

WHEREAS since its founding, CUNY has served as a vehicle of upward mobility for all New Yorkers, including those from low-income families, underrepresented groups and immigrant communities. CUNY's diverse faculty provides quality instruction, workforce training and research in the broad and ever-expanding domains of knowledge that prepare them for successful futures. The University has conferred more than 1.3 million degrees in the past 45 years, and surveys indicate that more than three-quarters of its graduates remain in the city. CUNY colleges account for more than a third of the business and finance degrees awarded by New York City institutions, about one-third of the city's public school teachers and a high percentage of the nurses and health and science technicians employed by local medical facilities. The University produces hundreds of computer scientists and engineering professionals each year, and those numbers have risen sharply in the last five years, and

WHEREAS the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), SUNY/CUNY Supplemental TAP Awards, and the first-in-the-nation Excelsior Scholarship Program benefit full-time but not part-time students, and not graduate students, which exacerbates both financial pressure on students and their families and the student-debt crisis in New York, and

WHEREAS a large portion of CUNY's 27 million square feet of owned space is at least half a century old. Investments are needed to extend the life of facilities, meet safety and code requirements, improve energy conservation and support academic programs and services, and

WHEREAS the Legislature and Governor have an historic opportunity and responsibility during this budget process to make New York State a national leader in sustainably and equitably funding its public university systems.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College joins the CUNY University Faculty Senate in urging** the members of the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to support CUNY by funding the following operating budget priorities:

- **Mandatory Cost Increases:** The University's budget request seeks \$93.9 million at the senior colleges for contractually required incremental salary increases, fringe benefit expenses and building rental and energy cost increases.
- **TAP Tuition Credit/TAP Gap Parity:** For students who receive full TAP awards, CUNY is required legally to cap tuition at the TAP award level. This creates a "TAP Gap" for our senior colleges, which will grow to about \$85 million in FY2020. CUNY is seeking \$20 million per year for the next four years to help close this gap. In addition, colleges with higher percentages of students that receive TAP generate less revenue than those colleges with higher student income levels, and therefore are affected disproportionately by this requirement. The University requests \$4.9 million for these specific campuses in order to provide TAP Gap parity.

- Part-Time Financial Aid: Because of jobs, family responsibilities, and financial needs, approximately one-third of CUNY students attend part-time. CUNY has historically welcomed such students. But TAP and other financial aid sources are generally unavailable to them, and also unavailable to graduate students. These students could benefit greatly from Part-Time or Graduate TAP, allowing many to progress through their academic and professional careers more rapidly.
- Community College Base Aid - \$250 per FTE: CUNY requests an increase in community college funding by \$250 per student FTE. Additional funding generated by this increase would be used to support the strategic goals to bolster student success, as well as keep tuition levels flat.
- New Full-Time Faculty / Diversifying CUNY's Faculty: CUNY requests funding to hire 200 net new faculty members per year to increase the diversity of its faculty and ensure excellence in teaching and research.
- Adjunct Faculty: The majority of class sections in CUNY are taught by adjunct faculty whose compensation should be increased. Compensation should be increased to match compensation at competing campuses, and to enable adjunct faculty to commit more time to support students.
- College Completion Programs: The University seeks strategic investments to expand upon proven approaches that advance student academic success and degree completion, including our signature ASAP student success program for associate degree students; its new four-year counterpart, Accelerate, Complete and Engage (ACE), as well as Early College collaborations with the NYC Department of Education.
- Supporting Needs of Students: Funding is needed so that students do not become sidetracked in their academic pursuits by issues like food and housing insecurity, transportation costs, unmet mental and physical health needs, the demands of childcare and other basic needs.
- CUNY Works: This is a set of integrated, bold new steps to ensure our students are well-positioned to thrive in today's changing world of work.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College joins the CUNY University Faculty Senate and the SUNY University Faculty Senate in supporting a sustainable commitment to fiscal maintenance of effort for SUNY and CUNY, to assure funding for mandatory operating cost increases—such as utilities, building rentals, equipment and supplies, ongoing collective bargaining costs, and tuition increases that widen the TAP gap.**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CUNY University Faculty Senate urges the members of the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to support CUNY by funding \$570 million, for CUNY-Wide Senior Colleges, Capital Infrastructure and Equipment. Funding requested to continue to address deferred maintenance at senior colleges, as identified in CUNY's State of Good Repair Analyses. CUNY's state-of-good-repair program aims to undertake the work necessary to keep buildings open and infrastructure operating in support of its educational mission.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED **that the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College joins the CUNY University Faculty Senate in urging** the members of the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to support CUNY by funding our Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year FY 2019-20 through FY 2023-24 is \$6.2 billion: \$4.7 billion is for the senior colleges, professional and graduate schools, and \$1.5 billion, to be matched by the City of New York, is for the community colleges. Projects originate from CUNY-approved campus master plans and address space deficits on campus.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College encourages students, alumni, donors, and current and former staff at Queensborough Community College to** reach out to the Governor and their representatives in the New York State Legislature and, as fellow citizens or residents of New York and/or supporters of public higher education, urge them to enact a budget that truly supports and advances our core academic missions.