

**Queensborough Community College  
Academic Senate**

Date: 2/1/2005

To: Ken Pearl, Secretary, Steering Committee

From: Jeff Hest, UFS representative, for QCC

Subject: Report on UFS Plenary February 1, 2005

**Items on University Faculty Senate Agenda Plenary Session, February 1, 2005**

**I. Susan O'Malley, Chair of the Executive Committee of the UFS and CUNY BOT Member**, presented her written report .

**II. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein** addressed the Senate. He spoke at some length about problems and challenges he faces in budget negotiations with Albany and New York City on behalf of CUNY. Specifically:

- 1 The Operating Budget has a “problem” — a \$70 million shortfall.
- 2 Raising tuition is a “non starter for him, and should only be a last resort in the battle to sustain our “founding principles” i.e., we can’t allow our most vulnerable students to be denied access to our public university because of tuition hikes.
- 3 We should rather take a number of measures to solve the problem:
  - a) State Legislature restorations of the Governor’s cuts and reductions
  - b) continue to find more efficiencies
  - c) increase enrollment
  - d) change the enrollment and tuition mix.
- 4 Our task is made more difficult, however, because the faculty, union and student senate at SUNY have all approved a complex plan of budget measures including a tuition plan that includes “indexing”, whereby NYS pays for increases in “mandatory costs” (collective bargaining and energy costs) in exchange for annual raise linked to the Higher Education Index and then a “freeze” of tuition for 4 years for each incoming class, provided the state legislature continues to provide annual increases covering the mandatory costs.
- 5 On the “capital side”, we have the largest budget ever, \$1.5 billion, (which he described as “woefully inadequate”). Most of this money is earmarked to go to Senior Colleges, and to construct a Comprehensive Research Center for the Sciences in all of CUNY to be located on the CCNY campus.
- 6 The “real problem” with the capital budget is the Community Colleges, where he optimistically stated that his efforts will be on the “capital side” and that “we will manage this”,
- 7 He also: a) remarked that in regard to an equitable contract, “we are not the masters of our own house” b) stated that he believes that Department Chairs should “be accountable to the Administration” c) said that the “Faculty Survey” should be released in the next few months d) explained his recent comments re the “tenure clock”.

**III. Vice-Chancellor of Budget and Finance, Ernesto Malave**, addressed the Senate.

He discussed the proposed Executive Budget of the Governor in greater detail. He also went over Mayor Bloomberg’s preliminary Budget for CUNY and its Community Colleges. A particularly contentious issue arose around the recommendation in the Governor’s Executive Budget for a restructuring of TAP, which, VC Malave noted, “may slip in through the back door because it won’t affect current QCC students”, Essentially, the proposal would separate the TAP awards into two components for first-time freshman – a “base” award of 50% of the current award, and a “performance” award of 50% upon attainment of degree. In addition colleges would receive \$500 for each student who completes a degree “on time”. Much discussion ensued, culminating with a statement that “we should shift this discourse to —whose performance is relevant here—the student’s or Albany’s”?