

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate
March 8, 2011

The Governor and the Mayor have released their fiscal year 12 budget proposals. As expected, they contain significant cuts in New York State base aid for community colleges totaling nearly \$16 million, reductions in New York City support for CUNY and, in turn, our operating budget. Although we began planning for this anticipated challenge, including a financial plan to end this fiscal year with the maximum allowable reserve, our ability to accomplish this appears in serious jeopardy, as we have apparently experienced a significant and unexpected decline in enrollment this spring. The degree of the decline is not clear, as enrollment reports for spring and winter sessions have been delayed. At this time, we are assuming a significant reduction in fiscal year 11 revenue. As we begin the Resource Planning and Allocation process for fiscal year 12, we will need to plan for lower than expected reserves to assist in balancing the budget. The tuition increase of 5% that went into effect this spring and a possible second increase in the Fall of 2011, will factor into our ability to balance the budget for FY 12. Given the uncertainty of the final New York State and New York City budgets, as well as our enrollment numbers next fall, we will need to plan for the contingency of budget reductions for next year. Our Enrollment Management Committee will work to restore our enrollment to the target set for fiscal year 12. Vice President Newcomb will release the planning parameters for the FY 12 budget and initiate the FY 12 resource Planning and Allocation Process in early March. Along with the Sub Committee on Budget of the College Personnel and Budget Committee, and the CAPC, the new Budget Advisory Sub-Committee of the Academic Senate will provide advice as next year's budget plan is formulated.

We continue to work through many issues with CUNYfirst, and the University and Oracle continue to work to resolve continuing problems with financial aid and billing. At the same time, we are turning our attention to the registration cycles for summer and fall, with summer registration expected to begin by mid March, and with fall advisement/registration expected to begin in early April. Progress has been made to stabilize this new system, and advances have been made in our local capacity for reports. Training on CUNYfirst will continue to be offered this spring, and beyond, and an effort to gather campus input regarding CUNYfirst has been launched, beginning with the Department Chairpersons, in an effort to determine how we can improve its effectiveness.

Due to reports of serious traffic congestion on Kenilworth Drive from vehicles seeking to enter lots 4 and 6, effective Monday, March 7, tokens will no longer be sold at the guardhouse at that location, as tokens sales are delaying entry, contributing to the traffic problems and disturbing some classes in the Medical Arts Building..

The Lady Tigers, Queensborough's own women's basketball team, took the CUNY Championship for the fourth consecutive year. Congratulations to the players and their coaches.

As reported last month, Queensborough students competed in the American Mock Trial Association's Regional tournament at Yale University, and our teams were the recipients of the Spirit Award, chosen by the Association's judges and attorneys.

Upcoming events:

The latest exhibit in our Art Gallery features 50 selected oil paintings by Holocaust survivor, **Samuel Bak**. An opening reception with the artist will be held on March 10, from 5-8 p.m.,

The Ceremony celebrating students who were named to the **Dean's List** in Fall 2010 will be held in the Humanities Theatre on March 15, at 7:00 P.M.

The Office of Academic Affairs will host its first "**Campus Conversation**" of the semester on March 16 at 4:30 pm in the Oakland Dining Room. The discussion will be on General Education and recent efforts in various states to standardize objectives throughout a university system. Any faculty having articles or materials that might encourage a good discussion, are asked to forward those articles to the Office of Academic Affairs for consideration.

Our annual **Reception for Newly Tenured Faculty** will take place on Thursday, March 24, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Oakland Building. Sixteen of our colleagues will be honored.

The Conference of the College, sponsored by the Faculty Executive Committee, is slated for Friday, March 25 from 9 AM to 1PM in Medical Arts 136.

Elections for the 2011-12 Student Government Association members will be conducted from March 25 through 31. Candidates will be seeking recommendation letters from faculty to support their nomination for various offices. As students participate in our governance processes, I encourage faculty to stimulate student interest in participating, as a candidate, and as voters.

Wednesday, March 30, will begin with Chancellor Goldstein visiting and addressing our campus at 10:30 a.m. in M-136. That day will conclude at 4:30 p.m. with the **Presidential Lecture** featuring Dr. Donald Tricarico speaking on "The Significance of Guido for Italian American Studies."