

APPENDIX II

Report by the President

A summary statement of President Caputo's report to the Senate is as follows:

He said: "First of all an update on the basketball team. I would like to congratulate Coach Brown and the basketball team, and Athletic Director Wansart. I am certain that their loss had nothing to do with a lack of desire or will. When you get into the tournament at this level any team can beat another team at any given time. We are very pleased that they did so well. I would also like to thank the faculty and students who went over to Wilkes-Barre on Friday and Saturday evening for the games. I think it was very useful and helpful for them. It was a great season, and we all enjoyed their work on the floor. We are looking forward to continued success.

Re: State Budget

The discussion this year is certainly much different than in prior years when we were concerned about what sort of reduction we were going to get. This year we are very interested in what might be possible in terms of an increase. The CLAC group has scheduled a very important trip to Albany next week. Angela Jenkins and Ken Sherrill are arranging a bus trip to Albany next Wednesday. Any faculty or students are welcome to go with them. Apparently, for some reason there is a feeling that everything is okay this year. Everything is not okay this year. While this is a year where we should have the possibility of getting some additional funds, the message will not be heard unless we put forward a very strong case with visits to Albany and also to district offices and other places. In addition, there are a lot of other budget areas, not just higher education, that are very interested in trying to get additional monies. There are a lot of people with their hands out trying to encourage the legislators to be responsive to them. This has probably led to something we hear every year, and that is the expectation of an early budget. Some are predicting a budget within two weeks. I think that is probably unlikely. What is likely to happen is that each Chamber may pass a budget by April 1st. Then there will be a period of time for conference and resolution between the two Chambers and the Governor for final resolution. My guess is mid to late April at the earliest, and probably some time in May. We will have to wait and see. Again, everyone is talking about increased money for higher education. We will not know what this means for individual campuses until final budget decisions are made, and until things are decided by the allocation process at 80th Street. We do not know what the allocation process will be. Obviously, if there is more money to be divided, chances are that we would have some increases. I will be in Albany on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then go back probably a week to two weeks later for another round of visits. We are also hosting the Manhattan delegation at a legislative breakfast in the early part of April to again bring to their attention the need for increased expenditures. I will keep you updated on the budget. It is very important that you do what you can to bring that word to people. Do not think that we don't need your help with the budget because there aren't any reductions. We clearly do need your assistance with it.

Re: Remediation

There has been a good deal of interest, as there should be, at recent discussions of the Board of Trustees on possible changes in the remediation policy. There are currently two major sets of proposals being discussed. Let me try to summarize each. One is a proposal that was originally introduced by Trustee Calandra, and I have yet to see an actual written version of that proposal. That proposal would basically end remediation in the senior colleges by a certain date that is usually quoted as some time in the Fall of 1998 or February of 1999. It is a fairly drastic proposal, and there has been quite a reaction against it.

The second proposal, the Comprehensive Action Plan, is one that was put forth by the Interim Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The so called CAP Plan provides greater flexibility, but does call on senior colleges to move towards an end of remediation, and to have a plan in place by February of 1999. It is unclear as to what the end date would be, except that by February of 1999 a plan would have to be in place that would call for a one semester policy at maximum, with the bulk of the remediation being done during the summer. I would like to remind you of the current policy at Hunter College which is a one-semester policy. It is a one-semester policy that permits students who enter in the Fall semester to go to a summer session to complete their remediation free of charge. Then there is the Fall semester and an intersession set of classes. So, there are three treatments for a student who enters in the Fall. There are also three treatments for the student who enters in the Spring. I personally think that the three-treatment one-semester policy, which we have put in place with your support and with the support of the faculty involved with remedial courses, is in fact working. It has a potential to be even stronger and better. I would hope that whatever the Board decides would permit the senior colleges to set their own policy rather than have it dictated centrally, and my position is very clear on that. I think that everyone is interested in less remediation. However, I think it is also very unfair to penalize students who have not had the advantage of what I would consider to be the type of high school education that they need in order to be prepared for college. I think many of the aspects of the CAP plan are very positive in terms of some of the programs that would work in the high schools, and which would reach out to students at an earlier stage. However, it would be some years for that to be effective, and I would hope that senior colleges would have the option of setting their own policy.

Minutes, 18 March 1998, Appendix II (Continued):

The Board had indicated earlier that they would reach a decision on this at the March 23rd meeting. Today Trustee Calandra indicated that he would ask the Board to delay a decision to a later date, probably the April meeting. I do not know what will happen there, but it would be very helpful for me to have a statement expressing the will of the Senate in case I am asked. I am certainly free to and will state my position, but it would also be helpful for me to be able to state the position of the Hunter College Senate. It is possible that between now and Monday the Trustees will decide not to reach a decision, and you will have another chance to discuss the pros and cons of CAP and the various options at another meeting. I do not know what the Trustees will or will not do about remediation.

Re: Campus Matters

I do not think that I have formally mentioned that Victor Goldsmith has accepted the position of Interim Acting Dean of Research. This position is important, and he will be working with faculty who are interested in developing new research and multi-disciplinary research. His office will be up and running very shortly. I am delighted that he agreed to do this. It is an important assignment.

Today you begin the discussion about Charter revision. I just want to mention that I am in the process of writing a letter to the Chair of the Senate listing a variety of suggestions that I have concerning wording, clarity, etc. I have raised several other key points, which will come to the floor for discussion at the appropriate time. It is important that the Senate complete work on the Charter revision in a timely fashion, so that we can get it to the Board this year. I think that the schedule the Senate has adopted will permit that to happen.

In closing I would just remind everybody that we are in the rumor season, and there are a lot of rumors. I think that it is very important that the Hunter community have their voice heard in a responsible and positive way by those who are making decisions. Lastly, I would say that Hunter's interests are best served, whether it be remediation or other issues, if we attempt to work together rather than being at odds. It is time for us to be as consultative as possible and work together as much as possible. I have every reason to think that when all of this is said and done, and if the Board of Trustees follows one principle, to decentralize the system, then Hunter and the other colleges will have the option of doing things dependent on local desires and local policy. I hope that will be the case. This is an important test of that underlying philosophy, and we will see what happens in the next few weeks."

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