

## APPENDIX II Report by the President

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

I am sure that all of you have heard about Bella Abzug's passing. I want to read several short passages from her presentation last October, which she made as part of the millennium speaker series on October 15, 1997. "We need women in leadership in every phase of American life, governmental, private life, and in the public and economic sectors. I look forward to the day when we have a women president and a male vice president, or the other way around, and who knows maybe a young women or a young man in this audience will have the self confidence, expertise, and abilities to become leaders of the nation. Leadership does not necessarily start from the top. Everyone in this Assembly Hall has the opportunity and I hope the desire to make life better for men, women, and children from the grass roots up." Then a little later she commented: "Our struggle here as it is everywhere is not just about advancing women's equality. Our struggle is about creating violence-free families, streets, cities and borders. Our struggle is about building livable communities not just voracious financial markets. Our struggle is about ending abject poverty and hunger that affects one out of five people in the planet, most of them women and children, and millions of them right here in our city and our country. Our struggle is about reinforcing a woman's right to choose and to build strong families in all their diversity. Our struggle is to provide access to good education from kindergarten to graduate school, to all who want to learn no matter how poor or who they are or where they come from." And then she concluded: "Until we embrace our errors and learn from the wisdom that surrounds us, when we can truly empathize with the least of us on the planet, we will find our footing and we will climb together, men and women. And the next millennium will be written as a triumph of the weavers and dreamers, poets and musicians, peacemakers and caretakers, the generous of heart and the courageous of spirit, especially young people and women. No matter how steep the past or how rocky the climb I urge you to never give in and never give up. Just do it."

I am sure you will join me in a moment of silence for a great Hunter alumna.

### Re: Albany

Let me bring you up to date on several fronts. Last Wednesday a group of faculty, staff, and students – Louise Sherby, Barbara Hampton, Bill Perry, Lesley Woodburn, Derrick Temiz, Jeanette Gari, Lonny Paris, Charles Tien, and Ken Sherrill – went up to Albany visiting various people, both friends and foes. There are now three different budget proposals circulating in Albany. One is the Governor's budget, one is the Assembly version, and the other is the Senate version. All three of which have different mixes of things for higher education, and are somewhat stable to an increase in expenditures for higher education. The thinking still is that there will be an early budget this year and that it will be a budget that will have some positive increases for higher education. What that means for Hunter College and for the City University remains to be seen. I do not quite share the optimism that the budget will be done by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The mood is certainly different in Albany this year. When I was up in Albany on Tuesday and Wednesday, Angela Jenkins had actually been able to arrange for a group of six leaders, both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate Higher Education Committee to sit together and talk about a variety of issues. I do not think that this would have been possible in the past, and I am not sure that it is going to be possible in the future. Nonetheless, it was interesting, and the feeling is that if you have a giant surplus and it is an election year, perhaps anything is possible. I want to raise a cautionary note to everyone in the Hunter community. There is still a lot of work that we can do and must do to try to influence these decisions. Visits to the district offices, letters, and other things to let people know your position and your concerns are very important. There are a lot of people who are interested in the budget surplus. Do not assume that because we have right on our side in terms of higher education that we will receive those funds. The CLAC group will do a variety of things in the next few weeks, and if you have a chance to participate please do so. Since apparently people do not feel threatened, I am a little concerned that we are not as aggressive as we should be in trying to make sure that everyone understands the Hunter position and our needs. Nonetheless, we are hopeful that things will turn out well in the weeks ahead.

### Re: Division of Programs in Education

I want to mention one item, which I have communicated to the Senate leadership. I have mentioned this several times in the past, and I want to formally mention today that I am prepared to go to the Board of Trustees with a proposal that would change the name of the Division of Programs in Education to the School of Education. My understanding from talking with Dean Scott is that this has been widely discussed within that particular faculty. It is a name change only, and if anyone has questions or wants to discuss this, please feel free to raise it during the question and answer period today. The change would be effective July 1. I have not sent the request on to the Board of Trustees yet, but am prepared to do so shortly.

### Re: Remediation and CAP

I have not seen any comprehensive change in the Comprehensive Action Plan other than what was being discussed about ten days ago. My understanding is that the Board will consider it and will

make recommendations and a series of decisions at the April meeting. Clearly, this remains a matter of concern. The way the current CAP proposal is written, it would be very difficult if not impossible without specific exemption, for Hunter College to continue its one-semester policy. The plan does not permit remediation proposals that we currently exercise. That may change, and we will just have to wait and see. If you are interested in the matter, the next few weeks is the time to learn as much as you can about the various things that are being discussed.

Re: Honors Week

On a happier note I would like to remind everybody that this is Honors Week. I congratulate everyone involved for the various things that are going on this week. Earlier this afternoon students in the sciences had a very interesting poster exhibit on the bridge. It was fascinating to talk to them about what they are doing as undergraduates in some very important and advanced science classes. Clearly, the quality and the work that they do is very important, and I was very impressed. Yesterday I had a chance to sit in on a symposium that Professor Kirkland had. Imagine being asked questions about the experiences that students have had at Hunter while he was fully dressed in academic regalia. You would have been very pleased. In general, I think it is a wonderful week, and when you get finished this afternoon, I hope that you will all join us at the Honors Convocation in the Assembly Hall.

Re: Strategic Planning Committee

The letters inviting faculty, staff, and students to participate are out. I will be publishing a list of who is on the committee as soon as we get the confirmations back that individuals have accepted. This is an important committee that will be chaired by the Provost. This is not a committee that will disappear for six months and come back with a report. It is important that faculty, staff, and students remain very much involved. It is a committee that is going to engage the community in active discussion and debate.

Re: Various Projects

I am please to tell you that the "sauna" project that was underway is now complete. Let me briefly explain it. The system that we have is either to cool or to heat, and once you start one, you have to end the other. It is not something that can be done on short notice. To go from heating to cooling takes about six days of work. We are now going to cooling, and if it gets cold just remember how hot you were this past week. It is a serious problem that is not being ignored. But the record heat this past week could not be anticipated. Normally, we would have been ready to switch over during the last two weeks of April and the first week of May. We hope that when we get the new heating-cooling facility, which we think will be in about two and a half years, that this problem will be resolved on a permanent basis and that we will have cooling when we need it.

I also want to mention several other current projects. Extensive sidewalk repair work is going on at the Park Avenue side of the North Building. If you have had a chance to see what the North Building will look like once it is completely clean, you will be very pleased. Assuming that everything goes well during the next eighteen months, there will be more than \$30M in renovation projects at Hunter at every one of our locations throughout the borough in the next two years. There will be major work in the North Building in terms of classroom and office space, and we hope to have major renovation in the heating and cooling system. We will have major work at the Campus Schools. Not only will we complete the envelope project down at Brookdale for window replacement, we will also be able to do something about the single biggest problem down there, and that is the lack of adequate plumbing and bathroom facilities in the residence halls. Another project will be the West Lobby entrance. All of this is happening because of the hard work of Vice President Gizis and Julio Vasquez, the Director of Facilities. I know it is difficult as you move about the buildings trying to navigate your way through, but we are glad that for once Hunter is getting its fair share from a variety of different pots of money.

Lastly, I want to remind everybody, as I am sure you know, that Spring break is almost upon us. We have much to do before the break, and we have much to do after the break. So, I wish you well and I will be glad to answer any questions you might have at this point.

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