

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the
Academic Senate
December 8, 2009

It is with great sadness that I report to you the death of Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave. Ernesto was a CUNY student leader at BMCC who, through hard work and intelligence, rose to one of the most important positions in our University. His tenure was characterized by transparency, social compassion and fiscal integrity. He will be sorely missed.

Budget:

State: The Governor has proposed a Deficit Reduction Plan that calls for a reduction of \$260 per FTE for community colleges. This translates into a total reduction for CUNY's community colleges of \$10 million. At this writing, there is no agreement by the Legislature on the cuts. Please continue to contact your elected officials to educate them on the impact of these draconian cuts.

City: The Mayor is requesting a 4% cut from all City agencies. As we are funded by the City and the state aid is local assistance to the City, these cuts, if they hold, will represent yet another \$9.9 million.

I am confident that we will prevail and that we will maintain quality in our educational services. Clearly, with the looming deficits faced by the State and by the City, we need to pay very close attention at how we prepare ourselves for the 2010-11 year and beyond.

The Board of Trustees passed at their November 23rd meeting, a budget proposal that calls for a \$155 million increase (\$112.4 M in State aid, \$8.7M in City Support and a 2% increase in tuition for \$33.8M). However, given the fiscal uncertainties of the State and the City, this budget proposal may need some modification before it is finally approved.

Middle States:

Dr. Erickson met with the Faculty Task Force on November 18th. He will continue to work with Dr. Corradetti in establishing a comprehensive and sustained effort that will address the student learning outcomes as required by the Association.

Pedagogical Research Challenge Awards:

We have received 17 applications from 15 departments. A committee of Academic Affairs administrators and faculty, along with Dr. Preeti Gupta, Senior Vice President, Education & Family Programs at the New York Hall of Science (Queens) will review the applications and recommend awards to me. The timetable is to announce the awards the first week in December.

I believe that Queensborough Community College is well ahead in the area of pedagogical research at the community colleges. This is an area that is now attracting the interest of researchers and practitioners. There is a great deal of academic interest in factors that affect success of our students.

Enrollments:

We are again experiencing unprecedented enrollment. As of now, the decision has been made to stop accepting new freshman for the spring 2010 semester, on December 18th. However, in light of what appears to be a significant increase in retention, I've asked Vice President Hartigan along with Anna May Jagoda, Victor Fichera, Sherri Newcomb and others to monitor enrollments on a daily basis. We must ensure that returning students will have the courses they need to continue their progression through the curriculum.

Partners for Progress:

The Gala will be transitioned from a fund raiser to a celebration of the culmination of a campaign for Queensborough Community College in honor of the 50th Anniversary. A set of teams and their captains have been named and each team has a particular goal. If we can get 50 teams to raise an average of \$20,000 each, we can raise \$1 Million.

Dates to note:

The ASAP graduation will take place on December 15th.

The annual Holiday Luncheon will be held from noon until 2:00 on December 22nd.

Nurses Candle Lighting in the Student Union on the evening of January 7th.

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 is the date of the College Convocation.

I wish a happy and healthy holiday season to all members of the Queensborough Community College family.