

## Appendix II Report by the President

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

"Good afternoon. As we begin this new academic year I would like to welcome everyone back and wish you all a magnificently rewarding year. I can think of few things more exciting than the opportunities we each have as we begin the year, the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the joy of assisting a fellow member of the Hunter community, as well as the promise of the new academic year.

The year has begun well for the college. We welcomed 45 new faculty last week, which means that we have seen an addition of 70 new faculty in the past year. If you have tried to get into the North Building through 69<sup>th</sup> Street, you saw that a lot of repair and maintenance are going on; we have painted more than 50 classrooms and offices; we repaired major defects in the North Building entrances; we have major renovations continuing at Brookdale, and we have managed to improve conditions in every one of our facilities. All together, more than \$3M from various sources has been spent, and we still have a great deal to do. Tom Tyburzcy, Acting Vice President for Administration, will be reporting to you later in the year. In the months ahead the windows in the East and West towers will be washed, major improvements are planned for the West Building entrance, and work will continue at Brookdale.

Now I want to share with you several recent honors for the college. The first is that the Classical Association of the Empire State has awarded their 1998 Outstanding New York State Latin Program Award to the Hunter College Program. They specifically cite the work of Tamara Green, Ronnie Ancona, William Mayer, Sarah Pomeroy, Robert J. White, Adele Haft, Robert Cole, and Joanne Spuria, and the programs as "models of high standards and achievement." The award is for both undergraduate and graduate. So, I think we should all be very proud of that. This is the best year ever for Hunter College for grants and contracts with a total of \$ 27,000.865. Congratulations to all the faculty who are responsible for this, and to the grant administration office headed by Bob Buckley for this accomplishment. So, I think a round of applause for them would be in order. Three of our students have received important honors. Marco Tomascett, Afred DeFras, and Miriam Carp are recipients of the University Student Senate Academic Scholarship Awards for 1997-98. So, a round of applause for them as well. And then, finally, we have just learned in the past month that the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation has approved a \$10,000 grant to Professors Gregg Morris and Rita Jensen in the Department of Film and Media Studies.

I also want to mention one other point. Last year we distributed a questionnaire to all who utilize the services, or had contact with, the President's office. I am pleased to tell you that in response to the overall question of how you would rate the quality of services provided by the President's office, 80% of the respondents indicated that it was excellent, while 6% thought it was not so good or unsatisfactory. I want to indicate to the 80% as well as the 6% that everyone in the office, including this president, hears you and that we are doing our best to continue to earn an even higher rating in the future. More importantly, I would encourage everyone here at Hunter to continue to be accountable and to continue to attempt to provide quality services.

This year, as most years in CUNY's outstanding past, is not without its problems. Our budget will again be extremely tight. We will have formal presentations to you on the budget if you would like in the next few weeks. We are still finalizing the budget, but we do know that it will be very tight given the lack of significant increase in the State Budget. We know that we need not only more faculty, but also support staff, temporary services, OTPS funds, and increased funding for technology. We will continue to do our best to find the funds from a variety of sources, but we know things will again be difficult. We remain hopeful that there will not be a major reduction after the election, the so-called mid-year post-election surprise.

The second area of concern is the present situation concerning remediation. We are enjoined from discussing any plans to implement the Board of Trustees' May policy, and it is not possible for the college community to do anything in terms of developing a plan at this point to implement the Board of Trustees May policy. If that should change, I am hopeful that we will have at least a month to prepare and discuss any remediation plan that has to go to 80<sup>th</sup> Street. I made that as a formal request today to the Chancellor at the monthly Council of Presidents meeting and he agreed to take that under advisement. We do not know how quickly these things will move. If you follow the paper and other publications you should know that the colleges are enjoined from taking any action to implement last May's policy decision. You should also know that this President and this administration continue its commitment to Hunter's historical mission of access and excellence. I know that you have a resolution that will be introduced and discussed later today, and I share your concern about Hunter's future in terms of the possible change with the new remediation policy. As you know, the Mayor has also appointed a Task Force headed by a former president of Yale, Benno Schmidt to study CUNY. We have been told to expect a series of two or three small reports, which will then be included in a longer report. The first report report is dealing with remediation and that report is to come to us some time in September. I don't know if advance copies will be made available. Subsequently, the Rand Corporation Report and the Price Waterhouse Report will be released, and then all of these will be put together with a larger summary.

I want to remind everyone here, and I hope that you will carry the word to our colleagues and other community members, that as a public institution we are greatly affected by decisions made by publicly elected officials. One way to send a message to them is to vote. This fall there will be a wide variety of state and national offices on the election ballot, but before you can vote you must register. So, please register and vote in your party primary and on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Even more important decisions are likely to come to our public officials in the years ahead, and one way to influence their thinking is through your vote.

In closing I want to discuss individual responsibility for a moment. If Hunter College is to continue to move toward our goal of being the best public urban higher education institution in the United States, we must each do all that we can to ensure that our work on behalf of the college is the very best. These outstanding individual efforts will be of great significance in the weeks ahead. Join me and the rest of the Hunter community as we begin the year in what I believe to be the world's most noble institution, Hunter College and the City University of New York."

The floor was open for questions.