



UFS Report to the Lehman College General Faculty February 18, 2015, Manfred Philipp

At the February 10 UFS Plenary, US Chair Martell announced an agreement with CUNY CIO Brian Cohen to the effect that CUNY emeritus faculty members will retain CUNY email addresses, and not have addresses that have been changed from those used when they were full time employees. This months-long effort was done, among other reasons, in order to maintain library and electronic database services for academically-active retirees.

UFS Chair Martell, along with Peter Knuepfer, President of the SUNY UFS, and Tina Good, President of the SUNY Faculty Council for the Community Colleges, yesterday wrote to Dr. James Malatras, Director of State Operations in the Governor's office, to describe the problems in the governor's budget language, that follows on the next page.



The governor's proposed Executive Budget contains the following:

34 § 2. Section 6206 of the education law is amended by adding a new
35 subdivision 18 to read as follows:
36 18. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, **the**
37 **city university of New York board of trustees shall pass a resolution by**
38 **December thirty-first, two thousand fifteen, providing that students**
39 **enrolled in an academic program of the city university of New York shall**
40 **be required to participate in an approved experiential or applied learn-**
41 **ing activity as a degree requirement.** Such resolution shall define
42 approved experiential or applied learning activities, methods of faculty
43 oversight and assessment, responsibilities of business, corporate, non-
44 profit or other entities hosting students, and a plan for full implemen-
45 tation of this requirement.
46 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be deemed to
47 have been in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2015.



Chancellor Milliken addressed the UFS Plenary on February 10. He reported on his testimony in Albany to the NYS Senate and Assembly Finance and Ways and Means Committees. Excerpts from that testimony are given below.

... **the Executive Budget does not include any growth in spending in CUNY's fringe benefits costs** for senior colleges. The overall State financial plan, however, includes a 6.8% increase in pension contributions and a 4.2% increase for health insurance for non-CUNY employees. ... this will cost senior colleges an additional \$25 million that will have to be reallocated from existing college priorities.

... almost all of CUNY's instructional staff are on a salary schedule that provides for annual step increments. This benefit is built into the state and city approved collective bargaining agreement with the Professional Staff Congress. Historically, the annual costs associated with salary step increments at the senior colleges have been covered by the state. ...in the FY 2015-2016 Executive Budget ... **there is no appropriation for these mandatory costs**, as has been the case for the prior three fiscal years. Each year the gap widens \$7.9 million at the senior colleges,



From the Chancellor's Testimony to the NYS Senate and Assembly Finance and Ways and Means Committees, continued

... **our libraries continue to be challenged by the price increases that outpace inflation** and students continue to struggle to purchase necessary textbooks and course materials. CUNY's libraries have the capacity to help students in this regard, and sufficient funding would enable us to invest in costly textbooks for use by students and to purchase electronic texts, together with the means to display and catalogue them.

In 2012 we updated the critical maintenance study of the state of good repair of our campuses; the study identified a \$3.2 billion dollar backlog of critical maintenance needs, which will grow to nearly \$6 billion if not addressed over the next 10 years.

The executive budget recommends \$103 million in new critical maintenance funding for the senior colleges. We sought \$181 million to allow CUNY to continue work on hundreds of ongoing projects that will address electrical, heating, cooling, roof and other maintenance issues we need to provide a safe learning and working environment.

A major upgrade of Lehman College's central plant is underway.



The UFS Spring Conference on **International Education in CUNY**, will be held on April 24. The next meeting of the **Council of Faculty Governance Leaders** is on Friday, February 20.

The **CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences** continues to offer the **Stewart Travel Awards for Assistant Professors**. There are two applicants from Lehman College.

See <http://www.cunyufs.org/academy/award.html>

The CUNY Academy also offers the **Feliks Gross Endowment Award for Assistant Professors**. There have been **no nominations from Lehman College** in the current cycle. The nominations deadline is Monday, March 2. See <http://www.cunyufs.org/academy/endowment.html>



The CUNY Academy presents the following events:

Scottish Women Book Owners on the Eve of the Reformation, a talk by Marlene Hennessy, English, Hunter College, CUNY, 6 PM, Thursday, February 19, 2015 in the Graduate Center's Room C201. This event is hosted by Professor Susan O'Malley.

Possession and Witchcraft in Seventeenth Century France, a talk by Laila Paris, 6 PM on Thursday, March 19, 2015, Graduate Center Room C201.

Transcendence, a new stage play by Robert Marc Friedman, Professor of the History of Science at the University of Oslo. The play explores the creation and reception of Einstein's general theory of relativity. 6 PM in the Graduate Center's 4th Floor Science Center on Tuesday April 14.

I like it, 'twill be new': **Women's Acting, Artifice, and the Making of the Literary Celebrity** in James Shirley's *Bird in a Cage*, a talk by Allison Deutermann, English, Baruch College, 6 PM, Thursday, April 23, 2015, Graduate Center Room C201.



Modern Greece and the West: A Record of Ambivalence, a seminar by Dr. Ioannis Stephanides, Senior Onassis Visiting Scholar, University of Thessaloniki, Graduate Center Rooms 9205/9206 at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 23, 2015.

The Academy's Interdisciplinary Humanities **Conference on War and Geography** will be held in the Graduate Center, Room C198, on Friday, May 1, 2015 from 9 AM to 7 PM.

EdTPA in its First Two Years and Beyond: A Conference on K-12 Education in New York State. The Proshansky Auditorium of the CUNY Graduate Center, Tuesday May 26, 2015, 7-9 PM.

The Global Financial Crisis and the Moral Economy: Local Impacts and Opportunities. The Annual Conference of the Commission on Urban Anthropology. This is the Academy's Feliks Gross Seminar on Visual and Urban Ethnography. The Woody Tanger Auditorium of the Brooklyn College Library, June 18-20, 2015.