

## President's report to the General Faculty – 5-13-2020

### State of the Campus

- Good news:
  - CARES Act funds of \$6.3 million are going directly to students; another \$6.3 million is designated for college for COVID-19 expenses, plus \$954,000 as HSI. These are earmarked funds and do not help our overall budget situation, but do help students and fill the budget holes created by buying loaner laptops, technology for faculty and staff to do distance learning, etc.
    - Funds have not been released and require the Governor's final go ahead so students will not receive their funds until that happens
    - We have joined HE institutions across the country to lobby for \$46 billion for HE in the next COVID-19 stimulus package
  - For non-eligible students, DACA, International, Title IV ineligible, we have a ***Campaign for Lehman*** underway with a goal of \$1 million, and have already received pledges of over \$530,000 for food pantry, emergency loans, scholarships and general costs;
    - Faculty and staff raised \$46,500! Thank you to everyone who contributed.
    - Robin Hood Foundation granted \$150,000
  - We have three Fulbright recipients that again makes us a Top Producing Fulbright institution
  - Plans are well under way for our virtual Honors Convocation and for our virtual commemoration of the Class of 2020
- Spring term
  - Thank you to faculty, students and staff for the major accommodation to keep things on track; this has been a huge effort on everyone's part and there are many heroes
  - We have not been perfect, nor could we have been, but under the circumstances we have carried on, and we believe we will complete the term with most if not all students succeeding
  - Over 700 loaner laptops were distributed; training has been extensive and continues
- Summer term:
  - Fully online
  - Preparing for the technology needs of students
  - Planning for some expansion of essential workers on campus after May 15, but do not know the way the Governor will specify. VP Rotolo has a committee working on a Phased Plan for Returning to Campus. Safety is our primary concern.
- Fall term
  - Planning for ongoing social distancing
  - Maximum number of courses online
  - Cannot fully plan until the Governor makes a decision about re-opening campuses which in the 4<sup>th</sup> and final phase of re-opening
- Budget:
  - What we know:
    - Projected \$13.3B State revenue shortfall

- Planning for \$10.1B agency cuts which we will probably have around May 15; Governor stated last Friday that education would receive 20% cut
- Federal stimulus for states seems unlikely for now and we can't plan on it
- CUNY Fiscal Planning Task Force has been working for some weeks as has the Cabinet and the President's Advisory Board.
- We are facing an unprecedented situation with a pandemic and a budget crisis occurring simultaneously
- We are in a better position because we have a sizeable fund balance, but it will not protect us from difficult decisions, and will be exhausted this year unless Federal stimulus funding arrives
- Have developed a Values and Process Statement which was sent to the campus this week
  - It establishes the framework for our discussions and decisions going forward
- We will be communicating regularly with the campus as we have new information and as decisions are being made
- What we don't know:
  - How enrollment will change in the summer and in the fall
  - The final configuration for the fall term

#### Concluding:

Under normal circumstances this is a tense time for students finishing a term with assignments and exams. I appeal to all faculty and staff members to be as supportive as possible. Students are experiencing much more stress with often very difficult circumstances. Please be empathetic and as flexible as possible.