February 17, 2006

Meeting called to order at 12:30 by Dr. Ruth Bass

I - The agenda was approved.

II- The minutes of December 2, 1999 were approved.

III- President Williams introduced and welcomed new members of the Administration: Assistant Dean Posner in Academic Affairs and James Kennelly, the long-awaited director of Information Technology. In response to a question, the President said that Jerry Simotas, Bert Tretin, and Peter Hoberman would be reporting to Mr. Kennelly.

Other changes include Carin Savage as Associate Dean of Institutional Development, Mary Rogan as Labor Designee, Nelson Reynoso as Director of Counseling, John Smith retiring as Head of the Library. Rosemary Quinn is Chair of a search committee to find a new head.

The President announced that the Executive Council will look at Goals 2000 during its retreat, and she herself will meet with the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the New York State Legislature.

IV - Announcements and Reports

Chair Ruth Bass announced that the next Senate meeting, on March 9th, will begin promptly at noon, and that the May 4th meeting is moved to May 11th, because it conflicted with elections in several departments. Any item that needs to be reported to the Board of Trustees before May 11th, must be presented first in March, or the two-meeting rule must be waved in April, or the Senate must delegate some responsibility to the Senate Executive Committee.

Chair Bass noted that the Senate Executive Committee has approved that BCC Inc., BCC Auxiliary Enterprises, and the Student Government Association send copies of their certified financial statements, their agendas, and their minutes to the Chairs of the Senate and the Faculty Council. A copy of these documents should also be in the library. The Vice Presidents will let the Senate know when these groups meet, and anyone may attend.

The CUNY Council of Governance leaders met to discuss Chancellor Goldstein’s proposal to tier the salaries of the College Presidents (with Community Colleges at the bottom) and to make some institutions “flagship” colleges. This is still in the planning stage.
The chair of Faculty Council, Professor Phyllis Read announced that the next meeting of the Council will be March 9th, when VP Keizs and Dr. Gillespie will report on links with the High schools. She also presented statistics showing that since 1980, student enrollment at CUNY has increased by 13% while full-time faculty have declined 19%.

Vice President Coleman announced that the Personnel Department has now placed ads in the New York Times as well as other publications for 14-16 new full-time lines.

CUNY is asking that the city release 4.3 million dollars allocated ($550,000 for BCC) and that money be allocated to pay for mandatory increases. Further, the city must provide 10 million dollar match for state funds, to design our new instructional building. Steam leaks in five buildings are the reason for the emergency construction outside of Butler, in consultation with Martin Pulver, our Health and Safety officer. In response to questions, she explained that x5911 is the number we call to report emergencies, and that repair of the roof of Colston cannot be finished until we know that we have three consecutive days with a temperature above 55 degrees.

Vice President Keizs reported that four departments are completing their Self-studies this Spring. Currently two BCC groups are presenting at the AACC convention, led by Kiwi-Park Kim on technology and Jason Finkelstein on Freshman programs.

Vice President Scranton announced that a new “repair kit” (Preventive Academic Warning System) is ready to help the 619 students on probation. Student Development is expanding the Transfer Center, under the direction of Michael Roggow. March 9th is transfer day.

Dean Parulo report that most categories of enrollments show increases from last spring, including 14.7 percent more readmits and 10.7 more new admits. Overall total enrollment is slightly down, because have fewer continuing students. She expressed heartfelt gratitude for all who helped with the registration, including ongoing placement exams by the math department.

V - Dr. James Ryan presented a resolution (enclosed) in favor of TIAA members having the same multiple position benefits for retirement income as TRS. This passed unanimously.

VII - Committee Reports and Action Items.

Dr. James Hyde retired as chair of the Committee on Academic Standing. They will soon elect a new chair.

The Curriculum Committee reported several items (see attached). A motion was made to waive the two meeting rule for the revision of a new degree program in Therapeutic Recreation. This program was already approved, but since changes were made after suggestions from the CUNY central office, we are affirming our approval. Motion passed. The vote to approve that new degree, as well the second approval to require Math 12 instead of Math 13 for the TV Technology AAS degree was 29-1-2.

The Governance and Elections committee reported that Debra Gonsher and Henry Skinner have been elected as BCC faculty representatives to the UFS Senate. Florence Tanaka was elected as the adjutant representative.

The Committee on Instruction and Professional Development reported that various logjams have delayed the computerized rosters for this semester. (At that point Registrar Gantt said it
would be ready by the 5th week roster.) Kathy Williams, chair of the Committee on Instruction and Professional Development committee, also reported that the committee is working on an Excellence in Teaching Award, and on rewriting the questions for the form used by students to evaluate faculty. The academic departments should be discussing these revisions at their next meetings. New proposals for faculty development grants are now welcome. Last fall 28 proposals were received, 9 were funded, 3 were sent back for more information, and 16 not funded. The committee is eager to fund more proposals, especially innovative teaching proposals, with clear outcomes and budget. The committee recommends; the President decides.

Space, Facilities, and Physical Plant has discussed leaks, water fountains, lights, and classroom availability and is aware of these problems. The college is also working on pothole repair, and on cleaning up the landscape on the West Campus. This committee has made specific recommendations regarding the cleanliness of bathrooms, and we should soon see improvements in these areas.

Student Government Association announced that February 24th will be the Fun Day, Club Day from 12 to 6. On February 26th, Dominican independence will be celebrated, and the week of March 10th will be the 10th annual multicultural week. A food and clothing drive is underway to help Bogota, Columbia.

The University Faculty Senate, particularly the Community College caucus, is discussing tiering, which will put community colleges at the bottom, with the performance-based budgeting. To foster better articulation among the colleges, the University Senate is working to achieve a common course numbering system.

Jeff Spielberg announced that the deadline for the next Senate newsletter is March 17th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen S. Berger, Secretary