

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
of The City University of New York

*Report of the President*  
to the Academic Senate

**April 15, 2008**

**Budget**

- **State Budget**

As of this writing, we are still awaiting final decision on the State budget. The current situation is not very positive for the community colleges of the State of New York. The \$50 cut to Basic Aid proposed by the then Governor Spitzer has been increased by approximately another \$50. The total proposed cut to the \$175 million State allocation is approximately 5 to \$6.5 million. While there is no expectation of an increase in the basic aid, we are hopeful for a restoration to this year's level.

What is less reassuring is that the economy continues to worsen. It is not inconceivable that the State will make a mid-year correction in its allocation to State agencies. Therefore, the only way that we have to increase revenues is to increase our enrollments. As we get State aid per FTE, on a weighted average, we may be able to ameliorate the impact of these cuts by a surge in our enrollment.

- **City Budget**

The proposed preliminary Executive Budget calls for a decrease of approximately \$30 million for community colleges and another \$24 million in special allocations such as the Vallone Scholarships.

The proposed Executive Budget will come out in early June. Then, the City Council can weigh in and the final budget will be arrived at through negotiations.

It is important that we preserve the budget for community colleges. We will continue to let our representatives know of our needs. This year we must keep up the pressure, as many competing agencies are vying for a reduced pot of money.

I know that I can count on your support to write letters, make visitations and phone calls to the local members of the City Council and the Mayor to ensure that we are protected from damaging cuts.

### **Learning Academies**

I know that many are asking about how we plan to fund the academies in light of the potential cuts. As the Academies are a pretty well tested methodology to increase retention and as the funding formula for community colleges is based on the number of students enrolled, it stands to reason that if we reallocate our resources, we are going to weather this budget situation without compromising the excellence of our educational services. It is my understanding that the Learning Academies Steering Committees are meeting and that plans are on the way to formulate an educational environment that will be successful. In the long run, our College will be better for it.

### **Distance Learning and Facilities Use**

It is clear that it will be difficult to increase enrollment without adding new facilities. It is my belief that we should seriously explore asynchronous and hybrid courses to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our students. To that end, I am asking for the Academic Senate to engage in an active discussion about the possibility of offering instruction through this modality. It is important that we preserve academic rigor and that we provide the academic environment that will be conducive to increasing enrollment while maintaining excellence.

### **Veteran's Center**

The grand opening of the new Veterans' Center took place on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This facility will make Queensborough Community College a welcoming place for this important segment of our population.

### **Partner's for Progress**

I am delighted to report that, as of this writing, we have sold 500 tickets to this event. In my opinion, this proves that Queensborough Community College has the support of the community-at-large. I thank all of you who worked so very hard at making this event a success. As you know, the proceeds of this gala go to support scholarships for our students and help to provide funding for the Holocaust Resource Center and the Art Gallery. We will definitely surpass our goal of \$250,000.