

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

December 11, 2007

I am fond of saying that we are engaged in an honorable profession. Our endeavors bring the hope of prosperity to so many of our students; our profession lights the way for those who, due to ignorance, fail to understand their fellow human being. In this season of light, we will all celebrate, in our own way, the hope of a brighter future. Let us acknowledge that, it is through our work, that many get a chance at a better life. May you and yours celebrate your Holidays in a peaceful and joyful manner.

Learning Academies

On November 5 and 6, 73 members of our faculty, administration and staff participated in a retreat to discuss all aspects of the Learning Academies. This is one of many consultative meetings that are taking place in preparation for our implementation of this manner of providing a “Freshman Year Experience” to all our full-time, first time students. It is important to note that:

- While the Learning Academies are designed for full-time, first-time students, all students can partake of the support services provided at each academy.
- While full-time, first-time students will be advised and encouraged to register in a learning community or a linked pair of courses, it is not mandated that they do so. No student will be turned away because of scheduling.
- All full-time, first-time students will be expected to take ST 100 as part of the Freshman Year Experience.
- Cornerstone, Milestone and Capstones experiences will be designed.
- E-portfolios will be used by members of the Learning Academies.
- Dedicated space with academic and student support services will be assigned to each one of the six Academies (Liberal Arts, Fine and Performing Arts, Education, STEM, Nursing and Allied Health).

Sustainability

The University has accepted Mayor Bloomberg’s 30 in 10 challenge to reduce our collective greenhouse gas emissions 30 % by 2017. Toward this effort, the CUNY Sustainability Project has been launched. The University is committed to investing the resources necessary to construct, retrofit, and maintain more sustainable and green facilities. More broadly, CUNY will work to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of the University by integrating sustainability into the curriculum, supporting research, and partnering with civic and business leaders to achieve a more Sustainable CUNY/Sustainable New York.

All 23 CUNY institutions will create unique and measurable ten year sustainability plans to reach CUNY’s target in 2017. Each College has been asked to develop a Campus Council on Sustainability with liaisons and group members for Energy/Efficiency and Operations, Curriculum, Students, Procurement, CUNY Fleet/Transportation, Waste and Recycling, Communications, and Professional Development/Training. Participation by all QCC campus constituencies and governance groups will be sought. Faculty, staff members or students who have an interest in this project, and wish to participate as a Council or committee member, are asked to contact Vice President Diane Call.

Program to Eliminate the Gap

Queensborough Community College was required to reduce its current budget by \$320,000. This was mandated by Mayor Bloomberg. We took the following actions:

Hourly budgets were reduced by \$198,000 and \$22,000 in fringes; OTPS contingency was reduced by \$100,000.

If the Wall Street receipts continue to decline and other aspects negatively impact the economy, we are scheduled for another reduction next year of \$1,076,000. This one will have a more significant impact on our budget; however, with a \$60,000,000 budget, we should be able to absorb the effect of this reduction without significant impact to existing services. In the meantime, let's hope for a better economy and better tax receipts.

Winter Session

We have 38 sections scheduled for this Winter session. It would be very helpful with this year's budget if we had a strong enrollment in the Winter and Summer sessions. Please make every effort to assist us in ensuring that we exceed the targeted enrollment of 45 FTEs.

Compact

The NY State and City budget process is rather convoluted and, frankly, difficult to understand. The budget request passed at the November 26th meeting of the Board of Trustees calls for a total budget of \$2,365,100,000. The total requested increase is \$166,500,000. Of this, \$102,700,000 will come from the State, \$13,200,000 from the City, and \$50,600,000 from tuition.

The total increase in the CUNY request is really \$189,000,000. This is achieved through the third year of a Compact that calls for the financing of the University's Master Plan priorities by the leveraging resources from key stakeholders:

- The State and the City, which contribute 100% of mandatory costs, plus 30% of the Investment Program
- Friends of the colleges, through an unprecedented focus on philanthropy
- The University, through continuing its drive toward greater efficiencies, restructuring and improved productivity
- The Students, through continued targeted enrollment growth and predictable tuition increases that do not exceed the higher education price index (HEPI). In FY 2009, the recommended increases are \$100 per semester (5.0%) at the senior colleges and \$70 per semester (5.0%) at the community colleges.

We presented our proposed narrative for use of the additional \$1.9 million that we would receive through the Compact, to the College Planning Advisory Committee on November 20th. We met with the Student Government, as well, on December 7th to discuss how these funds will be used.

If fully funded, the Compact will:

Foster a Flagship Environment

- Learning Academies: the Compact will fund planning and training for faculty staff, student enrichment activities, an Academies computer laboratory, expanded tutoring, learning styles assessment for incoming students, and staff and technical support to integrate e-portfolio with Academies.

- Implement the recommendations of the Task Forces in Reading and Writing, ESL, and Mathematics remediation. This includes tutoring in the classroom, workshops, e-portfolio in Basic Skills classes, additional lab and /or instructional hours, supplemental on-line resources, and faculty development for adjuncts to implement new strategies.

Foster a Research Environment

Queensborough will recruit new full-time faculty in the STEM disciplines and hire a full-time Institutional Research staff member. Library funds will be used to expand and update the QCC Library's collection and to increase faculty access to electronic databases. Supplies and equipment funding will be used to upgrade outdated laboratory and studio equipment, including higher end computers to support faculty and institutional research.

Student Services

The Compact will advance our Learning Academies through strengthening the important partnership between the departments of Academic and Student Affairs. Funding will support outreach, orientation, and service programs designed to build student success.

- **Admissions and Recruitment:** Communications and pre-enrollment activities will be expanded to promote the purpose of the Academies and establish a more streamlined enrollment process.
- **Academic Advisement:** Advisement is mandatory for all incoming students. With the launch of the six Academies, Academy-designated advisors will work to insure selection and pursuit of the appropriate major.
- **Financial Services:** An education program will be launched to facilitate early filing for state and federal aid. Financial aid planners (college assistants) will assist new students at these sessions.
- **Orientation:** Academy-specific orientations will establish more personal and relevant connections for new students. Mid-semester and second semester outreach to freshmen will add to retention efforts.
- **Counseling:** The Counseling Center provides the critical link to student success and retention through its required ST-100 and ST-101 classes which will be linked to the Academies, and strengthened to reflect specific academy goals.
- **Career Services:** It is critical that the resources and expertise of this office be more fully integrated into activities by the Academies, with efforts made to incorporate QCC alumni and guest speakers within each academy.
- **Related Services and Opportunities:** The more targeted services available within the Department of Student Affairs, such as Veterans' Services, C-STEP, and COPE, will work with each Academy, and participate in each step of the enrollment process. Merit Scholarships, supported through private and corporate donors, will encourage greater academic progress and timely graduation for high achieving new and continuing students. Privately sponsored scholarships for specific high schools and literacy programs will be expanded. A special fund from enterprise activity revenue will support student scholarly/artistic presentations at academic and professional events.

- **Transfer Students Services:** Approximately one-third of enrolled transfer students enter on probation. Orientation and outreach programs will target specific needs and strategies for at-risk group. Transfer credit evaluation will be accelerated to ensure better advisement and registration outcomes.

Workforce and Economic Development

Building on its existing workforce and economic development programs in financial services, homeland security, and health services, including the new, demographically targeted 50 Plus Program, the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development will redefine the pedagogical approaches employed and the faculty backgrounds required to improve outcomes. In addition, the GED and ESL programs will be expanded with pre-testing, Spanish language classes and a testing center to better foster the basic skills required to enter the workforce. To support this expansion, coordinators well versed in their respective industries will be hired and supported by administrative staff to create programs and establish job preparatory training and job placement venues for our students.

Information Management Systems

As a Vanguard college for CUNY FIRST, Compact funds will support equipment upgrades, as well as the ERP implementation process, end user training for college staff, enhanced network security, and programming support for the Academies.

Upgrading Facilities Infrastructure

- **Environmental Health and Safety**
The Compact will support expanded safety training for faculty and staff, emergency alert and respond systems, and risk management initiatives.
- **Facilities Maintenance and Repair**
With an assessment of over \$230 Million needed in maintenance and repairs, COMPACT funding will permit some relief in this area, such as upgrade of classrooms and rest room facilities, and expansion of facilities inventory through repurposing spaces and adding temporary classrooms.

HRC

I am pleased to report that FINALLY we have the CP to proceed with the construction of the new facility for the HRC. Please join me in thanking Vice President Diane Call who has labored hard and long to ensure that the bureaucratic maze was navigated effectively, in order to make this facility a reality.