

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Start: 9:04 a. m.

Recess: 9:07 a. m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 4)

B E F O R E: Hon. Eric Dinowitz, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Barron

Gale A. Brewer

Oswald Feliz

Inna Vernikov

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

[N/A]

1 COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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2 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Ready to go?

3 SERGEANT PEREZ: Just give us a second, sir.

4 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Okay.

5 JOHANNA CASTRO: We are live.

6 SERGEANT PEREZ: Uh, let me wait until I confirm
7 the stream.

8 Okay, the stream is good.

9 Good morning, welcome to New York City Council's
10 remote committee hearing on Higher Education.

11 Everyone, please turn on your videos, at this
12 time silence all electronic devices.

13 Any written testimony can be submitted to
14 testimony@council.nyc.gov , thank you.

15 Chair Dinowitz, we are ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you, good morning, I
17 am Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Chair of The
18 Committee on Higher Education.

19 Uh, today the committee will vote on Resolution
20 Number 20 sponsored by Council Member Justin Brannan,
21 a Resolution calling upon the New York State
22 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, The
23 New Deal for CUNY, which is intended to reestablish
24 the City University of New York as an engine for
25 social and economic mobility by waiving all tuition

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2 and creating certain staff-to-student ratios in order
3 to increase student success.

4 The New Deal for CUNY provides a rare opportunity
5 to undo decades of chronic under investment and
6 return CUNY to its founding principles as a free
7 university offering accessible, quality education to
8 all New Yorkers and is a vehicle for upward mobility.

9 During our last hearing, we heard considerable
10 testimony from students, faculty, advocates, and
11 legislators alike in support of this resolution and
12 The New Deal for CUNY. I am honored to preside over
13 today's hearing involving a historic piece of
14 legislation that could revitalize higher education as
15 we know it.

16 And, before we move to the vote, I want to
17 acknowledge committee members who are present:
18 Council Member Vernikov, Council Member Barron,
19 Council Member Feliz, and Council Member Brewer.

20 Uh, I think we are now ready for a vote. So,
21 Billy, please take it away.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair, thank you. Good morning,
23 William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote
24 Committee On Higher Education - Resolution 20.

25 Chair Dinowitz?

1 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

5 Feliz?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: [INAUDIBLE 00:02:39]

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I'm sorry, Council Member
8 Feliz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh, to explain my vote, I
12 vote aye. I want to commend the former chair,
13 Council Member Inez Barron, who really pushed for
14 free tuition for eight years, and when I was chair, I
15 also pushed for it for eight years, so for this to
16 becoming forward, I want to commend the chair and all
17 of the committee members for finally doing this.

18 As you know, CUNY used to be a free academy they
19 called it, when whites were predominantly in CUNY.
20 As soon as we got in, people of color, Black and
21 Brown, in the 70's, they decided to impose tuition.
22 This is long overdue; I vote in the affirmative.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

24 Uh, Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay, by a vote of four in the affirmative, one in the negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the committee.

Mr. Chair, that is a full committee.

CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you.

Are we now adjourned?

We are now adjourned, right?

Great.

[GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Gavel out.

JOHANNA CASTRO: The livestream has ended.

Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 8, 2022