

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

February 13, 2007

Welcome to the first meeting of the Spring Term.

I am delighted to introduce Dr. Dan L. King as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs. You have received a previous communication that describes Dr. King's experience. We are delighted that he decided to join our College.

The position of Vice President for Academic Affairs is very important. He is my deputy on all matters pertaining to curriculum, faculty, institutional research, testing, College Now, Tech Prep, Registrar, Academic Computing Center and the Library. This is a large and complex portfolio. I expect that you, as Senators, will extend your cooperation and your support to his initiatives. Let me assure you that we will work together to implement current and future initiatives.

For the last 7 1/2 years, I have positioned this College so that we can take advantage of opportunities. We receive over \$700,000 per year for the CUE, \$570,000 for the MDRC grant (funded by Lumina, Ford), and now we will receive about \$600,000 per year, for three years, for the ASAP program. This can take place because we have been moving toward providing a holistic education to our students; we have been nurturing the growth of the individual student in an environment that supports the academic and personal development; we have streamlined the administrative processes. I am deeply grateful to the faculty that joined me in making these initiatives a reality. I know that I can always count on a group of faculty who engage in visionary activities.

The next step is to integrate all of these initiatives. Some may have thought that the Plan for Integrated Education was "PIE in the Sky." Well guess what? The ASAP program is so similar to the PIE that it's scary. ASAP will provide blocked programs for 200 students in Technology, Education, and Business. For these "triple exempt" students, the city allocation will cover the difference between whatever Financial Aid covers for tuition and the \$1400 that we charge. Sound familiar? Our Aspire to Success Program does the same! But, now it is institutionalized. The students will get funding for their books, and they will receive assistance in finding part-time jobs.

We were ready to move quickly because we already had the programs in place. We even have the Campus Learning Center and the Technology Academy Lounge in the Tech building as spaces where these students will congregate and study.

The program is on a fast track. I've named Bobbi Brauer as the Director of ASAP. College Now will be managed by Michelle Holden, the current Assistant Director. Bobbi will maintain oversight responsibility for College Now, and we will hire a substitute to "back fill" the position.

Another major initiative that will occupy our time is the preparation of the Middle States Self Study Report. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of this activity. The entire faculty and administration will be involved in this project at one time or another. I urge those who have the interest of the College in the forefront of their agenda to step forward when you are called to serve on these committees. We do this for the students. The consequence of a negative evaluation of our College can range from a repeat visit to a revocation of our ability to grant financial aid and a severe impact on our ability to transfer credits. So, this is not a minor visit. We are not trying to impress anyone; we are trying to demonstrate to our peers that we meet the Standards of Excellence developed by them and voted upon by the elected Commission on Higher Education.

We have a new Vice President and exciting new initiatives. It is my hope that we can continue to enjoy the good relationship that has made it possible for us to achieve as much as we have in the last seven years.

Let's have a great Spring semester.