

# QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of The City University of New York

## *Report of the President to the*

**Academic Senate**

**May 11, 2010**

### **Budget Update**

As of this writing, there is no news on the budget. The City has called for planning scenarios that would reduce its FY 11 commitment to the six community colleges of CUNY by \$29.4 million. Queensborough's reduction would be approximately \$4.5 million. The state of New York FY 10 midyear reduction to base aid (per full time equivalent student) in the next fiscal year will double to \$8.8 million. Our reduction will be approximately \$1.4 million. In addition, the governor's executive budget plan for FY 11 called for an additional reduction in state aid to CUNY community colleges of \$21.9 million (and approximately \$3.6 million to Queensborough Community College). Fortunately, it appears as though the latter reduction will not be supported by either the State Senate or the Assembly. Thanks to **all** of you who have written letters, sent e-mails and made phone calls to your representatives. Your influence has been extraordinary and even in these difficult times, the Senate and the Assembly have heard our voices. The possibilities detailed above amount to a staggering \$9.5 million to our campus alone, but we are optimistic that with a modest tuition increase and continued education of our elected representatives, we will have a much improved situation when the final budget is adopted sometime this summer.

Therefore, we continue to be cautiously optimistic that we will weather these fiscal constraints with minimal impact to our institution. However, it is important to understand that while we are proceeding with the hiring plan that was approved by the University, we will not be adding additional positions in FY 11 or FY 12.

Dean Sherri Newcomb will start the process of working with Academic Department Chairs and Division Heads to formulate budget proposals for FY 11. As always, we will discuss the final budget allocation with the budget subcommittee of the College Wide Personnel and Budget Committee.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

Over 400 people attended the Gala held on April 29. I am delighted to report that we have raised over \$1 million since the beginning of the academic year. Our friends are beginning to understand the need for philanthropy at the community colleges, and through fundraising efforts, we will continue to increase our student and faculty support. Once again, I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard to help us raise this money. Specifically, I want to express my appreciation to Rosemary Zins and her staff for a job well done.

I hope that all of you will have the chance to see the wonderful book written by Drs. Bales and Elias. This book depicts the history of Queensborough for the last 50 years. It is well-written, elegant and attractively printed.

We all had a good time at the May 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ celebration. It was wonderful to see all of us celebrating the first 50 years of the college.

### **Commencement**

Please mark your calendars for June 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's group of participating graduates in the commencement exercises looks to be larger than ever. I am confident that everyone will be present to witness this important event, and I look forward to a glorious day.

### **Freshman Academies**

At the annual conference of The American Association of Community Colleges, held April 17 -19 in Seattle, Washington, Michelle Cuomo, Susan Curtis and I presented on our Freshman Academies. It is evident that there is a great deal of interest in our initiative, especially in the results. It is our intention to make another presentation, purely on the numbers, at the next convention of community colleges. It is gratifying to see how our peers recognize the excellence of QCC.

As we end the academic year, I want to express my gratitude to the Senators for their hard work and commitment to the collegial form of governance during this year. During my tenure at this institution, I have repeatedly commended this Academic Senate for its unwavering commitment to high standards and civil but vigorous discussion. It has been a pleasure to serve you. I sincerely hope that you have a wonderful summer respite.