

APPENDIX II Report by the President

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

"Welcome back from what I am sure would seem like a nonexistent break, but in six weeks it will seem as if it was quite a break. I think it is important that we all keep our perspective and also think before responding to the various tensions that we all have in our lives.

I want to bring you up to date on two important things. Let me begin with the budget. As I am sure you are aware, both the Senate and the Assembly have adopted a budget. Assuming that there are no major changes in the budget as passed, several items that are important for Hunter should be mentioned. There should be some new positions. Our analysis is that we could get somewhere between five and ten lines. The Board has indicated that they will use a series of performance objectives in reaching allocation decisions. In the various models that have been put forward Hunter does very well. Second, there is money in the budget right now for the North Building renovation projects for the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors. There is also money in it for major renovation of Thomas Hunter. However, despite that, the budget is basically a stand still budget. There is no significant new money for OTPS, TS, or for academic infrastructure positions. In fact, it appears that one of the performance objectives considered by the Board is one that will actually penalize a college that creates new positions for anything other than strictly full-time faculty positions. We have a very pressing need here for positions related to academic infrastructure for teaching related positions. Unless the Board changes its policy, it is going to be very difficult to do some of the things that need to be done. There is also mention, since this is an election year, that there could be a so-called December surprise. Regardless of what finally gets passed, there is some expectation that within a month after the election, the revenue projections may prove to be too optimistic and there may be some cutbacks. So, 80th Street is counseling and planning in terms of how best to plan for that. On the whole this is certainly a much better budgetary situation than it has been for the last three years. So, let us hope that it is a sign of the future and that things will get better rather than worse.

The second topic is remediation. There was a Public Hearing last Monday, and I would like to thank the representatives from Hunter who spoke eloquently of concerns that they have about the Comprehensive Action Plan that is being promoted. There is a meeting going on right now and I was torn, but I felt that I needed to be here for this meeting. There appears to be another iteration of CAP on the floor with subsequent possible alternative language. It would appear that the new iteration does have greater flexibility for both community and senior colleges, but it is unclear as to how much flexibility and how this would be implemented. It appears that next Monday's Board meeting will be a very important meeting about the remediation process.

Let me make several announcements. I want to remind everybody about the searches for two Assistant Deans in the new School of Arts & Sciences that are going on—the Assistant Dean for Research, Planning and Facilities and the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Opportunities. If any of you know of Hunter faculty who are interested, please encourage them to apply by May 20th.

I would like to congratulate the faculty, students, and alumni of the School of Social Work. This is their 40th anniversary, and congratulations to them. Congratulations also to Sarah Pomeroy in Classics on her Guggenheim Award, which is quite nice for her, for Hunter, and for CUNY. I think it is important that you are aware of some individual honors that our students have earned just in the last couple of weeks. Suzanne Pace has won a Fulbright Grant for Teaching English in Turkey. Suzanne is an English major who tutors at the Writing Center. She is one of two students nationally to win the teaching assistantship to Turkey. That is quite a nice honor for her. Julie Rafke is a graduating senior who won the National Science Foundation Graduate Minority Fellowship. She is an Honors and Psychology major and a member of the Core program. She will be working toward the Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at the University of Minnesota. We wish her well. Rajah Manno is a graduating senior in Political Science and he has been named a White House

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Intern for the summer. To my knowledge he is the first Hunter student to be awarded this honor. There is one person I do not want to leave out. We have just learned that Vanessa Ruita has won a scholarship from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in the Educational Foundations Programs. This is an award made on the basis of merit to those who have outstanding potential. She is going to pursue a career in mathematics. She is a sophomore who will be receiving a stipend of \$ 7,500 annually for her junior and senior years. I want to congratulate everybody here and all of the departments, centers, and programs that are having performances and lectures and so forth. It is a real pleasure to be able to get to many of

them. Unfortunately I cannot get to all of them, but please continue to invite me to as many of them as possible.

I have one other major item that I want to mention to you. I do think it is important that you are aware of the fact that the college is very hopeful that within the next few months we will be the recipients of a major new facility, and that is a basic science building which is now part of the Mt. Sinai complex at 10 East 102 Street. There are still a lot of things to be worked out. This is a CUNY owned building that will be reverting back to CUNY at some point in the future, probably in 1999. We are very hopeful that we will be able to have full use of that 70,000-sq. ft. building. It has good to outstanding lab space, plus an outstanding animal facility. We think that there may be some administrative office capabilities there, and the initial plans are that it will be used for basic life sciences research. A series of Board decisions will be made in the next few months, and then we will be developing some plans. We are very hopeful that if the current budget holds that there will be money for a thorough renovation at that facility, which will really go a long way toward solving some of our basic science needs. I will keep you updated on it. It is not a done deal, but it is as close to a done deal as we can get at this point.

I want to mention one other thing. I am often asked about what the President's Office does in terms of promulgating and trying to make sure that the Hunter story is heard. Sometimes there is a little bit of edge to that comment as to why we are not out there being more responsive. Let me tell you several things. We have a standing rule in the President's Office to respond within 48 hours any time there is an article or a statement in the press that is disparaging to Hunter or to any of our students or to our programs. In most cases you do not see the answers because the editors decide what letters they are going to publish or not to publish. If you followed the Daily News in recent months, you know that they have been particularly concerned about CUNY and some of the senior colleges. About six weeks ago they talked about Hunter having lost luster. We immediately asked that I have a chance to meet with the editorial board at the News. I spent close to two hours with them, pointing out to them why I thought they were wrong and why I thought their policy and their criticism of CUNY in general, but also of Hunter specifically, was simply incorrect. You will be pleased to know that the meeting began by my thanking them for having published two letters that we had submitted in the past year. They indicated to me that they enjoy meeting the person who is responsible for the largest number of letters that they have received from any of the college presidents. We did not change any minds. They made it very clear that they were going to continue their attacks and that they would continue to be critical, because they thought that CUNY and higher education in general needed to be reformed. They did say that they would try to be more sensitive to differences. You will have to follow the editorials over the next few months to see whether or not they do try to differentiate. It was a very interesting discussion about the concerns and misconceptions they had about what we do and how we go about doing things. I told them that I would welcome the chance to meet with them weekly if it meant that they would be more fair and balanced in their reporting.

There are several important upcoming events. In about ten days there will be two major dedications of facilities that are a result of private gifts. There will be a reception to honor and institute the Blair Writer and Resident Program, and then shortly after that there will be a dedication of the Distance Learning Center. The planning for the Fall Celebration is well underway. It is scheduled for October 14-17, and I hope that you will participate. Vice President Fishman is in the process of contacting and asking faculty for some involvement, and we hope that you will be able to do so.

Also, I know that discussion of the Charter is on today's agenda. There are some important differences that I have with the proposals, and I hope that we will have that discussion in a collegial manner. And lastly, after the Senate meeting today you were invited to a reception in the faculty dining room where we are going to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Middle States Report and thank everyone. Hopefully, you will have a chance to join us upstairs when we are finished."