

PROPOSED MINUTES
The 450th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University of New York
Rooms 0818/0819
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

UFS Chair Verzani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Plenary was held in Room 818/819 at the Central Office, 205 East 42nd Street. 74 of the 137 voting members were present.

Baruch: Present – Ellis, Grein, Harel, Karama and Wine. Absent – Lee and Martell. Vacancies – 3. **BMCC:** Present – Glaser, Meltzer and Oram. Absent – Belknap, Comeau-Kirschner, Keane, Kelley and Wiseman. Vacancies – 2. **Bronx CC:** Present – Culkin, David, Fisher and Rothenberg. Vacancies – 1. **Brooklyn:** Present – Evans, Kingan, Okome and Alternate Estey. Absent – Arnow, Bassell, Belyayeva, Cohen and Levy. **CCNY:** Present – Davis, Li, Peele and Stemberg. Absent – Binz-Scharf, Jeruzalmi, Kornhauser and Mano. Vacancies – 1. **CSI:** Present – Gold and Verzani. Absent – Gruber, LaMassa, Vachadze and Yuan. Vacancies – 1. **CUNY Law School:** Absent – Loehr. Vacancies – 1. **Graduate Center:** Present – Shirazi. Absent – Burke, Gorman and Riobó. Vacancies – 1. **Guttman CC:** Present – Medina. Absent – Philipose. **Hostos CC:** Present – Amarante, August, Garcia de Souza and Trachman. **Hunter:** Present – Bondie, Chinn, Clarkson, Gao, Troudt and Young. Absent – Albrecht, Dahbour, Kastner, Nicolai and Soyer. Vacancies – 1. **John Jay:** Present – Belcher, Benton, Carbonell, Grossi, Kimora, and Alternate Ilyes. Absent – Grant, Kaplowitz and Narkunas. **Kingsborough CC:** Present – Aranoff, Devany, Eaton, Segal and Stubin. Absent – Krishnan and Navarro. **LaGuardia CC:** Present – Fess, Keyes, Klein and Sokolski. Absent – Albrecht and Armstrong. Vacancies – 1. **Lehman:** Present – Castellano, Manier and Zack. Absent – Bell, Johnson, Rice, Vann and Wang. **Medgar Evers:** Present – Barker, Chevalier, James and Alternate Huggins. **NYCCT:** Present – Capruso, Rodriguez and Zylstra. Absent – Allahverdi, Bennett, Coughlin and Grujicic -Alatrisme. **Queens:** Present – Genack, Newman, Pagano, Schwetz, Swedell and Weingarten. Absent – Kumar, Lowry and Pai. Vacancies – 2. **Queensborough CC:** Present – Akpinar, Carroll, Cornick, Puri, Srivastava, Tai and Alternate Sullivan. Vacancies – 1. **York:** Present – Chirico, Costley and Kaufman. Absent – Lipkind and Sheidlower.

Governance Leaders present were: Barker (Medgar Evers), Chinn (Hunter), Cornick (Queensborough), Fisher (Bronx CC), Gold (CSI), Grein (Baruch), Ialongo (Hostos), Manier (Lehman) and Swedell (Queens). Guests present were Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alicia Alvero, Anson Chung (Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council), Jonathan Hanon (John Jay), Mihir Parekh (Binghamton University, SUNY), Jody Vaisman (CUNY BA) and Yasmin Sokkar Harker (CUNY Law). Members observing via Zoom were Alexander-Street (Lehman), Burke (GC), Cohen (Brooklyn), Gruber (CSI), Kaplowitz (John Jay), Kelley (BMCC), Pai (Queens), Shaker (CSI) Wang (Lehman) and Wiseman (BMCC). Guests Observing via Zoom were Stephen Aldersley, David Baronov, Shahadat Hasan (Hostos), Laura Penman, Kristin Stapleton and Esther Wilder (Lehman). Executive Director Cotter, Administrative Assistant Pasela and Secretary Blanchard were also present.

1. Approval of the Agenda – Adopted as Proposed
2. Approval of the Minutes of September 16, 2025 – Adopted as Proposed
3. Remarks by Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alicia Alvero – 6:35 – 7:05 p.m. – After some brief comments EVC Alvero led a conversation about her recent statement on academic freedom in the CUNY newsletter. After explaining the background of and clarifying the procedural implications following the statement, she solicited feedback from the body to improve or revise the University’s position moving forward. She then took questions related to academic freedom, artificial intelligence, and University policies related to ongoing critiques of higher education from Washington, D.C.
4. Reports on Standing Committee Charges – 7:05—7:30 p.m. – Each Standing Committee Chair presented to the body their detailed charges for the academic year. There were no questions and the charges will be posted to the UFS website.
5. A Resolution, sponsored by the executive committee, *Resolution in Opposition of the Proposed “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”* was moved and discussed. - 7:30 – 7:40 p.m. – The resolution was passed unanimously.
6. A Resolution, submitted by the UFS Senators of CADHE and sponsored by the executive committee, *Resolution to Defend Higher Education* was moved and discussed. - 7:40 – 7:45 p.m. – The resolution was passed unanimously.
7. Chair’s Report – John Verzani – 7:45 – 7:50 p.m. – Chair Verzani welcomed recently elected senators and then updated the body on some deliberations of the Committee on Academic Policy and the ongoing search for a University Provost. He then noted some of the recent deliberations of the COACHE Committee regarding faculty promotion and tenure and urged members to reach out to Prof. Kathleen Barker for further information due to her role as UFS representative on COACHE. He then briefly updated the body on the University’s prospective CUNY 360 initiative, as well as his ongoing involvement with the University’s freedom of expression policy committee. He also mentioned the progress on the Board resolution concerning the campus president promotion authority. He then mentioned several ongoing discussions of the Board committees related to finance, budget, and administration, and a few contracts that have recently been awarded to the University. Also noting a statement read by the chair of the Finance and Administration committee on contracts within CUNY and Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprises.
8. New Business – 7:50 – 8:00 p.m. – Dr. Jody Vaisman updated the body on the work of the CUNY Baccalaureate Program and apprised the body of its various commitments, opportunities, and supports for students and thanked the UFS for its continued support. Prof. Stubin announced the Belle Zeller award dinner to be held in December and invited members of the Senate to attend. Chair Verzani advised the body to read three recently posted blogs on the UFS website.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Cotter