plan and to having this time counted against vacation or accrued overtime; (10) Professor Silver, City College - Is it a violation of the BHE bylaws to indicate in the minutes of P&B meetings the action taken and the vote on personnel decisions?/ I frankly do not know, but I will inquire of our general counsel; (11) Professor Bressler, Richmond College - Can a new governance plan for Richmond College be approved by the Board in the absence of a referendum?/ I would prefer not to comment on the specifics of the Richmond situation since I am not familiar with the issues involved, however, I will inquire into the matter for you; (12) Professor Gosselin, Bronx Community College - Consultation with faculty on budgetary matters should be mandated./ I have tried personally to bring faculty in early on decision-making at the University level; however, I cannot really mandate to the Presidents what they must do in this regard. The President is responsible for the overall governance and operation of his or her college. The lack of uniformity from institution to institution makes mandating specific procedures difficult and probably unwise; (13) Professor Watson, City College - Budget cuts may undermine affirmative action. Could the Chancellor's Office issue a guideline to prevent this from occurring?/ A guideline has not be issued in this regard since it might be construed to mean that only white males should be cut if cuts are needed and that women and minority group members are to be protected absolutely; (14) Professor Petratos, Staten Island Community College - Can the January 8 deadline be extended to increase the opportunity for faculty consultation?/ The difficulty with extending the deadline is that the longer you wait to act the greater the loss in potential savings./ Professor Petratos also asked how released time can be cut by 20%./ By postponing some of the activities that would be undertaken by the individuals receiving released time; (15) Professor Branman, City College - He noted that if the Central Office can tell the Presidents how much to cut their budgets it can also tell them to consult with faculty. The Central Office should reject plans that fail to show evidence of meaningful consultation with faculty; (16) Professor S. Polishook, Queensborough Community College - How many colleges have had meaningful faculty participation in the budget reduction process? (A show of hands indicated that members of the Senate believed that the following colleges had had such consultation: Baruch, Staten Island, City, Kingsborough, Bronx, Hunter, and Richmond. A show of hands for the contrary view indicated: Queensborough, Queens, LaGuardia, Lehman, New York City, and Man-

hattan Community College.); (17) Professor Weiner, Staten Island Community College - Professor Weiner indicated that he was concerned by what appeared to be an antagonistic attitude on the part of administration toward faculty. The attitude seems to be to do to, rather than for, faculty; (18) Professor Burton, Brooklyn College - Do you expect to be able to review the Presidents' budget reports carefully enough to insure compliance with the guidelines that have been approved by the Board?/ Yes. Most of the budgetary reductions will come from OTPS funds and the administrative hiring freeze; (19) Professor Dash, Hunter College - With respect to the guideline concerning adjuncts, excellence should be the measure for retention of services./ There is no reason to assume that that will not be the case. The so-called "humane principle" is not intended to operate to the exclusion of considerations of merit and academic need and program integrity; (20) Professor Dierlam, Queens College - If faculty must bear the load of budget cuts, they must have the opportunity to consult on budget decisions./ I agree, but that is not the same as my mandating that the Presidents follow a particular course of action; (21) Professor Horvath, Baruch College - Have you suggested to the Presidents that there be a cut in paid supervision?/ No; and (22) Professor Mineka, Lehman College - Will local faculty bodies be informed of the budget reduction plan submitted to the Central Office by their President?/ I will make copies of the various plans available to the Senate's Executive Committee for distribution as it sees fit.

Professor Valinsky thanked the Chancellor for attending the meeting and for his report.

V. Consideration of Proposed Search Procedure Guidelines: The attached Recommended Search Procedure Guidelines for the Position of Chancellor were approved as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Patterson
Secretary