

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

December 9, 2008

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. As I said in my holiday message to the College community, in these days of uncertainty and global turmoil, it is good to know that we engage in an honorable profession that changes people's lives. There has not been a time in the recent past where the results of our endeavors are needed as much.

Budget

At yesterday's meeting, the Board of Trustees passed a budget request that calls for an increase in tuition of up to \$200 per semester. Accompanying this proposal, is a call for the establishment of a **Student Financial Assistance Program** that includes four components:

- Resources to reduce the costs of tuition increases for those students who are placed at risk of being unable to maintain their matriculation;
- Resources to fund a **CUNY work study program** to provide for jobs on campus to students most in need;
- Resources to finance a program to reduce the costs of **textbooks**;
- CUNY will also waive the fee for students who participated in available **tuition payment plans** designed to enable them to pay their tuition bills in installments.

Middle States Team Visit

We hosted Dr. Edna Baehre, President of Harrisburg Area Community College, for the preliminary visit. She provided a number of suggestions to improve our Self-Study report. Specifically, she pointed out our need to have a very clear plan for the **assessment of students' learning outcomes**. She also pointed out the need to use **Distance Learning** as a modality for delivering educational services. There were a number of other suggestions that are being considered by the Steering Committee and the co-Chairs of the working groups. **The accreditation visit by the team will take place March 15-19th.**

Spring Registration

The cancellation policy enacted a few semesters ago, will continue for students who do not pay their spring tuition bill by their due date. Faculty is urged to remind students, especially those registered for classes in high demand, to pay their tuition bill by their own due date. Based upon preliminary registration figures, the College anticipates a 10% increase in Spring '09 registrants, making seats all the more scarce as we try to accommodate as many students as possible with limited space.

Academies

The progress of the Academies continues to move forward with the hiring of additional student managers for the implementation of the remaining Academies, as well as the identification of permanent locations for them.

Campus Projects

A number of projects are planned for the campus over the next several months, including renovations in the Library and the lower level Science cafeteria.

A number of the Sustainability Committee's activity groups will be engaged in project planning, and the Committee will be launching a newsletter and a web site.

Institutional Advancement

Many, many thanks to everyone who participated in the Walk to Aspire on November 12th. The event more than exceeded the goal by raising \$23,045.

Students and alumni participated in a phone-a-thon as a follow up to the annual fund drive.

Donor Appreciation Reception

This is a time when we show our appreciation to all those who have contributed to the College. The reception is especially meaningful to the donors who provide scholarships, as it allows them the chance to meet their recipients and see firsthand how their donation is helping a student. In the same way, individuals who donate to name a building or a portion of one are celebrated with like enthusiasm. It is a wonderful way for the College to recognize and acknowledge those who contribute, and I hope that those of you who are donors, will attend. The ceremony will take place **Thursday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m., in the Art Gallery.**

Holiday Luncheon

Please plan to attend the College's annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for **December 23rd between noon and 2:00 in the Student Union (upper level.)** This is a good time to celebrate the joyful season. I hope to see you there.