

APPENDIX II

Report by the President

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

"To begin with I would like to congratulate the faculty who will be honored this evening at the faculty reception that CUNY is having at the Pierpoint Morgan Library.

Second, let me bring you up to date on what I know as far as the search for interim chancellor goes. To my knowledge there has not been a decision made yet. We have been told that there will be a decision by next Monday. So, we will see what happens there.

Third, I want to report to you on a historic meeting. I am not sure it will go down in the annals of history, but nonetheless the recently held meeting in Washington was a historic meeting. Many of you know that Hunter is a member of of AASCU, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. AASCU Presidents meet usually three times a year, and our main meeting is during the week before Thanksgiving. This year it was a week earlier, because we met with the NASULGC Presidents (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges). This is the first time that the two groups met, and between the two approximately 90-95% of public higher education is represented. That meeting occurred this past Saturday through Tuesday and it was the first so-called summit. It was a very interesting and productive meeting. Despite what we think here, change is occurring in many places in addition to New York City. The predominant concerns center around two or three issues. The two that I thought were the most salient to our concerns were teacher education and undergraduate education, and what is going on in the whole of undergraduate education. I will have more to say about both subjects at the February 11, 1998 Senate meeting, at which time I will be requesting from the Senate leadership a few extra minutes to deliver a state-of-the-college address which has been the custom in the past. Perhaps the most interesting and troubling discussion centered around the future of research funding. There was a long 3 ½ hour discussion with a variety of distinguished panelists talking about this. In summary I want to mention several conclusions and that it was the general consensus that government funding has in fact decreased, especially when inflation is taken into account, and will continue to do so. More importantly, the shift has been much more toward applied rather than basic research in recent years. Second, there is no doubt that even the major research institutions have concluded that they are going to be held much more accountable in terms of the relationship between research and teaching. This accountability will happen not just at the federal level but also at the state level. Third, creative partnering arrangements with other universities and other non-university institutions are essential if research is to remain an important part of any college or university. Then there was an extensive discussion about the role of urban universities, not Hunter specifically, but urban universities in general. The feeling on the part of the two economists who were leading the discussion was that urban universities were probably in a position to do better in terms of applied research, but not in terms of basic research. Their argument was that basic research would probably end up going more and more to large flagship research universities, which most AASCU members are not. If they are right about that it is obviously of great concern to many of us here. And, finally, the conclusion was that colleges and universities must be more adaptive in their approach to research in the future.

Based on that discussion I am even more convinced than I was before of our need for a Dean of Research. The sole reason for the delay in making that appointment and discussion is that at next Monday's meeting the Board of Trustees will ratify a policy which would limit acting appointments to a year. In fact, at one point there was even discussion that the position would disappear if it has not been changed within a year to a permanent appointment. So, I have committed to waiting with the search for a permanent Dean of Research until after the search for the Dean of Arts and Sciences is concluded. The other thing that became very clear in the discussion was that if research at CUNY and at Hunter is to be able to do what must be done, the Research Foundation must undergo extensive change. It is not performing a variety of functions that most research foundations perform. I would hope that in discussions with candidates for the permanent chancellor's job, there will be solid discussion about

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what might be done with the Research Foundation in order to make it more facilitative of faculty research.

I also want to tell you that the Middle States report has not yet been received. Once we have it we will make sure that plenty of copies are printed so that it is widely circulated to everyone who participated. I then will have about a week to get a response back in terms of their basic conclusions. So, once we get this, we will be developing the response with the Steering Committee that helped put together the self-study as well as others throughout the campus. We have no reason to believe that the report is not going to be very positive.

I want to bring you up to date on the art & sciences reorganization. The committee that the Provost is chairing has had its first meeting and will have a second meeting this week. During the initial set of meetings the committee is meeting with each of the current divisional deans to learn how their divisions are staffed and organized so that they can draw on that expertise and information when they make a series of recommendations back to me.

The other thing I want to mention is something that is very good news. We have a short video to show you about the award ceremony in Washington, honoring Dr. Jill Bargonetti of Hunter's Department of Biological Sciences, who was chosen to receive a "Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers." This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on outstanding scientists and engineers at the outset of their independent research careers. I would like to ask if we could show the video at this point. One correction in the video is that Jill is the youngest faculty member in Biology, and not the youngest member on the faculty.

We are very delighted with the publicity that she has received and the recognition that she has brought to the college. We wish her well.

Finally, two things before I answer questions. First, I would like to comment on the FDA ballot on reorganization. I regret that a larger percentage did not support the proposed change, and I also wish that more than 29% had participated. I realize that many have misgivings about the change. I have tried to be responsive and will continue to be responsive, and hope that those who oppose it will continue to talk, and that we will work together to resolve our differences. However, I do remain confident that the new school will result in a stronger arts and sciences at Hunter College and increased opportunities for our students. I would like to ask that you join with me as we continue to move toward the July 1, 1998 starting date. I have asked the Senate for nominees for the search committee and it is important that we have this process well underway as soon as possible. Finally, I would like to ask each of you to pause some time in the next few days to consider the many freedoms we have as well as the responsibilities they bring, and to think of the many who are less fortunate, and to remember that we all have a great deal to be thankful for.

I close by wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving."

President Caputo concluded his report by answering questions from the floor.