

## APPENDIX II

### Report by the President

The following is a summary statement of President Caputo's Report to the Senate. He said:

"I will be brief with my comments today because I want to be sure that Vice Chancellor Mirrer has plenty of time for her presentation and also to answer questions. I would like to thank the Senate Chair and the Senate for extending the invitation to her. State Commissioner Mills will be here in March and I have asked Interim Chancellor Kimmich to come, but he has a scheduling problem. I will cover many questions that I am sure you have in the state-of-the-college address on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to welcome everyone back. I hope you had a good break, that the semester is off to a good start, and that you will have a pleasant and productive semester. There is a lot going on in the college. Clearly, this semester we will all have to work together to keep our momentum going, as well as dealing with what I would consider to be some very significant and important outside distractions which we will have to deal with concerning the increasing criticisms of various parts of the City University.

I want to begin on a very exciting note and I brought a blow-up. I am sure that many of you have seen this full-page ad in the February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday edition of the *New York Times*. Those of you who read the *Science Times* also should have seen the ad between Christmas and New Year's. We hope to run one or two more ads this year, budget permitting. Again, please be reminded that this is coming from the Foundation and that we are trying to get some brand recognition for the college and what we stand for. We have received very positive feed-back today, and we are very appreciative of the pro bono work that is being done for us by the agency involved. I will be glad to talk more about that at some point.

I know that the budget is on everyone's mind. The catchword that everyone is using this year is stable. For the first time in several years we are not faced with the possibility of major cuts in the executive budget. However, just think about what might have been, since the state has historic revenues at this point in time. Everyone here will have plenty of opportunity to assist us as we attempt to obtain more resources from the legislature. I am very pleased that the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Trustees have already been outspoken in saying that we view the current executive budget as a starting point, and that we are looking for additional funds in the area of teacher education, new faculty, and some technology initiatives. So, we are very hopeful that our trips to Albany this year will not be to restore cuts, but to increase the amount of money that is going to be allocated.

Clearly, the Mayor has raised some important points about remediation and open admissions in the last several weeks. His question of the concept of open admissions has certainly brought many people into a public discussion of both the past and the future of CUNY. I am going to respond to these points in two weeks during the state-of-the-college address, and I will try to make sure that everyone is clear on what my position is, what I think the college's position historically has been, and what I hope will be a reaffirmation of that statement in the future.

I want to point out that we have nearly 40 faculty searches underway. It is important that we continue to fill our positions with quality faculty as we have in years past. One of the things I have done this year is to have a one-on-one meeting with new faculty to just welcome them to the college. It is very helpful to do this, as well as learning a little bit about the interests of the faculty. All of you who have new hires in your department this year know the excitement of working with them, but you have missed the collective excitement of what this group of faculty bring to the college in terms of their teaching and research interests. We will block time next year for, hopefully, 35 to 40 new faculty.

We are very saddened by the death of Ruth Weintraub, who died after the first of the year. She was a long-time leader at Hunter, and there will be a Memorial Service on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

I also want to mention two pieces of good news. Hugh Scott is often kidding me about basketball. I would like to brag for a minute about Hunter's basketball team. It is actually doing great and is engendering a great deal of very favorable press right now. The team is ranked 11 in the country. We are hopeful that they will win the CUNY conference championship and the playoffs for the CUNY conference. We look forward to that possibility in March.

Back in October or November, I mentioned to you that the college had received a commitment for a \$2M gift that would help establish some undergraduate scholarships. I am very pleased to tell you that commitment has been fulfilled and the college is in receipt of the two million-dollar gift. We are very pleased with that. It is one of the largest single gifts the college has received, and it will permit Vice President Harwood and others involved to begin the scholarship program by fall of this year. Also, we hope to have more exciting news about the capital campaign in the state-of-the-college address.

Since this is usually the time of the St. Valentine's speech and presentation, I want to deliver happy St. Valentine's greetings to you.