

UFS Report to the Lehman College Senate: April 30, 2014

- SUNY's UFS Hosted an April 23-24 **Conference on Shared Governance** in Albany.
- The May 2nd **UFS Spring Conference** Will Concentrate on Federal Funding for Scholarship in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. Two faculty members have been invited from each campus. The conference will be held at the RF.
- **Lehman College has held UFS elections.** According to the report of Prof. Juan DelaCruz of the General Faculty Elections Committee, those elected and accepted are, for the full-time faculty: Mine Doyran, James Jervis, and Stephen Redenti; and for the part-time faculty : Judith Duncker. Their terms expire in May, 2017. They join those elected in the past, with terms ending in May in the year indicated: Peter Alexanderson, 2016, Nicholas Boston, 2015, Juan DelaCruz, 2014, Mine Doyran, 2014 (re-elected), Manfred Philipp, 2015, Sekhem Sembenu, 2014, Helene Silverman,* 2016
- **The Council of Faculty Governance Leaders** met on Friday, April 25.

- The designated new CUNY Chancellor, James B. Milliken, will resign from the University of Nebraska on May 2 and take up his position at CUNY on or before June 1.
- On April 8 the full-time faculty at Brooklyn College passed a resolution demanding that the Brooklyn College and CUNY administrations respect the faculty's historic role in designing courses, general education programs, and degree requirements. The resolution passed by a vote of 298 in favor, 9 against and 18 abstentions.

The resolution also states that the faculty have “*no confidence*” in the CUNY Board of Trustees to make curricular decisions.

According to the resolution, “***The current Board of Trustees is almost completely devoid of educators and is comprised of political appointees, whose main qualification was political support for current and former mayors and governors, rather than their expertise in educational policy.***”

Science courses at Brooklyn have, with the support of the college administration, been reportedly now been restored to their pre-Pathways status in terms of hours and credits.

- The UFS unanimously passed a resolution supporting Governor Cuomo's efforts to fund **public higher education in the prisons**. This resolution was requested by the UFS Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons.
- The UFS is in discussion with the Chancellery on how to implement the Chancellor's announcement that **Pathways review committees** will be named by faculty governance bodies.
- CUNY's Office of Legal Affairs is proposing to amend Section XV of the CUNY Bylaws to make them conform to recommendations from the Office of Civil Rights of the US Department of Education. These recommendations relate to the investigation of claims of sexual assault under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The UFS Executive Committee is working on the draft text.

Yesterday, NY State United Teachers announced an agreement with the State Education Department to delay full implementation of the controversial new Teachers Performance Assessment (edTPA) until June 30, 2015.

Under the terms of the agreement, student teachers will have to take the edTPA starting this spring, but those who fail it will be allowed to use a passing score on the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W) to demonstrate readiness to enter the classroom as a teacher.

Passing the ATS-W is a current certification requirement in New York.

Students who are eligible for Pell grants will not be charged to take the edTPA. The agreement also calls for a task force of teacher education experts, with representation from PSC and UUP, to review and change the edTPA assessment going forward.

The agreement protects the student teachers who would be hurt first by the edTPA, and gives CUNY's education faculty a formal structure in which they can voice their concerns about it.

Text adapted from the PSC Announcement on edTPA, April 29, 2014

Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch
NY State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr.

Via Email on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 10:39 PM

Dear Chancellor Tisch and Commissioner King,

We assume that you have heard of the so-called Pathways Program promulgated by the CUNY Central Administration. You may not have heard about the near-complete opposition to the program by the CUNY faculty. A petition opposing Pathways received 5676 faculty signatures, including a clear majority of CUNY's distinguished professors. We know of only three (out of 133) CUNY distinguished professors who have spoken in favor of Pathways. Faculty governance bodies at most of CUNY's 2- and 4-year campuses have voted to oppose Pathways, as have numerous CUNY discipline councils and academic departments. See <http://cunyufs.org/A/> for links to these resolutions.

As faculty governance leaders at Lehman College, we want you to know about the opposition to Pathways among members of the Lehman College community.

The Lehman College Senate, composed of and representing students, faculty, and administrators, has twice voted to oppose the Pathways Program. The first time was on April 6, 2011, where the Senate, without a single opposing vote, resolved that, among other things, "The Lehman College Senate reaffirms its authority over the college's curriculum, including the right to determine the appropriate number of General Education credits for Lehman College students to hone their critical thinking skills and explore new areas of study and interest." See <http://cunyufs.org/A/LehmanSenate.pdf> for the full text of this resolution.

On November 16, 2011 the Lehman College Senate passed another resolution, which "condemns the Pathways process that is damaging to the academic reputation of Lehman College and the City University of New York and the careers of our graduates." and "recommends that the Pathways program be scrapped and that colleges be assisted in establishing collaborations to enhance articulation and the academic quality of CUNY baccalaureate degrees."

This resolution passed overwhelmingly, with only seven votes in opposition or in abstention.

See <http://cunyufs.org/A/N/LEHMANCOLLEGESENATE.pdf> for the full text of the resolution. All student and faculty members of the college senate voted for the resolution.

We think that policies such as Pathways that result in reducing foreign language requirements to nearly zero, reduce the amount of time spent on natural science courses by more than half, and reduce the amount of time spent on English composition, are policies that damage the education of our students and diminish their prospects after they leave college.

While the CUNY Chancellery has claimed that students are still free to take courses that match the existing curricula, we know that the budget problems of our college (and other colleges) make it very difficult, if not impossible, to offer large numbers of courses that are not required. Free electives may work in well-funded colleges, but they cannot work in colleges that are so underfunded that they have trouble offering the basic courses needed for graduation.

We ask that you direct the university to halt the implementation of the Pathways Program.

We also ask that you act to maintain CUNY Board of Trustees Policy 5.3, which states that

"The Board of Trustees of the City University of New York recognizes and affirms that the faculty shall be responsible for the formulation of policy relating to the admission and retention of students, including

- a) Health and scholarship standards
- b) Student attendance including leaves of absence
- c) Curriculum
- d) Awarding of college credit
- e) Granting of degrees

This responsibility is to be exercised through the college faculty senates pursuant to the Board of Trustees Bylaws or college governance plans approved by the Board of Trustees, or the University Faculty Senate in accordance with the University Bylaws. Such policies will then be considered by the Board of Trustees or its appropriate committees in making policy decisions relating to educational matters."

We are willing to come to visit your offices to discuss this issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jacobson, Chair of the Lehman College Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Manfred Philipp, Chair, Executive Committee of the General Faculty at Lehman College
Duane Tananbaum, Chair of the Lehman College Senate