

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

April 12, 2005

At this writing, it appears that we will finally have a State budget on time. You have the information. For Queensborough Community College, the items that affect us are a modest increase in the base aid per FTE, restoration of TAP and, at this time, funding for the new Holocaust Resource Center and Archives and funds for the first phase design of the new instructional building. Let us hope that there are no vetoes.

If we get the necessary funding (\$87M as of today) for the construction of a new instructional building, let me assure you that the Committee on Quality of Life and Disability Issues will be consulted. The process for the design and construction of a new building is very complex. The current allocation is to begin the process of design. After the selection of an architectural firm by the Central Office, there will be ample opportunity for consultation. Usually, the architects conduct focus groups with members of the college community. I know that this College is in need of additional facilities, and I know that you want to be involved in providing input. I assure you that there will be transparency in the process and that, as always, I will keep you informed of the process. Given the complexity of the process to select an architectural firm, consult with the campus community, develop specifications, bid the project, and award contracts – all with Board approval at each of these steps – similar projects have taken eight to ten years to complete.

The Strategic Plan is in the final stages of preparation. Please note that the Open Hearings are scheduled for April 15 and 18. Once we have received your input on the plan, it will be presented to the Central Office staff who will review and provide their input. Finally, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors will review it, and I will discuss the approved plan with the Chancellor sometime in July or early August. The expenditure plan that is presented for approval to the Vice Chancellor of Finance must be consonant with the objectives enumerated in the plan. Please try to attend the Open Hearing sessions. Your suggestions and comments will be reviewed by the College Advisory Planning Committee.

The *Partners for Progress* Dinner/Dance is taking place April 21nd. This year we are honoring two of our own, John Hawkins, retired Professor of Art and Jay Hershenson, Vice Chancellor for University Relations at CUNY and Class of '69. Two other Honorees are the Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Ambassador Andrew L.Y. Hsia; and Christine Modafferi from Commerce Bank. Our goal is to raise more than we did last year (\$175,000). As you know, proceeds from the Gala are very important to Queensborough Community College. As are all donations, the funds received from this activity are managed by the Board of Directors of the Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc. and they go toward unrestricted and restricted operations and scholarships.

Finally, a word about what I call collegiate governance. It is important that we are able to discuss in a free environment matters that pertain to the welfare of the College. I believe it is through this discussion that we can improve upon what we do and, thus, provide a better service for our students. It is through civilized discourse that we can achieve our goal. In order to have meaningful dialogue, we need to be engaged. As elections approach, as committee assignments are being made, it is up to you to “step up to the plate” and consider being a leader. Sometimes it is too easy to step back and enjoy the theater of discussion without participating. The College is at an enviable stage of its development. We can move it to the next stage. I hope that you will join me in the quest to make Queensborough Community College realize its potential fully.

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