



# The Senate Digest

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## Tuition Increase



## Voted by Board

In response to the state budget crisis, the SUNY Board of Trustees voted in November to increase undergraduate tuition by \$310 per semester beginning in the Spring 2009 semester. The CUNY Board of Trustees voted in December for a senior college tuition increase of “up to” \$300 per semester beginning in the Fall 2009.

The CUNY Board resolution calls for undergraduate increases “up to” \$300 per semester at senior colleges, and “up to” \$200 per semester at Community Colleges, with larger amounts for graduate and professional programs. The resolution includes a Student Financial Aid initiative, meant to temper the effect of the proposed increases on students who do not benefit from the state’s Tuition Assistance Program.

The Council of Faculty Governance Leaders met with Daniel Doktori, Director of Higher Education in the New York State Governor’s Office, in order to get background information on the state budget. The UFS also met with the SUNY UFS in December for further consultation on the issue. The UFS has scheduled upcoming meetings with State Senate Toby Stavisky and Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, and the UFS will continue to consult with Vice Chancellor Malave on the issue.

## Senators Adopt Academic Freedom Statement

The University Faculty Senate, at its plenary on September 23, 2008, adopted a statement of UFS policy entitled *The State of Academic Freedom at CUNY and What We Can Do About It*.

Intended for use by all CUNY faculty, staff and administrators, the statement defines academic freedom and outlines steps which may be taken by faculty members who feel that their academic freedom has been, or is being, infringed upon by CUNY. The statement explains that academic freedom is the professional right and responsibility of the faculty to teach, research, write, and to speak in its public capacity. Since colleges and universities exist as public trusts to serve the common good, they are protected from political, religious, and corporate pressures by institutional autonomy. Tenure, faculty governance, and due process also protect faculty members from improper pressures and arbitrary decisions on reappointment and tenure.

The University Faculty Senate has recommended that each college establish its own academic freedom committee. Faculty members who feel that their academic freedom has been or is being infringed are urged to contact their local academic freedom committee, the Academic Freedom Committee of the UFS, or the Academic Freedom Committee of the Professional Staff Congress.

See the statement at <http://www.cunyufs.org>.

## The Year in Enrollment Management

by Prof. Michael Barnhart, Kingsborough Community College

The University Faculty Senate has been invited to participate in an important body, the Enrollment Management Council (EMC), that oversees all matters having to do with CUNY enrollment. In this context, “enrollment” includes recruitment, admissions, transfer, articulation, testing, financial aid, and information sharing—especially outreach to students. Mostly made up of all those overseeing admissions, financial aid, and information processing services at CUNY’s schools and colleges, this group is chaired by Bob Ptachik, University Dean for the Executive Office, who invited us to participate. As your representative and a UFS senator, I have attended most of the Council’s sessions over the previous two years.

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# Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues:

Prof. Lenore Beaky, Vice Chair of the UFS from LaGuardia Community College, and I met with Prof. Carl Wiezalis Chair of the SUNY UFS and with Prof. Milton Johnson, chair of the SUNY Faculty Council for the Community Colleges, to discuss the financial situation at both universities and possible common initiatives. While the meeting revealed the stark differences between the two systems, it did not discourage us from attempting to forge an action plan to help both universities.

At a time of great budgetary stress, SUNY has an interim chancellor who has not been able to strongly defend the university. The search process has not identified a suitable person to lead the university. At the same time, the SUNY community colleges answer to a plethora of different counties, not just one city as in CUNY. Each SUNY community college has a separate board of trustees, but those colleges still have to interact with the SUNY trustees. To make things worse, some SUNY trustees in the recent past have mocked themselves by engaging in attempted censorship of college programs.

These factors all impact on SUNY's ability to make a strong case for itself in Albany. Things have not always been so bad for SUNY, whose constant presence in Albany, combined with the wide distribution of SUNY campuses across the state, mean that SUNY has long had strong defenders in both the state Assembly and the state Senate. In some upstate communities, the SUNY campus provides the main economic engine for the region. Cutting the budget for such campuses affects everyone, not just the students and faculty. Unlike CUNY, which is present only in New York City, SUNY has major graduate and undergraduate units both inside New York City and all over the state. In the past, it is clear that SUNY has done better in getting state funds than has CUNY. However, some SUNY units are still badly underfunded. Others, such as the University Centers, are very well-funded, at a first-class level that is simply unknown in CUNY.

At the same time, SUNY-associated organizations, like those in CUNY, have failed to translate their millions of alumni into a potent fund-raising and political force. SUNY is far behind CUNY in the kind of fund-raising/political advocacy combination that is needed to raise money and protect the university's state and local support.

Following the example of CUNY, the chair of the SUNY UFS recently fought for and was granted a seat on the SUNY Board of Trustees. However, we learned that voting memberships on the SUNY Board working committees have yet to be won, while CUNY faculty have enjoyed this privilege for decades. The regular meetings that the CUNY UFS has arranged with Vice Chancellors prior to each Board Committee meeting are as yet unknown in SUNY. Lenore and I urged the

SUNY UFS and the FCCC to follow the CUNY UFS's example in CUNY's process of continuous consultation.

SUNY's local faculty governance units seem to be quite involved in their local Master Plan processes. However, the idea of developing system-wide Master Plan proposals that cover, for example, underserved geographical areas was clearly unknown. Lenore and I encouraged our SUNY counterparts to take a stronger role in the university-wide Master Plan process.

In terms of practical short-term proposals, it was agreed that the two sets of faculty governance organizations could work together in generating support for public higher education in the state. We agreed to pursue avenues to approach state and federal officials for higher education support for public institutions.

We also agreed to pursue joint academic conferences. Our SUNY counterparts were quite interested in a conference on sustainability, for example. SUNY UFS conferences, like their plenaries, are multi-day affairs, very much more involved than those of the CUNY UFS. This is in part an outcome of the significant distances that the SUNY senate members must travel in order to attend these meetings. For this meeting, all participants traveled to New Paltz, the location of a SUNY college halfway between Albany and New York.

The traditional quip, that SUNY's broad political base provides the coat-tails for CUNY to ride upon in the state budget process is not holding at the moment. A divided SUNY Board of Trustees and the vacuum left by the absence of a permanent chancellor forces CUNY to take the lead in the current crisis.

Sincerely,  
Manfred Philipp  
Chair

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## Fall Conference

The UFS held its Fall Conference at John Jay College on November 14. The topic, for new faculty members, *Welcome to the Academy: Your Rights, Responsibilities & Freedoms*, attracted 85 registrants and others, who heard presentations on Academic Freedom and the History of the Academy. After a break, the conference continued to topics that included CUNY Policies and CUNY Governance.



The talks on CUNY Policies included material on Conflicts of Interest, Research Misconduct, Workplace Violence, Domestic Violence, Computer Use and Privacy, Affirmative Action, ADA Compliance, Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy, Institutional Review Boards, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, Student Complaints, and Academic Integrity.



At lunchtime, Chancellor Goldstein, Provost Bowers of John Jay College, and Professor Karen Kaplowitz of the John Jay College Senate greeted the new faculty. After lunch, the new faculty heard presentations on the reappointment and tenure process, research at CUNY, and CUNY's patents and copyright policies.



There was then a panel discussion on the role of publishing and grants. Participants had the individual opportunity to talk to the speakers after the formal parts of the conference had completed. Material on the conference will be posted to the UFS web site. The UFS thanks all who attended!



Photos starting at top: Liesl Jones (Lehman), Jay Weiser (Baruch), Karen Kaplowitz (John Jay), and Shannon Kincaid (Queensborough CC) at the podium.

## The Year in Enrollment Management

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More than just "admissions," enrollment has to do with the ebb and flow of students into and out of CUNY as well as the overall numbers registered and how they are distributed across the programs at the university. Discussion at the EMC has typically focused on raw numbers of entering and continuing students, of course, but also the numbers in specific programs—especially where that has posed problems, for example in nursing.

In general, however, the Council has been concerned with the need to make CUNY more competitive with the area's other colleges and universities. The perception among admissions officers at the various CUNY colleges is that we lose students to such private colleges as Pace, St. John's, and LIU. Because their students fit the same academic and economic profile of many CUNY students, the conclusion follows that these competing schools do a better job of student outreach, recruitment, and retention in the areas mentioned below.

### Information Sharing with students and their families

Recently, CUNY has undertaken two initiatives in this regard. First, a private company has been contracted to implement a customer relations program—essentially a website tool that offers students their own "VIP" page to facilitate communication back and forth as well as a "virtual advisor"—to better manage communication with applicants. Second, colleges are being encouraged to better market themselves to students, and a new group of hires has been assigned to work on college recruitment as well as application processing.

### Application Processing

Given CUNY's rolling admissions, it has been very hard to compete with area colleges and universities that have a defined admissions calendar. Furthermore, though CUNY applications are now largely electronic, some items such as transcripts are sometimes still only available on paper. However, a number of initiatives have aimed at smoothing the process, mostly through better information sharing. CUNY has contracted with Connect EDU to provide the same kind of electronic access to student transcripts that it currently enjoys with public high schools. And finally, a study has been undertaken to find further ways of expediting and coordinating CUNY's handling of applications.

### Transfer and Articulation across CUNY

Many CUNY students are admitted as transfers, and admission through transfer is generally perceived as an easier route into CUNY than freshman application. [There has been some discussion about bringing the various admissions standards into line.] Also, many students transfer within CUNY. There has been some study and concern regarding two problems that undermine CUNY enrollment: "transfer shock," that is, the typical 0.5 decline in GPA for students entering baccalaureate programs from associate programs, and the surprisingly low number of CUNY undergraduates who go on to CUNY graduate programs.

Former Executive Vice Chancellor Botman proposed new standards that would require incoming students to demonstrate that they had earned a "C" or better in Math and English courses. Some members of the EMC complained that making such determinations as to whether students met these requirements was a faculty responsibility, not an admissions one.

The EMC has discussed the need for improved course articulation around CUNY, and efforts have been made to better coordinate the different college calendars in regard to e-permits (where students at one CUNY campus can take courses at others). (Continued in the next issue of the *Digest: Financial Aid and Testing Policies*.)

# University Committee on Research Awards

The University Faculty Senate's Research Awards Committee, headed by Prof. Kathryn Richardson of NYC College of Technology, nominates faculty members to be liaisons for the University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA). It is UCRA and its panels that arrange for peer evaluation of the PSC-CUNY applications in each discipline. In recent years, it has become more and more difficult to get people to volunteer to do this job, despite the remuneration of \$6,000 allocated over three years of service from the award fund. (See the call letter in the right hand column.) This year there will be no Anthropology panel, since no person in that discipline was found to be willing to be liaison, given the current level of remuneration. It is up to the other members of UCRA to decide what to do with the Anthropology applications.

At the same time that this was happening, members of the chancellery became concerned that the amount of money needed to conduct the review of the PSC-CUNY applications is excessive. Vice Chancellor Gillian Small decided to form a committee to evaluate the PSC-CUNY award process. That committee contains representatives from the UFS (Prof. Richardson and Prof. Thomas Bird of Queens College), from the PSC, and others named by the Chancellery. The UFS looks forward to the deliberations of the committee.

Readers with a good memory may recall that then Dean Small chaired a Task Force on the topic three years ago. That report is given at this site: <http://www.cunyufs.org/reports/UCRA-TF-5-12-05.pdf>



## Research is Essential to the Life of a University

Represent your discipline to establish guidelines for grant disbursement, form grant review panels, and select grant recipients.

Please help the **PSC-CUNY Research Award Program** distribute grants in your area of expertise.

Volunteer or nominate your colleagues to join the UCRA (University Committee on Research Awards).

*In-service allotment is available to faculty performing this service (\$6,000 over the three-year term.)*

The committee is looking for faculty to coordinate the following areas:

- \* **Anthropology**
- \* **Chemistry**
- \* **Computer Science**
- \* **Creative Writing & English**
- \* **Education**
- \* **Health Sciences**
- \* **Health and Human Services**
- \* **Sociology**

### Criteria for selection of UCRA members are:

1. evidence of continuing involvement in scholarship;
2. experience in receiving and administering grants and fellowships;
3. representation from a variety of CUNY colleges.

\* Applicants are recommended by the UFS Research Committee and appointed by the Chancellor.

\* Chairpersons, executive officers, and personnel on the executive pay plan are not eligible.

\* Candidates may hold a PSC-CUNY award at the time of their appointment, but may not apply for an award during their three-year service on the UCRA.

Nominees should forward a curriculum vitae including grants and fellowships received, research undertaken to:

The Research Committee, University Faculty Senate  
535 East 80th Street, New York, N.Y. 10075 OR  
[Stasia.Pasela@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:Stasia.Pasela@mail.cuny.edu) (Re: UCRA nomination in \_\_\_\_\_)  
212-794-5538 [www.cunyUFS.org](http://www.cunyUFS.org)

Closing Date: April 30, 2009

## New Community College

The Chancellor has asked John Mogulescu, University Dean and Dean of the School of Professional Studies, to study the possible formation of a new community college based in Manhattan. Reasons cited include overcrowding at BMCC, the opportunity it would give to explore new approaches that might improve retention and graduation rates for New York's unprepared students, the apparent availability of foundation funding at the moment for innovation of this kind, and the need to prepare students for employment.

The full proposal may be read at the UFS website, [www.cunyUFS.org](http://www.cunyUFS.org).



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