

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the
Academic Senate
December 13, 2005

On December 7th President Arthur Levine from Teachers College at Columbia will deliver the fourth Fall Presidential Lecture. His topic, “A Campaign for Equity,” is one of interest to all of us involved in teaching. It will be interesting to discuss the need for equity in funding among the school districts and the *impact of such a massive legislation on higher education*. For further information go to: www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/EquityCampaign/symposium/resource.asp I hope that we have a good contingent of faculty members at this event. The purpose of these lectures is to stimulate discussion among the members of our academic community. I believe that this is a timely lecture about a topic that concerns all of us. Also, it would be good for students who are interested in the field to attend, as the Equity Campaign will affect their future careers.

Long Range Plan: Howard Lapidus informs me that he is about to complete his visits with the various academic departments. He will begin interviewing the administrative departments shortly. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of this project. It will guide our future and the allocation of our resources. Of course, the Senate will be consulted. A document of this importance is meaningless if it does not reflect the thinking of the college community. I urge each and every one of you to attend the meetings, to voice your opinions and to assist Howard in putting together a useful document.

Integrated Academic Plan: On January 25th there will be a College Convocation. I am pleased to inform you that Executive Vice Chancellor Selma Botman will be attending. The Convocation will begin with a Welcome Back breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; it will be followed by a presentation of the proposed Integrated Academic Plan. Afterwards, there will be breakout sessions to gather input and reactions on the Academic Plan. Again, this will chart the academic course for years to come, and it is of vital importance that everyone is informed and that everyone provide their comments and input.

Cultural Awareness Initiative: I understand the desire on the part of the College community to address the issue of cross-cultural understanding. With over 137 countries represented in our student body, faculty members are asking for assistance on how to deal with various cultural mores. We all know that what may be acceptable in our culture may be insulting in another; we know that immigrants or children of immigrants, in trying to adapt to new surroundings, are reluctant to express their needs; and we know that the classroom is fraught with the possibility that, in trying to posit a position or develop an understanding of a concept, a faculty member may fall into the trap of saying the wrong thing or expressing a concept in an insulting manner. This College community is very interested in preserving the students' cultural pride while providing them with the tools that are necessary to navigate the United States societal mores. In consideration of all these issues, I am asking Mr. Harry Payne to submit a proposal to me designed to enhance cultural understanding among all our constituencies.

The Cultural Awareness Initiative will include lectures and seminars on cross-cultural issues. Hopefully, the result will be a campus atmosphere where there is vibrant discussion across the institution on topics relevant to our teaching needs.

In the near future, Mr. Payne will present his proposal to the Affirmative Action Committee, the Cabinet and this body. After discussion, the plan will be implemented during the 2006-07 academic year and thereafter.

Strategic Plan: The first draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the “focus” groups (academic department chairs, HEOs, and students) during the months of January and February. After receiving the input of these bodies, we will send out the second draft to the entire College community in preparation of our open hearings in April.

Recognition of Pedro Meza: I wish to present the following resolution for your consideration.

Whereas, Dr. Pedro Meza has served as Parliamentarian of the College's Academic Senate with distinction; and

Whereas, Dr. Meza's service has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow Senators, the Administration, the Faculty and the Students; and

Whereas, Dr. Meza is retiring from service to the Queensborough Community College at the end of this academic year;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this body extends its appreciation and gratitude for excellence in service to Dr. Pedro Meza and wishes him all the success possible in his future endeavors,

Approved on this 8th Day of December of 2005