

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

September 8th, 2009

Welcome to the 2009-10 academic year!

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Diane Call to the position of Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. I am grateful that she accepted this challenging assignment.

This year we are facing unprecedented increases in enrollment. Whether it is the economy or the reputation of our University and our College, the impact on our institution has been significant. The decision was made to close admission to new students on August 14th. And, we are still processing those who applied prior to the deadline, as well as returning students.

To all administrators, Academic Department Chairs, and classified staff who worked so very hard to preserve as much of the access without sacrificing quality of service, we owe a debt of gratitude. To the faculty who gave of their time to ready our departments for the new semester, thank you. And, to the faculty who prepared themselves to provide excellent instruction or who conducted research during the summer respite, welcome back.

This year we are joined by 27 new full-time faculty members and 26 Substitutes; 15 new HEOs and 6 Substitutes; as well as 15 classified staff. Please join me in welcoming these outstanding professionals who are coming to our great College at a most opportune time.

Queensborough Community College is at the head of the class!!

We continue to lead the University in the performance indicators. We are finally making some progress on increasing the passing rate on exit from remediation. We had a dramatic increase in the writing pass rate from 45.6 to 54.7 and in math from 48.9 to 63.8. The reading scores stayed flat from their improvement the previous year, from 53.0 to 58.5. We experienced a 58.2 passing rate in this area. The faculty members of these departments have worked very diligently to address these passing rates. We congratulate them!!

We have the highest one-year retention rate for full-time, first time freshmen in associate degree programs in the University. This will improve even more as we institute our Freshman Academies by providing individualized support to this cohort of students.

While there was a decline in the show rate for the CPE, we continue to score in the top three of the community colleges in the passing rate of the required test-takers (90.6%). I believe that better monitoring of students progress will address this decline in the show rate.

Our six-year graduation rate improved to 26.1, the second highest among associate degree programs in the University.

Our Nursing program continues to be very solid. Of the three largest programs, we have the highest passing rate (Queensborough Community College, BMCC and then CSI). Also, this year we started a dual-joint baccalaureate program with Hunter supported by the foundation from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence. This program is designed to provide a seamless pathway to the BSN for our graduates.

Our Massage Therapy Program attained a 100% passing rate again. The average passing rate for candidates from a NY State registered program is 73.2%. We addressed our problem with TIPPS and now have 99.3% of our course evaluations completed. The rate of non-equivalencies dropped from 80.4% to 19.6%.

This is going to be a great year!

You have read the news. For the first time in history, community colleges are recognized as serious academic institutions that play an important role in the economic recovery of our country. The American Graduation Initiative calls for 5 million more associate degrees by 2020. The Obama administration is pushing for \$12 Billion (yes, with a B) allocation for community colleges. Please go to www.whitehouse.gov/blog/Investing-in-Education-The-American-Graduation-Initiative/

This website will give you all the details of the proposed legislation.

We have a great opportunity, let's take advantage of it!

Every first-time, full-time student has been admitted thorough one of our six new Freshman Academies. These academies provide enhanced academic and student support to this cohort. They are designed to increase the "connectedness" each student experiences with their major and with their fellow students.

Already, we have the highest fall to fall retention rate in the University. I believe that soon we will have the highest graduation rate in the University. My goal is to double the graduation rate of those students who come to us on a full-time basis and whose intention is to graduate in three years. Right now, we are graduating 11.8 % of this cohort.

All of last year, the faculty of this College designed an assessment protocol that will stand critical inspection. In addition to surveys and reports by the Freshman Coordinators, this protocol calls for the use of rubrics designed to test student learning outcomes based on the faculty developed General Education Core.

Upon the recommendation of the Vice Presidents, I assigned Dr. Victor Fichera to dedicate himself solely to the collection and analysis of the data that will support the assessment protocol. Dr. Arthur Corradetti, under the supervision of Provost Call, is the administrator-in-charge of guiding the entire assessment of the Freshman Academies. Dean Cuomo has been facilitating the development of the rubrics aforementioned.

I believe that we have a methodology for assessing the success of the Freshman Academies that should be shared with the rest of our community college sector. When implemented, the assessment protocol will ensure that our College is recognized as a leader in this area.

With the attention extended to community colleges by the Obama administration and the concomitant attention by the press, comes the imperative of public accountability. Whereas, this college has always been at the forefront of transparency and shared information, the dollars invested by the American people in the community colleges will be accompanied by a demand for documented outcomes.

As a community college with a strong culture of evidence and a strong governance structure, it is important that we assume the responsibility of leadership. For those faculty members and administrators who have the inclination to conduct empirical studies in pedagogy, there will be grants-a-plenty. I tasked Vice President Zins and Ms. Christine Johnson to work with whoever steps forward to apply for funding to conduct this type of research.

And, for those who are interested in Workforce Development, we have a tremendous opportunity to obtain funding. The US Department of Labor is keenly interested in using the community colleges as a national network of workforce development sites to bring America back to being a growing economy. I tasked Dean Ward, with the assistance of Vice President Zins and Ms. Johnson, to work with whoever steps forward to apply for funding.

We will have a fun year!

The celebrations have begun! QCC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Many thanks to the committee led by Vice President Zins that has created an exciting program of events. I am delighted to report that all the activities have been designed by the faculty, administrators and staff. This is truly a “grass –roots” program, and I am looking forward to a year of celebrations.

On August 25, I met with the administrative liaisons to review their goals and assignments for the year. I asked my designees to the Academic Senate committees to address the following:

Authority: **Academic Senate Bylaws Article VII 2 (d) “The President and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, or their designees, shall be ex-officio members, without vote, on all standing committees.”**

Charge: Administrative liaisons' role is to express the opinion of the administration to other members of the Committee and to transmit to the administration issues the Committee may want to address to the administration. While designees have no vote, they have voice.

Administrative Agenda:

Admissions: Report on the decision to close Admissions to new students as of August 13th. This was the first time in the history of the College that we had to close admission. The University provided technical assistance. Students who came after the deadline were referred to Kingsborough, were given the option of taking the placement exams in September and then to use the fall semester as an Immersion Program to alleviate remedial needs.

Awards and Scholarships: Work with Institutional Advancement to establish criteria for a campaign for student support and the creation of an endowment. The campaign to raise the \$5 million for the KHRCA will come to an end at the Gala scheduled for April 29th. After that date we will commence a campaign to raise funds for student support.

Ceremonial Occasions: Seek nominations for:
a) Presidential Medal (President will decide)
b) Honorary Associate Degree (Academic Senate must vote)
c) Honorary Doctorate (University Granted Degree)

Continuing Education: Inform the Committee of opportunities under the Obama administration for workforce development

Curriculum: As part of welcoming the Veterans into civilian life; formulate DANTES policy for granting credit for military service.

Distance Education: Based on the good work of the committee last, assist the administration in establishing a robust program of on-line asynchronous and hybrid courses. Attract those individuals who left the College short of graduation.

Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues: Work with the administration in establishing an awareness campaign about how to protect our community from the outbreak of the H1N1 virus.

Gallery and Performing Arts: Incorporate Supplemental Educational Resources into curriculum

Library: Report on the changes in the Library

WID/WAC: Report on the impact of requiring two intensive writing courses on completion rates.

Finally, please note on your calendars the following dates:

- October 6thVisit by Dr. Petrisko, Vice President of Middle States Commission on Higher Education to review our plan to meet the recommendations made by the Evaluation Team.

- October 15th20 Year Celebration of Service Dinner
- October 18thGrand Opening of KHRCA with a performance of “Golda’s Balcony” by the Tony award-winning Tovah Feldshuh.
- October 28thPresidential Lecture by Dr. Michio Kaku, from City College and one of the developers of the String Theory. Please go to <http://mkaku.org> to read about Dr. Kaku. He has been called the Rock Star of Physics ...or the Carl Sagan of Physics.
- October 30thConference of the College
- November 18thWalk to Aspire
- December 1stDonor Recognition Reception

Once again, I welcome you to what is going to be a banner year at our College.

Thank you.

Eduardo J. Marti
 President