

TO: Emily Tai, Chairperson, Faculty Executive Committee
Academic Senate

FROM: Committee of Department Chairpersons

DATE: September 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Statement on Pathways

In light of Chancellor Goldstein's statement of September 19th, 2012 that "...authority for the governance of the University on all matters rests with the Board of Trustees," the Departmental Chairpersons of Queensborough Community College wish to express their concern about the impact of the Pathways Initiative on the welfare of their students and faculty.

It is not the Chancellor's statement of the Board's ultimate authority that is alarming to us. Rather, it is the expression of a willingness to wield that authority as a means to implement the Pathways Initiative despite genuine and legitimate concerns that have arisen from the professional judgment of the faculty. These concerns were set forth in the resolution adopted on March 13, 2012 by the QCC Faculty Senate and similarly voiced by other Faculty Governance bodies throughout CUNY.

Threats of reprisals if that power is not heeded have subsequently been muted to "worst case scenarios." However, they have been neither fully repudiated nor withdrawn, and remain a source of contention on this campus. From the outset, in order to seek an effective solution to the problem of student transferability, we have been willing to engage in the kind of "collaboration" that the Chancellor called for. And such collaboration would indeed be "very much in the tradition and spirit of a great University."

However, that willingness should not in any way be construed as an endorsement of the Pathways Initiative. Nor should it be claimed that deference to the Board of Trustees' authority under the shadow of possible reprisals is shared governance, either in spirit or

in fact. As a result of recent statements from the Chancellery, it has now become obvious to all, that the inevitable course and program approvals that we are told must emerge from the Pathways process will be the result of anything but what the Chancellor in his letter claims his policies offer and what we believe is key to student achievement and success—what ultimately makes a great University great—the free exercise of faculty’s professional judgment.