

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate
February 10, 2009

Welcome to the Spring 2009 semester!

I am pleased to inform you that as of this writing, our enrollment is almost what it was in the fall semester. This is truly unprecedented. Last spring we enrolled 11,713 students, this spring we are serving 12,591. This, in spite of closing new student enrollment as of January 12th. We are truly becoming a college of first choice. Perhaps, it is the economy but a closer examination of the figures show that we have more full-time students, less part-time students. Also, we are up in all the following categories: freshmen, transfers and non-degree students.

This increase in enrollment will have a positive impact on our budget. In addition, I am pleased to announce that the City Council restored the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG.) This is \$385,000 that we had anticipated losing.

Community colleges were still cut \$4.2 million from State Adopted Budget levels. This reduction is being ameliorated by the increase in enrollment.

For next year, we are facing a difficult time. The Governor's proposal calls for a reduction of \$3.6 million for CUNY community colleges (\$16.8 million offset by \$13.2 million from an increase in enrollment). And, the OMB of the City of New York is calling for an additional \$12.7 million in addition to the \$9.7 million already proposed. It is our hope that both the Governor's proposal and the Mayor's preliminary budget are impacted in our favor before the final budgets are completed. Finally, I believe that the up to \$400 increase in tuition authorized by the Board of Trustees will help us get through this difficult period in time.

The Freshman Academies are being staffed, the spaces have been identified and brochures are being finalized. There will a Website for the Freshman Academies in newsletter format that will keep you and the rest of the college community informed.

The PVNs are out for the 10 Freshman Coordinators, search committees have been formed, and applications are being received. We hope to have them on board before March 1st.

I am more convinced than ever that we are on the correct course of action in creating these Freshman Academies. We will be seeking funding for operating and studying the impact of the Academies on our retention and graduation rates. The ASAP experiment amply demonstrates that enhanced academic and student support services has a marked effect on students accepted under an Open Admissions Policy. It is my hope that our institution-wide effort that includes students with remedial obligations will show that our graduation rate can be improved by providing these services.

The Middle States Evaluation Team is expected on campus March 15-19. The Final Self-Study Report is being printed and will be available for all to see shortly. I strongly urge everyone to review the report and be ready to meet with the members of the team. I know that this will be a good visit.

Can you believe it? Queensborough Community College is going to be middle aged...the 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place all throughout 2009-10. A steering committee will be formed shortly and preparations for the celebration will be directed by the committee.

Congratulations to the theatre students who made it to the finals. The show, Jesus Hopped on the A Train, was a hit at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival! Additionally, three of our students advanced to the semi-finals round of the Irene Ryan competition, and two students advanced to the final round of 32. We can be so proud of our students, who distinguished themselves in a pool of almost 500 entries which included graduate students and BFA students. Two other QCC students were cast in new plays and performed for the playwriting program. Prof. McGill was approached repeatedly by faculty from other colleges complementing our students and inquiring as to their plans upon graduation.

Have a great semester!