



President's Monthly Report to the College Community
February 2016
President Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.

As we begin the new semester, we welcome to our campus Ms. Kay W. Ellis, Vice President for Administration and Finance. Ms. Ellis comes to us from the City University of New York (CUNY) Central office, where she served as Deputy Director of Internal Audit and Management Services. Prior to her time at CUNY, she had extensive management experience as an Assistant Commissioner for the New York City Fire Department. I look forward to her leadership as she helps us prioritize and focus our resources on the success of our students.

Our Spring enrollment is good; we have 11,253 students this semester. While those numbers are strong, I firmly believe that as an institution we need to pay particular attention to the retention and graduation rates of our students. All of us collectively – faculty and staff — need to dedicate ourselves to the success of our students.

ASAP EXPANSION

The College is working around the clock in preparation for the Fall 2016 ASAP expansion. During the first phase of preparation, efforts were centered on a review of current operations and practices, especially as they pertain to admissions, testing, scheduling and technology needs.

Among our accomplishments so far:

- Revised admissions communications to include ASAP messaging
- Hired an ASAP enrollment specialist
- Hired an ASAP project assistant
- Increased test preparation workshops and test dates
- Collected data pertaining to scheduling trends
- Developed external recruitment materials
- Prioritized Information Systems needs of Phase I

Thank you to the ASAP expansion committee, led by Provost Claudia Schrader and Assistant Dean Francisco Javier Legasa, for their tireless work in laying the necessary groundwork for this expansion.

BUDGET

The College is in good shape with the 2016 Budget. The mid-year financial report issued by CUNY Central showed that we have spent approximately 62% of the budget as of January 24, 2016. This level is consistent with previous years.

The Governor has issued his preliminary FY 2017 budget. For senior colleges, the FY2017 state executive budget totals \$2.402 billion, an increase of \$66.4 million or 2.8% over the current year.

The executive budget proposes shifting 30% of senior college operating expenses and debt service costs to New York City to align funding with governance structure. For FY2017, this amount is \$485.1 million.

For community colleges the FY2017 state executive budget recommends \$238.7 million, an increase of \$4.5 million from the FY2016 level. Per FTE student base aid remains flat at \$2,597. Base aid increases by \$9.2 million due to enrollment increases. FY2016 legislative funding is reduced by \$4.7 million and includes the elimination of ASAP support and a decrease in child care support.

As the State and City prepare the 2017 budget for CUNY, it is important that we all help educate our elected officials in understanding the BCC and CUNY value. Attached for your information is the BCC Value brochure.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Campus construction and renovation projects are on schedule. The campus utilities upgrade and quad projects will be completed by July 2016. Nichols and Bliss classroom renovations for ASAP expansion will be completed on time before the Fall 2016 semester. Work on the swimming pool and lockers are on track for completion in November 2016. The Ohio track and field restoration is in the design phase. Upgrades to the campus fire alarm system are in the planning stage. The completion of all the above projects will enhance our campus environment for teaching and learning for students, faculty and staff.

A joint meeting of the College Foundation and Friends of Gould Memorial Library was held on February 10, 2016. CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken was in attendance, along with some senior staff from Facilities and Foundation offices of CUNY Central. The meeting provided a forum for the Chancellor to meet with both groups and discuss plans to coordinate efforts and fundraising activities to save GML.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In my efforts to engage our community, I have met with various groups and organizations. I will be presenting the outcomes of these meetings and relationships in future reports.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The College's Faculty and Staff Spring 2016 Convocation is scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in GML Auditorium. At Convocation, I will report back to the College the outcomes of the President's Listening Tours and the next steps. Additionally, I will be unveiling the College's new organizational structure.