

SUBJECT TO SENATE APPROVAL

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

February 15, 1983

Professor Wasser (English, Staten Island) called the session to order at 7:02 p.m. in Room 207 at the Graduate School and University Center. Present were: Senators Amendolia, Bachman, Barber, Baumrin, Baxter, Bohigian, Borneman, Brogan, Buianouckas, Danziger, Davidson, Donleavy, Ercolano, Finkelstein, Forstall, Galub, B. Gerber, Goldzweig, Grossman, Henderson, Hune, Hunte, Jaffe, Julia, Kolliner, Lane, Loy, McDaniel, Muehlig, Muller, Parkhurst, Pennington, Prall, Riley, Rodriguez, Schuyler, Seguire, Sohmer, Speidel, Stroup, Timoni, Trefousse, Waldman, Walkwitz, and Wedeen; Alternate Senators Barbanel, Bradford, Landroth, Otelsberg and Ranis; Senators Elect Burks, De La Campa, Friedman, Kirsch and Rosen. Professor Nachtsheim (State Conference/AAUP), liaison member also attended. The absences of Senators Burton, Cooper, Gelernt, Gerardi, Lea, Miller, Picken, Plissner, Reuder, Valinsky and Wakatama were excused. Dr. Jean Ellis, Executive Director of the Senate, also attended.

I. Approval of the Tentative Agenda: The tentative agenda was approved with the following modifications: Items 5 and 8 were deleted due to the fact that the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance had remained in Albany to meet with members of the Governor's staff concerning the University's budget; item 6 became item 5; item 5A "Proposed Resolution on Public Law 97-252 (Solomon Amendment)" was added.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the 117th Plenary Session (January 18, 1983): The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Communications from the Chairman: Professor Wasser made the following announcements: (1) The winter issue of the UFS Newsletter will reach the campuses next week and Senators are asked to assist in the distribution of that publication; (2) The Committee for Public Higher Education is sponsoring a luncheon to honor their retiring president, Mr. Stanley Lowell, on March 3, 1983 at 1 p.m. in Room 1700 at the Graduate School. Tickets are \$15 and interested Senators who wish to receive an invitation are asked to notify Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Wasser reminded the Senate that three searches are currently in progress - for a Deputy Chancellor, a Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and a president for Medgar Evers College. He then called on Professor Riley (Chemistry, Bronx), faculty member of the Search Committee for a Deputy Chancellor, to report on that search. Professor Riley said that he was bound by rules of confidentiality not to discuss the search. Professor Wasser next asked Professor Hunte (Mathematics, Borough Manhattan), one of the three faculty members of the Search Committee for a Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs [the other faculty members are Professors Linda Nochlin (Art History, Graduate Center and Wasser] to comment, if she could, on her committee's progress. Professor Hunte stated that the Committee's work was being carried forward expeditiously, that vitas were being reviewed and a list of candidates being developed. Professor Wasser said that the Search Committee for a president for Medgar Evers College had been established but had not yet begun its work since the first meeting is scheduled to be held on February 23. While the searches are in progress, Professor Wasser continued, the University is functioning without a Deputy Chancellor since no Acting Deputy has been named; the current Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs continues to serve in that position and has agreed, at the request of the Chancellor, to remain at his post until mid-April. So far as the presidency of Medgar Evers is concerned, an acting president

Denis Paul, has been named so that the urgency to complete the search may not seem as great.

Professor Wasser reported also that the issue of the governance of the CUNY BA continues to be troublesome. Once again the ineffectiveness of the existing governance structure has been demonstrated. The recent elections of members of the University Committee for the program have failed to produce the necessary pool of candidates and discussions are therefore taking place concerning ways to constitute a Committee without violating the governance provisions. The Senate continues to press for prompt action to establish a revised governance for the program and has once again asked the Chancellor to move forward on this issue.

Professor Wasser devoted the major segment of his communications to a report on his trip to Albany on February 14-15 with his fellow Trustees, the Chancellor and members of the Chancellor's staff. The trip was initiated last year and follows a pattern: members of the University's Board, the Chancellor and his staff go up to Albany by chartered bus. There is a reception and dinner with legislators and members of the Executive staff and on the following morning Board members and other representatives of the University meet with individual legislators and members of their staff. The University group then returns to the City by chartered bus. Professor Wasser said that this year the group had left New York at about 1:30 p.m. on February 14. At the reception and dinner that evening some 40 to 45 legislators were present. The University group was given briefing papers and also discussed strategy during the lunch preceding their departure and during the trip. The purpose of the trip was to talk about the Governor's Proposed Budget and its potentially disastrous impact on the University. A major question was raised concerning when to put the pressure on the Legislature. We are now at the beginning of the budget cycle; therefore, the issue of timing was discussed. This phase of the cycle is a 30 day period during which the Executive Branch may make changes in the proposed budget, correct errors and the like. In the past what has happened is that the Governor proposed a disastrous budget and after discussion with the legislature the Legislature had acted to restore monies, and had even overridden gubernatorial vetoes to do so. The CUNY group therefore discussed at length possible tactics and procedures for this year. There is a new Chancellor who is going through the process for the first time unlike his predecessor who had been through the experience many times and who may therefore have enjoyed a certain advantage. On the other hand, Professor Wasser said, the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Mr. Posman, is an experienced hand.

Professor Wasser noted that those present at the reception and dinner included Assemblyman Fink, Senator Ohrenstein, members of the Higher Education Committees of the Senate and the Assembly, members of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. He said too that Senator Anderson who did not attend last year had been present at the reception this time. In the morning, Dr. Wasser continued, each trustee was assigned three legislators whom they spoke with either singly or in pairs and with the addition at times of a staff member. He had talked with Oliver Koepfel who represents a district in Riverdale, Assemblyman Murtagh, and Assemblyman Straniere who represents Staten Island.

Professor Wasser emphasized that the tactics and strategy developed for this trip were and remain tentative but at this moment - and he did not wish to be held to this view - it seemed to him that the prospects for restoration are gloomier than last year or two years ago. This observation, he said, was based on his own discussions and on the reports of his colleagues. The legislators raised a number of concerns. For example, Professor Wasser had pointed out that although the proposed cut in SUNY's budget is 5% as is the proposed cut in CUNY's the Bundy aid has not been cut at all. The question of whether to raise this question had been debated since the legislature is very protective of Bundy money but it was agreed that one might do so. When Professor Wasser did so, one legislator replied "The Bundy aid is about \$70 million

and that's peanuts compared to your budget." The Bundy aid, Professor Wasser said in an aside is still \$70 million with NYU getting some \$10 million, Columbia, about \$8 million etc. and it is money that does not have to be accounted for. He therefore suggested to the legislator that one would have thought the cut would be equal especially since the Governor in discussing the issue with various presidents of the privates before the election, had promised only to preserve the balance between the public and private institutions. (He had done so since President Sovern of Columbia expressed fears that the balance might be upset to the disadvantage of the privates and Professor Wasser had learned he had made similar statements to the president of Union College.) In fact, the Governor's budget creates an imbalance in favor of the privates. Professor Wasser had pointed out to the legislator who maintained that the \$70 million was peanuts that in his reckoning if the balance had been maintained and Bundy aid cut in the same degree as SUNY and CUNY then CUNY's share of those monies would save 50 jobs, a number which becomes meaningful when one is talking about firing 700 to 1000 people. The figures are still tentative and vary between 700 and 1000 but they are big numbers, Professor Wasser said. How much may be restored he believes is uncertain since some legislators indicated that they might be prepared to go the route of a tax surcharge while others were opposed to any tax increase. Some legislators were concerned about the Law School and criticized the fact that there were no cuts in the Law School's appropriation which includes \$8.3 million in the capital budget for conversion of the building in which it is housed and some \$10 million for positions. The issue was raised by non-Queens legislators.

Again Professor Wasser stressed the tentative nature of the University's tactics but said that at the moment it is this: to obtain a restoration in the neighborhood of some \$32 to \$37 million and to offer givebacks on funds provided for things not people. Professor Wasser also reviewed other aspects or questions in connection with the budget that were raised on the trip. The Board members were given a briefing paper which outlined information about issues which might be raised with them. For example, on the issue of the Student Activity Fee the following statement was provided:

On this issue, after more than a year of deliberation, litigation, and negotiation, an agreement has been reached between representatives of the Administration, of the Board, and of the Student Senate, on changes to be made in the 1981-82 Policy Statement and By-law amendments on Student Activity Fees.

A Board sub-committee on Student Activity Fees, chaired by Vice-Chair Edith Everett, which includes representatives of the Student Senate, recently concluding its deliberations, has unanimously adopted a new formulation for submission to the Board. The Board Student Affairs Committee, headed by Trustee Joaquin Rivera, is expected to endorse this recommendation. The new student fee structure which is part of this formulation was proposed by the new President of the Student Senate, Mr. Melvin Lowe, and was part of the total agreement on this issue. The litigation that had been instituted by the Student Senate has been announced by that body as being "frozen."

In the same way a statement on Medgar Evers was provided, viz:

A Search Committee to screen, sift and recommend to the Chancellor candidates for a permanent president of Medgar Evers has been appointed and recognized. The Search Committee, consisting of 12 members, includes five Trustees, three faculty, two students, one alumnus, and one representative of the Community Council of Medgar Evers College. All of its non-Trustee members have agreed to serve. The first meeting of the Search Committee has been convened for February 23rd.

On SEEK and College Discovery the statement read:

The SEEK and College Discovery Programs are being maintained at their present levels of enrollment and funding. A minor increase in the stipend level is provided in the Governor's Executive Budget proposal.

On Enrollment:

The overall enrollment of The City University continues to show a modest increase each year. For next year, beginning in September, our first time freshman applications show an 11.8 percent increase over the current year.

On the Issue of Academic Quality:

The quality of our faculty and of our student body continues to be a source of pride. In the current year we received 15 Fulbright scholarship awards. The only Rhodes scholar to be selected in New York State this year is a Queens College student. A number of our doctoral programs were recently rated by the official national rating agencies as among the best in the State and the Nation.

Professor Wasser noted also that in the area of enrollment the figures indicated that we are growing more rapidly than SUNY and that the respective budgets do not reflect this fact. Professor Wasser stated that it is his guess that SUNY is much more concerned about the Bundy aid matter than we are and that sometimes it seemed that there are really three levels in the State among higher education institutions - CUNY, SUNY, and the privates. On the matter of tuition, he continued, CUNY raise is \$150 and SUNY's \$250 and one legislator had informed him that SUNY has a master plan which projects a \$250 increase each year over the next four years and asked whether CUNY had a comparable plan.

Professor Wasser further reported that the tentative figures on layoffs are 450 non-faculty people as of April 1 with notification by March 7 and 250 faculty by August 31 with notification by April 1. The legislators, he said, keep emphasizing the loss of State employees in all agencies and the need for CUNY to bear its burden - in the words of the Governor, "to share the pain". Professor Wasser added that the numbers cited referred to real people not lines.

In addition Professor Wasser reported that at this stage the community colleges seemed to be better off than the state-supported colleges (this term is now used since the state supports the Graduate School, the four year colleges and also the College of Staten Island and New York City Technical College with the last two having special funding status). In the state-supported colleges CUNY may lose 1000 people and SUNY 2600.

Members of the Senate raised several questions about the Chairman's report with respect to the Budget to which Professors Wasser, Baumrin, Davidson and Sohmer responded since Vice Chancellor Posman had briefed the Executive Committee on the budget at a meeting on February 2. Dr. Ellis informed the membership that copies of the materials they ought to have received this evening were delayed in the Central Office Print Shop as a result of the combined holiday and snowstorm but would be sent to members as soon as they were received in the Senate Office.

Finally Professor Wasser reported that the present assessment of the Budget's impact on the University, if it is adopted without changes, is as follows: (1)

elimination of faculty in areas of high student demand such as computer science, accounting, health professions and performing arts which have a disproportionate number of non-tenured faculty; (2) limitation on the University's ability to provide basic skills to students entering with inadequate preparation for college-level work; (3) a severe blow to affirmative action since many of the new faculty tend to be women and minority group members; (4) an endless spiral of reductions if the loss of faculty in certain areas drives away students from the University since a drop in student enrollment leads to a loss in tuition revenue which translates into more required reductions. In addition, the proposed reductions would have the effect of (1) removing the ability to open the new Hunter buildings and a significant part of the City College North Academic Complex; (2) creating an unquestionable deterioration in the physical plant and campus security; (3) requiring the severe curtailment, at every campus, of student counseling and advisement; and (4) having an adverse impact on the collection of tuition, which could lead to further cuts, and the disbursement of student financial aid.

Finally, Professor Wasser noted that with respect to the community colleges the proposed budget segregates \$2.4 million of the appropriation into two new categories: a vocational education fund subject to the approval of the State Budget Office and a job training fund to be matched by federal funds without which the state funds will not be made available. The University therefore seeks revision of the community college funding formula and an increase in student aid.

IV. Reports of Faculty Members of Board of Trustees' Committees: The reports were distributed in written form and a copy is attached to these minutes.

V. Report of the Legal Affairs Committee: Professor Galub (Social Science, Bronx Community College) presented, at the request of the Executive Committee, a listing of basic principles to be embodied in a revised retrenchment policy statement acceptable to the Senate. Professor Galub entertained questions and comments from the floor and noted that the points raised by Senators would be taken into consideration in the preparation of the document.

VI. Proposed Resolution on Public Law 97-52 (Solomon Amendment): Professor Davidson (Data Processing, LaGuardia), on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved adoption of the resolution. His motion was seconded by Professor Baumrin (Philosophy, Lehman) and by Professor Sohmer (Mathematics, City). Discussion took place during which the rationale for the proposed resolution, its potential impact on the University, and the Executive Committee's decision to omit "whereas" clauses were explained and debated. Put to a vote the resolution was adopted. (Copy attached).

VII. Proposed Resolution on Faculty Participation in the Evaluation of Senior Campus Administrators: Adoption of the revised resolution was moved and seconded. An amendment to strike "confidentiality" and substitute "thoroughness" in line 7 was moved, seconded, debated and defeated. The resolution, when put to a vote, was adopted with three abstentions. (Copy Attached).

VIII. New Business: Professor Henderson (Special Programs, City) who had voted in favor of item 6 moved to reconsider to add "whereas" clauses. Her motion was seconded but when put to a vote was defeated.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ellis