

Testimony of Frank D. Sanchez, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

The City University of New York

New York City Council Committee on Higher Education

November 19, 2015

Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury or Necessity?

Good afternoon, Chairperson Barron and members of the Higher Education Committee.

I am Frank Sanchez, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at The City University of New York. I am pleased to testify before your committee again, particularly on the important question that has been raised, "Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury or Necessity?" Thank you for this opportunity.

To provide a brief historical context to this question, the following statement is from the report, *Role of the College Union*, written and adopted by the Association of College Unions International in 1956 – almost 60 years ago. It reads,

The union is the community center of the college...It is not just a building; it is also an organization and a program. As the 'living room' or the 'hearthstone' of the college, the union provides for the services, conveniences, and amenities the members of the college family need in their daily life on the campus and for getting to know and understand one another through informal association outside the classroom. The union is part of the educational program of the college. As the center of college community life, it serves as a laboratory of citizenship, training students in social responsibility and for leadership in a democratic society.¹

¹ A. Arthur, et al. *The Beginning of Student Unions in American Higher Education* at http://www.depts.ttu.edu/sub/docs/ttsub_historypaper.pdf.

Since then, the role, need and feasibility for student unions have continually evolved to stay current with student needs and preferences as well as college resources.

The very first student union was established at the University of Pennsylvania in 1896. It housed a bowling alley, swimming pool, gymnasium, food court, theater, and meeting space for students. Despite Penn's ground-breaking vision for higher education, the early 1900's saw very few student unions in the U.S. Then, in the 1950s, the number of student unions increased dramatically throughout the nation. The quote I read captures the vision for student unions in the 1950's. But times change and so have the function, role and fiscal feasibility of student unions on campuses across the country.

In the 1970's the function of student unions changed, primary as a result of simple economics. The 1970's saw a decline in student enrollment which meant a decline in student fees. On most campuses across the country, including CUNY specifically at Brooklyn College and Queens College, student fees provided the primary financial support for student unions and, with less revenue from student fees, student unions became costly for colleges and universities to maintain.

Today, the changing campus environment and changing needs of our students require institutions to be responsive to all students as it relates to space utilization and in particular the use of multi-purpose space.

"Today, college unions are no longer the only spaces on campus designed to create social and intellectual engagement. In a recent report on physical space in higher education, it was noted that flexibility, adaptability, responsiveness and a sense of ownership may be more

important than the architecture, tradition or permanence of most campus facilities.”² In the 21st century, multi-purpose space may better meet the needs of today’s students.

Community and Student Engagement

While the college union may have been seen in 1956 as “... the community center of the college...,” today’s campuses build community and student engagement, successfully, in a number of different ways.

- Multipurpose Spaces

Those who study space utilization in higher education make note that in higher education “...[f]acilities designed to be multifunctional and to meet the needs of multiple constituents are one way to engage in ongoing change and delivery of programs and services.”³ Today, seven CUNY colleges have either a student union or a student center. Yet CUNY also has seen significant enrollment growth and consequently student interest in clubs and organizations....now 1400 student clubs and organizations – most of which are at the remaining colleges with student centers. The enrollment growth and limitations of student space speaks to the need to use of multi-purpose space for student groups.

On CUNY campuses where there is no union or center, students use the room reservation system of the campus; this system identifies available classrooms and conference rooms for student meetings and gatherings. On other campuses, students reserve space through their Student Life or Student Activities Offices. Space is available in academic and non-academic buildings.

² R. Rouzer. New Directions for Student Services, “Revisiting the Role of the College Union.” No. 145, p.4. (Spring 2014)

³ C.R.Romano and J.Hanish. New Directions for Student Services, “Balancing Multiple Needs Through Innovative Facility Design.” No. 101, p.12 (Spring 2003)

In addition, many campuses have lounge areas or open space areas where students can “hang out” between classes for studying or just socializing. A few have game rooms or recreation rooms that have multiplayer games such as Pool or foosball, a television, and other activities. Generally, these spaces cannot be officially reserved for regular meetings, as the purpose of these spaces is for the general student body to use in their “free time.”

In terms of technology, social media has turned the entire collegiate experience into a digital student union. Today students communicate, organize, plan, meet, announce via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blogs and more. In fact, many believe that social media has made it easier for students to connect. It is fascinating to me when I go on to a CUNY student group’s Facebook page to see how the medium is used so effectively. See, for example, sites for the Black Male Initiative, Coalition for Students with Disabilities and CUNY Dreamers⁴

- Cost

Finally, the traditional definition of student unions may no longer be feasible financially. Space designed to be multifunctional and to meet the needs of multiple constituents has become a strategy for coping with financial constraints yet still providing students with space for co-curricular activities, meetings and events. Colleges and universities are looking to multipurpose spaces in order to meet the needs of multiple student groups as well as the university community.⁵

⁴ See e.g., <https://twitter.com/cunybmi>; <https://www.facebook.com/CCSDadvocates/>; <https://www.facebook.com/CUNY-The-DreamUS-Scholars-845875085445491/>

⁵ C.R.Romano and J.Hanish. New Directions for Student Services, “Balancing Multiple Needs through Innovative Facility Design.” No. 101, p.12 (Spring 2003)

Meeting the Needs of CUNY Students

Are Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury or Necessity? Without a doubt Non-academic and multipurpose space on CUNY Campuses is a Necessity. With this said, more space is needed. I believe our colleges are working hard to meet the needs of CUNY students through the use of multipurpose space that can be shared, reconfigured and made private. And while the robust use of social media has dramatically increased a sense of community and student engagement, the availability of new space would further facilitate meeting these important student interests.

In closing, I would once again like to thank Chair Barron and the Higher Education Committee for this opportunity. If I may be of any further assistance, I hope you will call upon me.



The City University of New York

**Testimony of José Magdaleno
Vice President of Student Affairs
Lehman College**

New York City Council Committee on Higher Education

*Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury
or Necessity?*

Tuesday, November 19, 2015

Good Afternoon

I would like to thank Chairperson Barron, and as well as all the members of the committee for the opportunity to speak to you this morning on this important matter. My name is José Magdaleno, Vice President of Student Affairs at Lehman College. I am pleased to be able to tell you about our work with students at Lehman.

As you know, Lehman College is the only CUNY senior college in the Bronx, where we serve more than 12,400 undergraduate and graduate students. About half are of Latino descent and an additional third are of African and African-American descent. Many are the first in their families to attend college. We are commuter school located in an urban area of the borough.

Like many CUNY and other public colleges, our students lead busy lives: many have fulltime jobs; they have families and other responsibilities. The Student Life Facility at Lehman College plays a key role in the college experience we offer to our students. It is an essential common space that fulfills an important need: it is a multipurpose facility; a gathering space; and a study space. It is a programming space for lectures, films, the performing arts, and student-run media—the college newspaper and our radio station are housed there.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators need a common meeting place to personalize relations with each other and create an intellectual environment *outside* the classroom. To put it simply: the Student Life Building at Lehman College is *the living room of our campus*. In 2014, over 20,000 students and other visitors came to the Student Life Building.

Allow me to give you some background on our Student Life Facility. Originally built in 1980 as a temporary structure, the Student Life Building underwent a \$1.8 million renovation in 2012-13 that transformed the facility. Students were involved in the re-design of the building and renovations at every stage—and even helped select the furniture. In addition to new furniture, the renovation program included Internet connections in each student office, wide screen monitors in the new conference rooms, twenty wireless routers for high-speed access to the Internet and a laptop computer lending program.

The building now boasts 8 new clubrooms for a total of 32 rooms in addition to the space allocated to the Student Government. The Student Life Building currently houses 45 student organizations and the offices of the Student Government Association. While the renovations have provided additional space, rooms must still be shared.

Each semester space allocations are made for registered Lehman College student organizations based on the recommendation of the Campus Facilities Officer of the Student Government Association.

The Office of Campus Life, which teaches leadership and public service skills, as well as the Herbert H. Lehman Center for Student Leadership Development is also housed in the building. The Herbert H. Lehman Leadership Program provides leadership training to approximately 450 students each year who participate in leadership development seminars as well as community service projects. WASA, the architectural firm that designed the building's new dramatic main entrance, also created the Herbert H. Lehman Leadership Lounge, where students in the Leadership Program meet.

The Office of Campus Life and our Alumni Affairs Office recently held a 10th anniversary reunion of student leaders and many of the program's alumni returned to our facility to re-connect, network and celebrate because they are among Lehman's proudest graduates.

The Herbert H. Lehman Leadership Center recently began a Mentorship Program in association with the White House. This program is hugely successful and we are proud to note that one of its alumni, **Elias Alcantara**, now works in the White House as the Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. **Mr. Alcantara** was instrumental in facilitating President Obama's visit to Lehman College in May 2015—an event that made headlines worldwide and shined a bright light on Lehman, the City University of New York, as well as New York City.

Another example of activities and programs conducted in the Student Life Building is the annual 24-hour 'Hackathon' sponsored by the Association of Black Engineers where computer-savvy Lehman and other CUNY students worked on solving tech problems and met representatives from major blue-chip firms like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan.

The building also houses the Student Life Art Project, a student art installation that includes colorful wall murals in the lower level as well as student photography on the upper level.

The staff at the Student Life Building works closely not only with Student Government but also with clubs and organizations and their faculty & staff advisors to assist in developing and executing programs that foster the social and intellectual skills that will serve our students throughout their lives.

It is important to note, that the Student Life building is not simply a gathering spot but rather is a place where students learn life lessons such as:

- Budget management
- Public speaking
- How to work with diverse groups
- Project planning and implementation
- Negotiation and conflict management
- Working as a team to get things done

These life lessons are as important as any and complement the skills and perspectives that our students develop inside our classrooms.

In the final analysis, I am firmly convinced that the Student Life Building at Lehman College is an essential element of our student's college going experience. Every 21st century college needs such a facility.

Thank you.

The City University of New York

**Testimony of Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne
Vice President of Administration & Finance
Hostos Community College**

New York City Council Committee on Higher Education

*Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury
or Necessity?*

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Statement for New York City Council Committee on Higher Education

Topic: "Oversight - Student Unions and Non-Academic Spaces on CUNY Campuses: Luxury or Necessity?"

Tuesday, November 19, 2015

Good Afternoon.

My name is Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne and I am the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College. I would like to thank Chairperson Barron, and the committee for giving me the opportunity to share information about Hostos Community College's physical plant, and how students are able to use space on our campus.

Hostos Community College is at the intersection of East 149th Street and the Grand Concourse. The college began life in 1968 in a converted tire factory – the A Building – and in an abandoned insurance office building – the B Building. These buildings housed classrooms, labs and offices. It wasn't until 1992 that a building designed to be a community college facility opened. The East Academic Complex includes a cafeteria, theater, gymnasium, swimming pool, student organization offices, classrooms and academic offices. Also in the early 1990's, an addition to the A Building was constructed to house a library, classrooms and offices. The two buildings are linked with a bridge over the Grand Concourse. This bridge has become an icon for the college, but more importantly it has become a significant event and meeting space for students; a student commons in this congested urban neighborhood. The Savoy, a modular building erected in the late 1980s as swing space now houses student support offices and other support services.

There are two major avenues by which students may obtain access to space. The first and more formal method is through our student organizations, which are granted club office space, and can reserve space on campus.

Good afternoon, my name is Judy Bergtraum and I am the Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management at CUNY. I would like to take a moment to introduce my fellow panelists: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Frank Sanchez, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance at Hostos Community College, Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, and Vice President of Student Affairs at Lehman College, Jose Magdaleno.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a part of the conversation about student space at CUNY. Providing space for all of the University's needs is challenging, particularly as CUNY is the largest urban public university in the nation. On top of that we are located in an area with very expensive real estate and high costs for construction. Let me begin by assuring you that every building we build and every renovation we embark on is undertaken to provide CUNY's students with the safest, most suitable learning environment possible, which includes space beyond the classroom walls. We strive to create spaces that allow them to do their very best work.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide all of the facilities desired at each campus. There are a number of competing forces that intensify the pressure on our facilities portfolio. First, over 40 percent of CUNY's 300 buildings are more

than 50 years old, and many of our campuses were not built specifically for college use. For instance, LaGuardia Community College's Center 3 building was originally the Sunshine Biscuit factory. Queens College was a reform school for boys built in the 1930s, the Graduate Center was previously the B. Altman's Department Store, and the 475 Grand Concourse Building at Hostos Community College was a tire factory. These buildings have been adapted for the respective college's use but many need intensive mechanical upgrades and reprogramming for Twenty-First Century learning. A large portion of CUNY's capital program is focused on critical maintenance to bring all of the facilities into a state-of-good-repair.

Second, enrollment at CUNY has increased nearly 23% over the past decade, representing an increase of more than 50,000 students. Our community colleges are growing the fastest, with more than half these students attending one of our seven community colleges. We are pleased and proud that CUNY is serving even more New Yorkers than ever before, but capital investment for additional facilities has not kept up with the increase in enrollment.

During that same time period the University has added 2.2 million square feet of new space. This additional space is only a beginning. Currently, another

1.5 million gross square feet of new space is in design or construction for projects throughout the five boroughs. Hostos Community College's new Allied Health and Sciences Building Complex is one of these projects. We currently need \$241 million in funding for that building. Student gathering space will be incorporated into the new building and additional space for students can be accommodated in the College's other buildings once this new building comes on line. Your support will help make it happen.

CUNY's capital budget request also includes several more projects to increase space across the campuses. All of these projects require funding in order to bring them to fruition. We can only accomplish these plans with support from the City and State. And as you know, the City must appropriate funding for the community colleges first, which is then matched by the State.

We know that as a commuter university it is important that we provide students with space to meet and study between classes. One way we are addressing this is our recent focusing on libraries throughout the system. At Bronx Community College the North Hall and Library building opened in 2012. This new facility houses classrooms on the first floor, which are a great improvement over the college's existing stock of former dorm rooms converted to

classrooms, and a state-of-the-art library with an information commons and study areas both for individual study and enclosed rooms for group study. The library at Medgar Evers College was recently renovated and expanded. It too has additional technology resources and study areas for students. A number of other library renovation projects are also in the works, including ones at LaGuardia Community College, and Baruch, Lehman and Queens Colleges.

Let me share with you for a moment more about Bronx Community College. The 44 acre campus has thirty-six buildings, some dating back to the 1850s; Yes, the 1850s! CUNY purchased this campus from NYU in the 1970s. NYU did not invest very much in the campus for a long period before it was sold. Sadly, the City and State provided little investment for decades after CUNY acquired it. We are making great headway with the campus-wide utilities infrastructure project, but there are still two additional phases that require funding of approximately \$70 million for which the City must provide half. The College, like all of our community colleges, has many other critical maintenance and ADA issues. When you receive the University's full Capital Budget Request you will see BCC projects for window replacement, new roofs, and fire alarm systems, among others.

We work closely with the colleges to understand the facilities demands at each campus. While there are many similarities, each has its own issues. When it comes to planning student space there are many challenges. First, many of the colleges have shortfalls in academic space, and we must prioritize addressing these needs. Second, many of our students are the first in their families to attend college. We have made a concerted effort to help students navigate the administrative hurdles of attending college by creating “one-stop” student service offices at various campuses. These areas bring together the bursar, registrar, financial aid and other student service functions to make it easier for students to complete all of the forms necessary for their enrollment. These co-located areas require renovations and thoughtful design to truly support our students. Additional “one-stops” are in planning at Bronx Community College and York College. We are requesting \$7 million for the Student Success Center at Bronx Community College, which is the project that will create this support service for BCC students. The City’s share is \$3.5 million.

Planning space for students is not an easy task. While we can project future student enrollment based on historic trends and high school graduation rates, it is much harder to project how many students will participate in student

clubs. For example, at John Jay College there were about two dozen student clubs in 2003, when CUNY began the design of the new building that opened in 2012. Today, there are over 50 clubs that bring students together for academic, cultural, political, philanthropic and other activities. There was no way to know in 2003 what the increase in student engagement might be in 2015. We were able to accommodate 18 student club offices in the building with the idea that student clubs would share offices.

CUNY is committed to providing the best educational experience to all of its students—that includes learning both inside and outside of the classroom. As we build new buildings and renovate existing facilities the students are foremost in our minds. We will continue to work with each of the colleges to ensure that we maximize opportunities for students to study, work collaboratively and grow as members of the college community and citizens of New York City.

Thank you.



Childcare Reimbursement Program Application for Parents and Guardians

The college is offering a subsidy, not to exceed \$150 per week, to help defray childcare costs for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 terms for parents whose children are currently enrolled in the Center. To take advantage of this offer, please return this form along with proof of enrollment and a bill from the childcare facility, and proof of your enrollment at City College (Copy of your Bursar Receipt and a copy of your validated Student Identification Card) **by August 14, 2015** to the address below. This offer will terminate upon your withdrawal from City College or your child's withdrawal from the Center. You are obligated to give Ms. Erica Stephen of the Division of Student Affairs at City College two (2) weeks notice, in writing, prior to your withdrawal from the college or your child's withdrawal from the Center. Please see the attached Childcare Reimbursement Program Protocol for Parents and Guardians for eligibility requirements and restrictions.

**The City College of New York
Division Office for Student Affairs
Wille Administration Building Room 204
160 Covert Avenue
New York, New York 10031**

Date: _____ Child's Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____
(No.) (Street) (City/Bor) (State) (Zip)

Tel. No.: _____ Parent's SS #: xxx - xx - _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Student at: _____

Address: _____ Emergency Tel. No.: _____

Father's Name: _____ Student at: _____

Address: _____ Emergency Tel. No.: _____

Name of the Childcare Facility: _____

Address: _____
(No.) (Street) (City/Bor) (State) (Zip)

Name of Contact Person at the Facility: _____

Tel. No. of Contact Person at the Facility: _____

The College will arrange payment directly with the facility.

Childcare Reimbursement Program Protocol for Parents and Guardians

Background

The building that houses the Child Development Center Inc. will be closed on June 30, 2015 in order to accommodate interior renovation and required code compliance work. The building is scheduled for modernization through a capital project funded by the City Council. The building will re-open once the capital project is complete.

As an accommodation to the parents/guardians of the children who participate in the childcare program at the Center and who are dislocated as a result of the planned capital project, the College will reimburse families the difference in cost between what they paid at the Child Development Center and the cost of community---based childcare services for a period of up to one---year, subject to certain eligibility criteria and rules and restrictions as defined below.

Eligibility

Only those children who are in the care of the childcare program at the time of the Center's closing on June 30, 2015 are eligible for this program. The child's name must appear on the Center's official roster, certified by the Vice President of Student Affairs ("VPSA"), as a participant of the childcare program at the time of the closing of the Center to be eligible. If you live in New York City and your child was born in 2011, your child is eligible to attend a free, full-day, high-quality pre-K program in September 2015. The application period is June 22 to July 10. You can apply at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>. Any child who becomes eligible for free universal pre---kindergarten at the time of the closing of the Center is not be eligible for the Reimbursement Program. The parent/guardian must have a zero balance on their bill at the time of the Center's closing and must be a full-time student in good standing and be actively enrolled in a degree granting program at The City College of New York. The definition of good standing shall include a zero tuition balance. Faculty and staff are not eligible for this program.

Rules and Restrictions

1. The subsidy may not exceed \$150 per week.
2. The child must be enrolled in another community-based childcare center no later than August 14, 2015.
3. The community-based childcare center must be licensed by the City of New York and be found in compliance with all pertinent laws, rules and regulations of the City and the State regarding the operation of childcare programs/centers.
4. The VPSA at The City College of New York must certify in writing that the community-based childcare center complies with all eligibility criteria and rules and regulations of the Reimbursement Program
5. The family of the child who enrolls in a community-based childcare center must submit proof of their child's attendance. The community-based center must submit on official letterhead a written certification of the length and duration of the child's attendance. The child's name and the number of hours of each day of attendance must be detailed in this certification and

must be included with any request for payment.

6. Reimbursements for childcare costs will end on the date the child becomes eligible for any free childcare service and/or becomes eligible for universal pre-kindergarten.
7. Reimbursement payments will not be made directly to any parent or guardian. Instead, the payment will be made directly to the community-based childcare center.
8. The community-based childcare center must have published rates available for inspection and verification. The community-based childcare center cannot charge the families of the children who participate in this Reimbursement Program any more than any other child participating in any other childcare service provided by the same center.
9. The community-based childcare center must be run by an organization incorporated in the State of New York. Proof of incorporation, a copy of the operating license, and rates for service must be submitted with the first request for reimbursement.
10. Neither the Child Development Center, Inc., nor the City College of New York shall be liable for the quality of the services provided to the child by the community-based childcare center.
11. The College has the right to require any community-based childcare center participating in this program to submit proof of compliance with any criteria, rule or regulation specified by the Reimbursement Program before granting any reimbursement.
12. Any invoice from the community-based childcare center must be submitted within 30 days of the last day of childcare service of each month. The parent/guardian shall approve in writing each invoice before submission by the community-based childcare center to the College. The invoice shall include proof of the parent/guardian's approval.
13. The College can audit any and all payments under this Reimbursement Program, and all requests for reimbursement and invoices from community-based childcare centers must be free of any fraud or misstatement.

DISCLAIMER:

NEITHER THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK (CCNY), NOR THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY), NOR THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD CARE CENTER IN WHICH A PARENT MAY ENROLL HIS/HER CHILD.

IT SHALL REMAIN THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARENT TO SELECT AN APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD CARE CENTER FOR HIS/HER CHILD.

New York City Council Hearing: Student Union Spaces [Luxury or Necessity?]

November 19, 2015

Speaker Testimony

From:

Ana Paola White, BSN Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing, 2015

Anapaola.w@gmail.com, 917-774-0781

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nursing Honor Society

Nursing Student Association of New York State, President, 2014-2015 nsanys.org

National Student Nurses' Association Resolution #50: Undergrad. Environmental Hazards Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFgZGdcUi88>

CUNY Divest, Policy Advisor, 2012-2015; CUNYDivest.org; Twitter @cunydivest ; CUNYDivest@gmail.com

National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), 2015

CUNY Board of Trustees, Committee for Academic Policy Programs and Research (CAPPR), 2014

CUNY University Student Senate, Delegate, 2013

Hunter Undergraduate Student Government, Vice President, 2013

My name is Ana Paola White, I am a recent graduate of Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. I did not plan on testifying today, but after hearing the testimony of other Administrators and Students at CUNY, I was compelled to give testimony.

I think there needs to be a **distinction between space for student to use, and spaces where students can be**. The Administrator from Hostos and City College, insisted that students could gather in public areas, but I would argue (having been a student at both Hostos CC and Hunter College), that students cannot post posters on the walkways that were referenced, students are not allowed to gather, and students are only allowed to sit and talk in these areas, but cannot block the walk-way, which means that students cannot advocate for their cause, they cannot post information without Administrative oversight, and they cannot have presentations or conversations that would retain privacy for individuals who might be at risk (undocumented students, students in domestic violence situations, conversations about controversial political issues like free tuition, student movements, and political advocacy for underrepresented and marginalized groups). Room reservation for academic spaces for student or community group use, is often incredibly difficult for students to obtain, reserve or utilize and I will give several examples:

1. In April 2015, CUNY Divest from Fossil Fuels ("CUNY USS recognized Student Organization of the Year, 2015"), spent months planning an Earth Day Press Event at the Borough of Manhattan Community College campus, with the help of our elected advisor, Professor at BMCC, Dr. Gronowicz, PhD. **Elected officials, Steve Levin (New York City Council), and a Financial Director of recently fossil-fuel-divested The New School (NYC), were invited, and planned on speaking, when the BMCC Administration refused to give CUNY Divest space inside the building to have the event.** When plans for an interior space were denied, requests were made to have the Press Event outside on the steps of BMCC. On the day of the Earth Day Press Event for CUNY Divest, the BMCC administration nearly denied Audio/Visual equipment (microphone and speaker) on the basis of rain, and offered no interior space as an alternative for elected officials, attendees and visitors could view the planned event. [CUNY Divest is not a chartered "club" at any one College, but rather, is a 3 year old student advocacy movement, with 11 participating student and professor governing body support (CUNY USS, CUNY PSC, and 11 student government bodies) to bring awareness to the CUNY community on CUNY Endowment Investments. Twitter @cunydivest; CUNY Divest.org, YouTube: CUNY Divest]

2. City College Childcare Center—In the summer of 2014, Marina Massaro brought the City College Child Care Center issue to the attention of the CUNY University Student Senate, after advocating to the their own Administration, and being denied an audience (of concerned parents) with the President of City College. Parent protests began to advocate for parents-students who attend City College, this issue was brought to the attention of the CUNY Board of Trustees at the Queens Public Hearing (where the student-parent testimonies were delivered on behalf of City College parent-students by Ana Paola White), and Marina Massaro was introduced to Trustee Frank Sanchez, VC of Student Affairs at CUNY at a summer Board of Trustees Meeting. Reports that the Center was closed, without definite plans for renovation; reports that the center was being rented out for photo shoots where "donations" had been made to the college for space rental; and reports of Administration refusing to acknowledge parent concerns in an open forum. **This issue is a testament to inadequately addressed issues by the Board of Trustees Administrators and the City College Administration, in response to student concerns on campus.**

The application only considered “current students” who already had children “enrolled” in the Daycare Center, and did not address children of parent-students that would be affected over the coming year during renovation.

3. Recently, Macaulay Honors College student, TedXCUNY brought a request for financial support to the University Student Senate (2 weeks in advance of their planned event) for a couple reasons: 1) my understanding is that **space at BMCC was promised to the student scholar group by Trustee Frank Sanchez**, while CUNY Central assisted M.Honors students in acquiring the licensing from TedXTalks, and then retracted when BMCC Administrators denied the students access to the theatre on the basis of unreachable Financial fees for using the College theatre; 2) while unelected M. Honors students’ proposal claimed to be representing all students at CUNY, they addressed only one issue that CUNY students face, so they were granted funding for open receptions by the CUNY USS, namely on the basis that the event would not be available for all CUNY students that pay student activity fees. **[Sponsorship information: <http://www.tedxcuny.com/2015/sponsors/>]**

4. As the President of the Nursing Students Association of New York State in 2014-2015, [additionally the Hunter-Bellevue Student Nurses Association (HBSNA) Director of Professional Development, a chartered Hunter College Student Club], I was embarrassed to host nursing student leaders at Hunter College after a room request was submitted by the Nursing Office [Health Professions Building on 25th and 1st Avenue] to Central Booking [68th St. Campus], when I wasn’t given confirmation a week before the event (after planning for over a month) and then **on the day of the event, to find out that the room that was booked for the NSANYS Board meeting was a 6th Floor classroom** [perhaps because it was a Sunday], and **additionally having to tell Security of the building that the meeting was happening because the Central Office had not forwarded information to Security, and could not be reached on a Sunday.**

5. Million Student March (national movement) protest outside Hunter College was recently targeted by Fox News, NYPost and Administration at Hunter College when the group was accused of hate speech that has yet to be substantiated. **The March was nationally known to support “Free Tuition”**, and while poorly planned on the Hunter College campus, posed no violent threat to students that has been evidenced so far. A statement from President Raab insinuated criminal action by unsubstantiated claims from students that have yet to produce evidence, as the Legal Bar Association witnesses can attest (they were present, as were NYPD police officers). To my knowledge, no arrests were made, and student fear-mongering online, has yet to produce any videos that substantiate claims, but HAS contributed to the rumor-mill of “suspensions”, action upon the club, and students being “expelled”, although to date, only one student representative was present at rumored “hearings being held” by Administrative officials. [attached letter from President Raab as posted on Facebook by a student, Million Student March national website: <http://studentmarch.org/> whose demands are advertised: “1) Tuition-free Public College, 2) Cancellation of All Student Debt, 3) A \$15 Minimum Wage for All Campus Workers”].

I have watched student groups with less conventional advocacy levels than Nursing (recycling, marginalized group advocacy, political groups, and others) be denied space on the basis of Administrative oversight and I have watch these groups struggle to obtain space to gather over my past three years at CUNY.

Board of Trustees Hearing on November 16, 2015 [Ana Paola White on behalf of CUNY Divest]
YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTPKRXXVEaSw>

First I would like to say **thank you, to the Board of Trustees for continuing to remain vigilant in these chaotic times.** Just this weekend, as you all know, Paris was attacked in the midst of preparations for global peace leaders to complete the important work of **saving humanity from catastrophic climate change, called the United Nations COP21** [1]. While we bow our heads in solidarity, it is also important to continue our essential work, because we cannot stand down in fear, we must continue.

The largest American oil and gas company, **Exxon-Mobil's corporate personal are now being investigated for a conscious and explicit campaign of lies against the American Public regarding climate change, and their denial of impact** [2], despite NASA scientist James Hansen's report and recommendations in the 1970's [3], of which Exxon had their own, equivalent independent research in the 1980's that corroborated in the potential harmful impact on humanity [2]. **15 resolutions including the University Student Senate, the Professional Staff Congress, and 11 CUNY colleges, have asked for divestment.** [4]

On September 08, 2014, Cambridge Associates spoke to Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza's Committee on Budget and Finance, [5] stating that if "climate change [is]...of that paramount importance", divestment was possible (despite Cambridge Associates limited knowledge of existing mutual funds) and mentioned **Tobacco, which CUNY decidedly divested from in 1990 [5b]**, thanks to Trustee Edith Everett, and it was recommended that we establish "permanent subcommittee" while looking at the potential cost. [5]

What Cambridge called a "theory" at the time, is formally known as the IMPAX Asset Management 2013 report [6] involving major investment groups like Reuters, CitiGroup, Aviva Investors that advise Oxford University in the UK, and has now been empirically proven- **two billionaires, Michael Bloomberg and Tom Steyer have called now called these assets a "risky business", California state has lost \$5Billion in California State Teacher's retirement pension funds, according to Trillium Asset Management report which found that coal has plummeted 25% in the past year alone [7]. This has prompted New York State level [8], New York City level [9], and many other Universities to propose legislation for Divestment [10], now.**

1. We demand to know the amount lost in the last year due to inaction of the Board of Trustees to consider Divestment from Fossil Fuels; natural gas companies continue to build infrastructure for natural gas pipelines and power plants in places like Orange County, NY [11], which the Environmental Protection Agency has established as a hazard to our drinking water and human health [12], and we have since banned fracking in the State of New York due to the overwhelming research compiled in the New York State Department of Health's recommendations to Governor Cuomo [13].
2. We request the establishment of a permanent subcommittee on Divestment and Reinvestment, to establish environmental, social and governmental (ESG) policies in the future, to keep our Investments within the scope of our mission at CUNY, which is "academic excellence", "equal access", and "affordability." [14, 14b]

CUNY Divest has been recognized by the University Student Senate as a "Student Organization of the Year, 2015" [15] and I'd like to point out to Mr. Dobrin as a Nurse in New York State, we don't want to be paid for a health crisis that could have been prevented. Thank you.

1. UN COP21: <http://www.cop21paris.org/about/cop21>

2. Exxon-Mobil article from The Nation: <http://www.thenation.com/article/exxon-knew-everything-there-was-to-know-about-climate-change-by-the-mid-1980s-and-denied-it/>

3. Hansen Report: http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/docs/2008/2008_Hansen_etal_1.pdf

4. CUNY Divest Victories. <http://www.cunydivest.org/victories>
5. VC Mathew Sapienza's Report in Photos, Sept 08, 2014:
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10103125254531829&set=pcb.10103125338837879&type=3&theater>
- 5b. Edith Everett and CUNY Divests from Tobacco [NY Times]: <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/05/24/us/harvard-and-cuny-shedding-stocks-in-tobacco.html>
6. IMPAX Asset Management 2013; https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.350.org/images/Impax--20130704_white_paper_fossil_fuel_divestment_uk_final.pdf
- Related Article [Guardian] <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/apr/19/carbon-bubble-financial-crash-crisis>; BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34797272>
7. Trillium Asset Report: <http://www.trilliuminvest.com/>
8. New York State Divestment: <http://www.newsweek.com/coal-divestment-new-york-city-pension-funds-de-blasio-377915>
9. New York City Divestment: Senator Kruger and Ortiz: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/krueger-ortiz-announce-fossil-fuel-divestment-act>
10. Stanford, Columbia Divestment: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/07/education/stanford-to-purge-18-billion-endowment-of-coal-stock.html?_r=0 ; <http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/23/us/columbia-university-prison-divest/>
11. Save Orange County: <http://www.blog.protectororangecounty.org/>
12. EPA and Fracking Hazards: <http://www2.epa.gov/hfstudy>
13. New York State Department of Health (187 pg. Report):
http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf
14. CUNY Mission: <http://www2.cuny.edu/about/history/>
- 14b. CUNY Affordability: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/value/affordable.html>
15. CUNY University Student Senate, <http://www.usscuny.org/> ; 2015 CUNY USS Final Report (with a special thanks to Lucas Almonte, Donavan Borington, Fernando Arujo, and Joseph Awadje) http://issuu.com/universitystudentsenate/docs/annual_report_final

OCTOBER 2014

CCNY Parents discovered that the City College Administration was calling Daycares in the City College area asking if they could take the Child Development Center children. Parents were concerned that the administration may have plans to close down the Center.

October 18th: CCNY Family Day: flyers of the Child Development Center are not given to parents and students by the Administration.

October 21st: As consequence of a meeting that the student parents' coordinator has with the VP of Student Affairs Juana Reina, Miss Reina call a meeting at the Center. Juana Reina communicated to parents that, while she hopes that the Center will remain open until June 2015, she can give no written guarantees. She claimed that the Center runs at a yearly operating deficit and it is unclear for how long the College can continue to subsidize the Center, although she hopes that they can continue to subsidize the Center till June 2015. She said that it is likely they will have to close the daycare in September 2015. When asked what is the plan for renovation, Juana Reina is vague and she mentioned, "1.6 million dollar is not going to be enough to buy new furniture". When asked about relocation, she stated that this is impossible to happen.

October 28th: Student parents sent a letter/petition to the Administration with the following requests: (1) that the administration **commit in writing** to keeping the Center open for the 2014 – 2015 school year. (2) that the administration to **commit in writing** to keeping the Center open in September 2015, even if the renovations take longer than the summer months, and to commit to providing alternative space for the Center if necessary. (3) to have in writing that the money given by Councilman Jackson will be used to renovate the premises **for and only for** future use of the Childcare Center.

October 31st: Juana Reina responder: "For several years, The City College of New York has provided financial support for the City College Child Development Center, Inc., even though the center is and has been a corporation that is separate and apart from the college. City College is committed to assisting the corporation in keeping the center open through June 2015.

As you are aware, renovations to the center are scheduled to begin during the summer of 2015. Therefore, the center will be closing for renovations after June 15. The renovations are expected to take a minimum of one year."

NOVEMBER 2014:

The communication between Juana Reina and student parents continued and student parents started contacting students, Professors, politicians and media outlets.

November 10th: Student parents reply to Juana Reina: "We understand that the center is a corporation apart from the college. But since its governing body is a Board of Directors, of whom the majority of members belong to the City College administration, we feel it is relevant to continue directing our requests toward the administration." Student parents also point out that Juana Reina has not addressed the other two requests in our letter: (2) Can you assure us in writing that the Center will remain open after June 2015 and where will it be housed while renovations are taking place? and (3) Can we get your commitment in writing that the \$1.6 million will be used only for the purposes of renovating the Center and that the renovated space will be used only for the Center and not for anything else upon completion".

November 14th: Juana Reina replied: "As you know, the City College Child Development Center, Inc. will close in June 2015 for renovations. It is our intent to use designated funding for the renovation of

the childcare center. To ease the transition, we have decided to assist parents for one year by providing subsidies for the differential in childcare tuition, not to exceed market rate, for students enrolled during the 2015 academic year. More details on this arrangement are forthcoming”.

November 20: Parents inform Juana Reina in writing that they “strongly agreed to reject your proposal of providing subsidies for outside childcare during the 2015 academic year. We are simply not willing to accept this in lieu of a promise that the Center will remain open permanently, and we feel that if the Center ceases operating, even temporarily, it will be much harder to get it started up again later. We were also troubled that your plan makes no provisions for the staff, who will be left without a job.

Moreover, we are uncomfortable with the decision making process here. In your earlier email you stated that the Center is a corporation apart from the college, therefore, it is the governing body of the Childcare Center (ie, the board of directors) who should make decisions related to its running and not the City College administration. There has been no board meeting this semester, at a very critical time, and we ask that you call a board meeting as soon as possible. It is this governing body that should be making decisions related to the Center.

We are feeling like time is running out for us and so at the meeting today we have decided that we are going to begin our public campaign to keep the Center open. Our demands still stand, as noted below: (2) Can you assure us in writing that the Center will remain open after June 2015 and where will it be housed while renovations are taking place? and (3) Can we get your commitment in writing that the \$1.6 million will be used only for the purposes of renovating the Center and that the renovated space will be used only for the Center and not for anything else upon completion. In the meantime, we will continue our public campaign to build awareness about the importance of the Center for students at CCNY.”

November 24: Student parents created the online petition:

<http://tinyurl.com/CCNYparentspetition> addressed to City College of New York administration Lisa S. Coico, Child Development Center Board Member Annetta McKenzie, Child Development Center Board Member Karen Witherspoon, City College of New York Administrator and Child Development Center Board Member Juana Reina, Child Development Center Board Member Felix Lam Student Government President and Child Development Center Board Member Ramdat Singh, Child Development Center Board Member Beverly Falk, City College of New York administration Frank.Sanchez, City College of New York administration Deborah Hartnett, Child Development Center Board Member Wendy Thornton.

DECEMBER 2014

The communication between Juana Reina and student parents continued. Also, many Professors and students send e-mails to the Administration with questions about the future of the Center. Students were also un-officially informed that Juana Reina indicated to not distribute the Child Development Center flyer at the Family because the center was schedule to close in December.

December 1st: Even if student parents officially refused the offer of subsidies, Juana Reina sent this e-mail to Professor Jeruzalmi, who distribute it between Professors: “There are no plans to close the Center. As was widely publicized nearly three years ago, the Center received a generous renovation gift of approximately 1.6 million dollars. The renovations are scheduled to begin soon after the Center closes in spring 2015. Since it is expected to take at least a year, the parents of currently children have been told that the College will pay the differential for them and those who may enroll in the spring, 2015 between what they are charge now at the Center, and what it will cost to provide care at an area center.”

Also, Alyssia Osorio, one student activist spoke with Juana Reina on student parents behalf. Reina claims that she DID gave to student parents a promise in writing that the Center will remain open after renovations. Something that she did not do till now.

December 11: Juana Reina responded: "We share your concern and support for the City College Child Development Center, and it is our intent to support the center after renovations are completed. As you know, the City College Childcare Development Center, built in 1912, will undergo a much-needed facelift to improve the quality of space and modernize the facility, including an outdated HVAC system. The center will close June 2015 for the required renovations. Designated funding will be used for renovations, which are expected to take at least one year. To ease the transition, City College will assist parents for one year by providing subsidies for the differential in child care tuition, not to exceed market rate, for students enrolled in the 2014-2015 academic year. City College also will provide parents with a listing of other childcare centers near the campus. Retraining and job placement assistance will be provided for childcare center staff since the facility will be closed while renovations take place. City College has a longstanding history of supporting the childcare center and intends to do so after renovations are completed. We will continue to work with you throughout the transition."

December 18th: Juana Reina asked to the Director of the Center Maribel Burgos to contact all the founders of the Center and tell them that the Center is not going to need their funding anymore since it is closing on June.

December 19th: Student parents replied "As we have already said to you in an earlier email, the parents of the City College Child Development Center unanimously reject the offer of the college to provide subsidies for one year of child care tuition. Our demand is that the Center be relocated to an alternative space, preferably within the College, while the renovations are taking place. We feel that the administration is not hearing our voices and so as the Spring semester gets underway we plan to launch a major campaign with news media, petitions, our local legislators who have given money for the renovations, and broader networks to fight for our demand that the Center be relocate".

JANUARY 2015

January 9th: There was the Center Board meeting held by VP Juana Reina. Even of the Childcare Center board is the governing body of the Center and this is where decisions should be made related to the running of the Center, it appeared to the Parent Coordinator that that all decisions were made in advance and the meeting lasted only about ten minutes while Juana Reina informed us of the decisions made by the City College administration. The student Government President Ramdat Singh will later inform student parents that it was informed about all the decision about the Center closing in January and not previous that meeting. 7 people were present at the board meeting there were about, most were members of the administration themselves. Board Members were told that surveying of the Center building will begin soon after the Center closing in June and it will take about eight months to design the plans and renovations. The actual renovations will begin in about October 2015. Reina said again that current enrolled students will be subsidized for a year for outside childcare. They claimed that the renovations will take about 26 months. Reina also presented documents saying that the Center runs at an annual deficit of about \$60,000 that is currently covered by the College. Their numbers do not square with the numbers student parents have and they do not add up, so I have asked for copies of the financials so that I can review them.

The parent coordinator then spoke out against the plans. She said that all of the parent-students at the Center were very clear that we reject the subsidy plan and that we want the Center to be relocated to alternative premises while renovations take place, rather than closing it. If we lose the teachers and the children go elsewhere, and if we lose our federal and state funding, then there is no

way that the Center will feasibly be able to reopen. Reina's response was that the facilities will be renovated as childcare facilities and so they do not have another use in mind for the space. She gave no other commitment that they would not use the space for other things. The parent coordinator brought up her conversation with Natalie Espino from Councilman Mark Levine's office. The council member is very interested in helping make sure that the \$1.6 million given for the Center renovation is actually used for those purposes. Ms Espino said that childcare is high on their agenda and they want these facilities to remain open. Ms Espino made two suggestions for us:

(1) They can offer a mediated discussion in their offices between the CCNY administration and Center staff, parents, and faculty. They would be happy to help us look for an alternative space for the Center in the Fall.

(2) If extra funds are needed next year during the relocation they can help us brainstorm funding sources for expenses and operation costs. They also have some grants that we could apply for.

The parent coordinator relayed this offer and this conversation to Reina at the meeting, and she said that she doesn't think that anyone will be able to help, as people always promise help and nothing comes of it in the end. So she rejected the idea of working with the council people.

After an e-mail in which the parent coordinator explained what happened at the meeting, there have been an e-mail back and forth with the Board Member Beverly Falk. Parents asked questions such as how the City College is going to support incoming student parents? What is going to happen to old and new students parents during the long renovation? Why the length of the renovation changed from one year to 26 months? Why is Miss Juana Reina not willing to collaborate with Miss Natalie Espino? What will happen to the staff that are being let go as of June 2015, with no severance pay after having given many decades of their life to the Center? Why cutting off all State and Federal Funding?

Professor Beverly Falk did not address any of these question stating to not have inside information from the administration (even if she is a Board Member and she is suppose to be part of the decision process). When asked to have a meeting with parents, she replied in a private message to one parent "Why don't you drop by my office to chat?", and, after this parent asked again about a meeting with all parents in a shared e-mail, Professor Falk stopped replying.

January 9th: In a meeting with staff after our board meeting, Reina told the staff that they will be let go as of June 2015. They will not be given any kind of severance pay, and no guarantee to return to their jobs. All of the funders will be told that the money is no longer needed as the Center is closing. Teachers were told that they were free to leave also in January if they preferred.

January 12: A student-parent contacted the Student Government President Ramdat Singh. He wrote: "My understanding is that the current center is not in line with NYC codes and the renovations are needed to put the center align with NYC Code laws. Additionally the College is offering the stipends for a outside child care center because their is not a space suitable for a temporary child care center. I brought the issue up and the college is committed to re-opening the center once the renovations are finished. I also sit on the Child Care Center Board of Directors. So i will ensure the center will re-open."

Parents replied that "the center is actually in alignment with the NYC codes and has passed all inspections to date. The center staff has been very helpful in keeping us updated. The parents are also very concerned that the administration will be cutting off state funding, firing teachers etc and it will be practically impossible to reopen the Center. We are also very concerned with the various information about how long renovations will take. First we were told one year and now it's two. Also what about incoming parents? Is City College is going to support students parents willing to enroll at City College after this June? While we know it is almost impossible to relocate on City College premises, we feel like there are other alternatives. We don't believe that the administration is being completely honest about their intentions. And while I do thank you for hearing us out, some of the parents don't feel that we are getting the support we need from the student government. I quote one parent in saying "They should be on our side!". I hope to hear from you soon. We truly want this

matter resolved quickly and to the best interest of everyone". Ramdat Sight replied that he was going to "email the director and set up a date for a walk through along with other members of student government. The director will have to show us where the repairs are needed. Once the walkthrough happens, we will let you know our findings". Student parents did not hear back from the student Government President until when they went to the Student Government Meeting on March 5th.

January 13th: A financial Statement of the business type activities of the Child Development Center is emitted by the West II & Complanly, LLP after the Board Of Directors of the City College Child Development Center, Inc audites them to do it. The Report is visible on this link:

<http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/finance/upload/FINANCIAL-STATEMENTS-2014-CDC-1-3.pdf>

Despite an annual deficit of about \$60,000, the report does state that the Center could become sustainable. From student parents understanding, that deficit and the debt were both caused by the college. They promised additional funds to raise the teachers' salaries, so the former Director LaTrella Thorner raised the salaries and then the college never gave the money. Student parents have all the paperwork to prove it. Now the City College is giving 'loans' to the Center to cover the debts when they really owe this money.

January 28th: On Wednesday at 10 pm, Professor Bill Crain talked about the Child Development Center, its importance, and its history at his Radio Show on WBAI Radio, 99.5 fm. It is possible to play or download this show called "Women's Collective/Open Center/Ethics on the Air" following this link <http://www.wbai.org/server-archive.html>

FEBRUARY 2015

February 11: Professor Bill Crain explained in an e-mail to student parents that, as member of the University Faculty Senate, at the plenary meetings, he said: "I am Bill Crain from The City College. My college has a long history of student activism. For many years, student activists, many of whom have been students of color, used a room at City College, the Morales-Shakur Center, to discuss a more just society. They sometimes planned demonstrations. In October, 2013, the university took the room away. It gave no plausible explanation. Now, another physical space is threatened. In the early 1970s, people of African descent created the Child Development Center at City College. It has provided day care for students' children and has tried to give Black children a positive sense of identity. For example, it has included picture books that aren't limited to white heroes and has introduced the children to African celebrations. Now our administration plans to close it for renovations and then replace and re-train the staff. What does this mean, to re-train staff with an African viewpoint? The Center's meaning for people of African descent is at risk. I want you to know about these events and ask you to look into them. I realize that student activism can be troublesome for administrators, but the activists are trying to bring about a better society and a university that better serves disenfranchised people.

February 19th: In the Faculty Plenary meeting, Professor Jeruzalmi stated that the Child Development Center will be close in June for renovation, because the Center is not up to code. According with the official information student parents have, the building is up to code. It has passed all of the rigorous mandatory inspections by the Department of Education that are required for daycare and childcare institutions. It would not be permitted to operate if it were not up to code.

February 23th: Student Parents had a BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO CLASS day Rally in favor of the Child Development Center.

February 25th: A disturbing incident happened at the Center. Find details in the following text taken

from an e-mail sent by a parent to the President Lisa Coico:" This morning all the parents received a phone call from the staff telling us to come immediately to pick our children up because a child at the center had measles. As you can imagine this posed no small hardship to all the parents involved. I immediately realized who the child was since last night his Mom had emailed all parents asking if any other child was suffering from bug bites, since her son had come home with many bites. I was pretty sure that the child could not have measles since I know that his father is an infectious disease specialist who would not have sent his kid to school even under a faint suspicion of the child being sick with any communicable disease, let alone measles. It turns out that the director of the Center took the child to the nurse (Teresa Walker) just to be safe. The nurse misdiagnosed measles and had a phone conversation with the mother where she ignored all the information above (indicating that it could not be measles), accused her of negligence, and inquired about the attendance of the child to a political rally on campus last Monday. The nurse also spoke by phone with the pediatrician of the child who told her that she should consult with a doctor before making such a diagnosis and should definitely not send the child away on an ambulance without the consent of the parents. In spite of this the nurse sent the child to the hospital on an ambulance, and did report the parents to the authorities for negligence. At the hospital the doctors found nothing wrong with the child and were baffled as to why a nurse would over-react like this. While I understand that in cases like this it's better to be safe than sorry, it's the circumstances surrounding the event that give me pause. First of all why would the nurse go against the instructions of the child's pediatrician? Second why was the nurse so harsh and rude with the parents of the child, and even went so far as reporting them to the authorities for negligence? Third, how did the nurse know about the political rally that the children and parents of the Center held on Monday to protest the closing of the center? And why would she choose to focus on that irrelevant event, while dealing with a possibly sick child? It's hard not to see some sort of retaliation happening from the administration against parents who are fighting for their right of affordable childcare on campus (the parent in question is the parent rep on the Board of Directors and has been very active and vocal in the fight for the Center to stay open). I have to say that I am very disappointed with the way the administration is handling how to plan for the Center future. The students have been very active and are trying to preserve a very valuable institution that allows many students to attend classes. Students are not just protesting: they are taking an active role in trying to solve this problem given the administration inaction. One positive thing that has come out of the students' activism is that they have contacted Councilmember Mark Levine, who has offered to mediate this controversy and even come up with the money and the space to keep the Center open during renovations. Yet the administration has refused to sit at a mediation table with Councilmember Levine and explore options to keep the Center alive. Why? And now we see parents at the Center being viciously attacked?"

15 minutes after this e-mail was sent, the parent of the "sick" child got a phone call from the nurse offering to pay all hospital bills. On March 31st, when sent a bill a notification from my insurance that the hospital is billing, the nurse backed out the offer, and offered to meet instead to "clarify the matter".

MARCH 2015

March 4th: The free and open to public event "*Stories of Struggle: Histories of Childcare Activism at CUNY* with speakers Tahir Butt, Sujatha Fernandes, Alyssia Osorio, James Small, LaTrella Thornton" Took place at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Scholars and activists who were involved in the fight for childcare during the period of open admissions at City College in the 1970s explored the history of childcare activism at CUNY. Students fighting to preserve those spaces today added to the discussion, moderated by Sujatha Fernandes. During this event, the former Director LaTrella Thornton confirmed that the Center was scheduled to be closed in December 2014.

March 5th: Parents participated to the Student Government Meeting and presented their concerns to them.

March 6th: Student Parents bring their testimony at the Committee on Higher Education at City College. Video of the hearing present on this link:

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=385684&GUID=D9849E0E-8544-466A-A56E-FF8A34BDE85F&Options=&Search> CUNY central administrators' testimony starts at 1:23:25, and runs until 1:29:12. Student parent testimony starts at 2:46:18 and runs to the end, at 3:11:55. Frank Sanchez mentions that the Center is open to Faculty and Staff, something that it is not truth.

March 15th: Peter Hogness wrote on the Clarion Magazine the article: "Students Protest Against CCNY Plan for Childcare Center Closing" (It is possible to see the article using this link: <http://www.psc-cuny.org/node/8276>)

March: The Center Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Charles, following Miss Juana Reina direction, send a letter to student parents indicating that: "if you live in New York City and your child was born in 2011, he or she is eligible to attend a free, high quality pre-K program in September 2015". The letter continues indicating the DOE link to pre-K Directory and Application: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/default.htm>. Note that in the Pre-K Directory for the school year 2015-16 the name of the City College Child Development Center is present.

March 31st: Parents planned to have Celebration at the Center connected to the children Birthday Celebration. The VP of Student Affair Juana Reina called multiple times the Director refusing her permission to it. Student parents believed that there was no reason to not have the Celebration since parents have Birthday Celebration every month and the permission to do was never refused. So student parents got together to celebrate some children birthdays and few friends joined them. The VP of student Affair sent her Assistant and a security Guard to oversee it.

APRIL 2015

April 15th: City College students organized a City College Day of Action in solidarity with protests internationally for low wage workers, with a rally in front of the Administration Building. Student parents, together with students from different student clubs talked about the importance of maintaining the Child Development Center open and on Campus.

April 16th: The chair of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee Marie C. Nazon (that student parents contacted previous with no success) invited parents to attend their Committee Meeting on April 20th. Professor Nazon explained in an e-mail that "The issue of the child care center came to our attention last semester. We addressed this with VP Reina. When she reported to our committee it seemed that the concerns of the students were being address. Subsequently when i heard there was a rally regarding the center, I realized we needed to revisit this issue".

April 22nd at the Earth Day Cabaret! Our children artworks will be exhibited there!

As parents of the City College Child Development Center, we are writing to express our deep concern that the administration may have plans to close down the Center. In a conversation on October 21st with the Vice President for Student Affairs, Juana Reina, she communicated to parents that while she hopes that the Center will remain open until June 2015, she can give no written guarantees. She claimed that the Center runs at a yearly operating deficit and it is unclear for how long the College can continue to subsidize the Center, although she hopes that they can continue to subsidize the Center till June 2015. She also said that it is likely they will have to close the daycare in September 2015 if planned renovations to the Center's building facilities take longer than expected.

We parents are very concerned as we would like to have a guarantee that the Center will remain open. Not only do we parents rely on the high quality and affordability of the program at the Center, but there are several of us with older children who require full time care at the Universal Pre-K (UPK) level, which the Child Development Center is contracted by the city to provide for this school year. The enrollment for local pre-K programs takes place in February of the previous year for September enrollments, and now the schools are all full to capacity with waiting lists. If the Center closes before June 2015, it would be near impossible to find a Pre-K slot for our children anywhere.

In addition to the parents, there are the staff who are on fixed contracts through to June 2015, and those contracts must be honored to the end of the year. There are also a range of work study and fieldwork students who rely on the Center to earn credits for their courses.

According to the financial records that have been made available to us, it seems that the College does not need to subsidize the Childcare Center as the Center does have enough to meet its operating costs for the 2014 – 2015 year. The yearly expenses for the Center total about \$400,000 and currently the Center receives enough in funds from state and federal funds, as well as student fees and tuition that it can cover those expenses adequately. The Center has had some staff cutbacks this year, reducing its expenses, and plans to cut back further on its expenses to provide even more of a cushion.

We have also heard that the Center has a debt of about \$260,000. It seems that the debt accrued over time because City College had promised certain "Compact funds" to the Center and then took that money out of the Center's State funds allocation instead of the College budget, leaving the Center with a large debt over time. We hope that you will work with us to raise this money from the College budget and outside sources, and thereby bring the Center out of debt.

The final issue is that of the \$1.6 million promised to the Center by former Councilman Robert Jackson in 2012 for renovations to the facilities. Ms. Reina informed us that the renovations are scheduled to begin in June 2015, but she expressly stated that in order for the Center to continue functioning in the renovated space it must be financially viable. If the College can help us take care of the debt then there should be no problem to run and expand the Center in a newly renovated premises. By opening the renovated Center to staff and faculty and perhaps outside children at market rate, the Center will be self-sustaining. We want assurances that the money from Councilman Jackson will be used to renovate the space for the purposes of childcare, and that we will not be told **after the renovations** that because of financial issues that the Center will be closed and the premises used for other purposes. That would be misuse of city funds. If the renovations take longer than the summer months when the Center is closed, then the Center must be housed elsewhere. If it is closed even for a short period of time, that will cause great hardship to families and the loss of staff and students will make it harder to reopen at a later date.

In summary, we have several clear requests for the City College administration. (1) We are requesting that the administration **commit in writing** to keeping the Center open for the 2014 – 2015 school year. (2) We would like the administration to **commit in writing** to keeping the Center open in September 2015, even if the renovations take longer than the summer months, and to commit to providing alternative space for the Center if necessary. (3) We would like to have in writing that the money given by Councilman Jackson will be used to renovate the premises **for and only for** future use of the Childcare Center.

We welcome your response to our requests within two to three weeks.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

STUDENT PARENTS' TESTIMONIES

Jennifer Taveras's Testimony:

My name is Jennifer Taveras, and I am a single mother and an Environmental Engineering student at the City College of New York (CUNY). I write to you, imploring you to do something about the availability of low-cost day care at City College. The current daycare establishment at City College—The Child Development Center—is set to be closed for a year, and that would be devastating to the many families that it has helped and continue to help.

The Center that has served many parents, including myself, by providing a safe and educational environment for our children as we pursue our education and career goals without worrying that our children are left unattended, or being inconvenienced in time and money to find day care on or close to campus. My son, Ethan Taveras, is 2 years and 5 months old, and I've noticed a significant improvement in his development since I started bringing him to the Development Center beginning in fall 2014. I felt secure leaving him there, as the Center has an amazing staff and is in close proximity to my classes as it is on the college campus. It was also an incredible opportunity for me as a single mother, to be able to go to school with my son nearby and to pick him up after classes every day at 5pm.

For the past 2 years I have struggled to keep up with my studies and find affordable daycare that makes a good influence on the growth of my son. Before signing him up at the Child Development Center, this task was impossible. The Child Development Center is not only economically affordable; it is a secure environment, close to the college, where our children really grow, enjoy and learn.

I went through a lot to finally have my son get in the school's daycare system, and now to hear the devastating news that the center will be closed breaks my heart. It is said that the Center will be renovated, but it is being closed now for renovations that will not start for a year, and it may not be open for much longer after that because of lack of funding. I am concerned that this action will not only cause many parents to not register for classes next semester, but it will also make them work harder and more hours to afford other local daycare facilities in close proximity of City College. This makes the burden of going to school and working and parenting that much harder, and ultimately impedes our ability to provide the best for our children by securing for ourselves quality education and gainful employment. This is further exacerbated by the fact that most other daycare centers in the vicinity are full, and if they are not full, they are very competitive and costly. I have personally called more than six centers around the college, only to find that applications won't begin until the middle of June, and even then there is no guarantee of acceptance.

We active parents are fighting to keeping the center open, or at least until the renovation is really about to start. Why shut down the center now if it can't be renovated until next year? If the plan is to renovate the center to have a better environment for our children, the only thing we ask is to have the center relocate to one of the rooms at the college or at a different place close to the college. That way the staff that worked tirelessly to keep our children safe and educated can also keep their jobs, and us parents can keep our children safe and close as we pursue our goals.

It is sad to me that I am just over one year away from achieving my goal of graduating and yet I am living in the uncertainty of not knowing whether I will be able to finish because I cannot find somewhere to take care of my son while I study. I am worrying about this when I should be worrying about my final exams. Having my son Ethan at the Child Development Center at City College has been magnificent, and I am constantly praying, and hoping they give us parents that are attending school the support we need and help us with our children.

Please, we ask that you intervene and help in any way that you can. We have tried everything from handing out flyers to increase awareness to launching a campaign at [change.org](https://www.change.org), all to no avail. Please show us that you care about single parents trying to do their best for their family.

Laura Heredia's testimony:

As a young parent the first thing people expect of you is to give up your dreams of becoming "someone" because now you are a parent and nothing else matters but your child. Part of that phrase is right; nothing else matters but your child; yes, but how do you expect to raise an exceptional child if you as parent don't have an education? I believe education is the way to succeed in life, and I want to teach my son that. I am beyond grateful that the school where I decided to continue my education offered child care. As a first time mother I am very peculiar about who can take care of my son. But in the city college's child center i not only felt comfortable leaving my child while I was in school, I also knew that my child was receiving an amazing education just like his mother. In the 2 years that my son was enrolled in the center, he learned a great amount of vocabulary. He also learned new skills but must importantly we made friends, that I hope will last for life. Not only the teachers were very involved in the children, making sure they were happy and were learning but they also socialized with the parents so they could have an idea of what background the child came from. I have never seen a group of people (teachers) that made you feel like family. My biggest wish right now is that more parents that will love to continue their education could have the same opportunity as me. The fact that you can have a safe place near your school, where your child can make friends, feel safe, happy and mature into a big kid it's amazing.

Giulianna Tedesco's testimony:

There is a stereotype among some Americans that immigrants come to this country looking to sponge off the system—to take advantage of government handouts by soaking up financial, nutritional, and medical assistance. While in reality this stereotype is far from true, what should we think when the "system" suddenly forces an immigrant or another hard-working individual to become that very sponge that some Americans resent? If the Child Development Center closes, this is exactly what will happen to many of us; only, that sponge may not be effective enough for us to survive the financial flood we will suddenly find ourselves in. By closing the Child Development Center, City College is in effect deferring, and in some cases destroying, the dreams of not one, but potentially two generations; for while many of us are immigrants trying to further our economic (and intellectual) opportunities, all of us are parents trying to raise young children. It is already a struggle for us to balance raising a family with getting an education, and for many of us the CDC closing is the tipping point that may force us to interrupt or even cease our studies. My personal experience with alternative daycare in the Hamilton Heights area is this: having my son sit in someone's home daycare parked in front of a TV set all day. For \$1200 a month, he learned all about Ninja Turtles, Spongebob Squarepants, and Power Rangers—all while developing a love of mozzarella sticks and chicken nuggets. I started this letter talking about stereotypes. Another stereotype Americans have is that universities are places where idealism is still alive. They are places that still promote the idea of a meritocracy—a level playing field in which everyone has a fair chance if they are willing to work hard. In the case of City College, how I wish this stereotype to be true. I leave you with this thought. Everyday we bring our children to the CDC and we look over our shoulders at the brand-new, huge, multi-million dollar structures being built only steps away from us.... And we ask you, is there not some small place you can find for our children?

Marina Massaro's testimony:

My name is Marina Massaro, I am a mom and a City College Art Education graduate student. My daughter Agata attends the City College Child Development Center.

I moved to New York six years ago from Italy after completing my Bachelor Degree there. I was looking to spend nine months and move back to my Country and family. I ended up falling in love,

getting a job (and a visa) and staying. After my daughter was born I felt the need to go back to school and acquire new knowledge and skills.

The Child Development Center, offered to City College students, was a major factor in deciding if and where I would pursue my master's. As a single, working mother living in a country that is not my own, I felt happy, relieved, and comfortable going back to school because the college offered high quality and affordable childcare.

My daughter has now been attending the Child Development Center for almost two years, and both my daughter and I have benefited immensely from this opportunity. My life as a single mom is so hectic but I find comfort in knowing that Agata has a stable environment to go to. She has had the same teachers and friends for the past two years and this kind of stability is extremely important to young children and hard to maintain when one has to work, go to school and raise a child alone. Agata and I became part of a community that values education and families. Parents and teachers work in developing each child's abilities, strengths, interests and needs. As Art Education student, I am pleased to see the important role arts play in the Center, and how children investigate arts all day. When I discovered that a large amount of money was donated to the Center, and it was going to be closed for renovation, I panicked. I got worried for my self and my daughter's education and for all the student parents that were planning to attend City College and the Center next year. I would have personally not even started studied in City College would not have had a daycare, and the same is for many other parents.

I believe that this money was donated with the best intention. I believe Senator Jackson truly valued the education both parents and children receives while attending respectively the City College and the Child Development Center and this is why he donated the money. I believe it was not his intention to have the Center closed for two years, have all state and federal funding cut off, all teachers fired, and no support for student parents, as consequence of his donation.

We parents believe that the best option now is to relocate the Center during renovation. The City College administration has been telling us that this is impossible. We would like to ask for your help in finding funding to get an alternative space to host the Center while renovation takes place.

Eridiana Diaz's testimony:

My name is Eridiana Diaz and I am a Student parent at The City College of New York. I became pregnant with my daughter Hailey Mendez, at 19 years old as a sophomore in college. She was born May 2012, and during my last trimester I took the spring12' semester off. During her first year of life, I was very fortunate to have a family member watch over my child. As soon as my daughter turned one, her aunt was forced to leave the state to address a family emergency.

I felt as though the world had abandoned me, I was only 20 years old and had no clue what was going to happen to my 1 year old or me. Many thoughts came to mind and I asked myself, how I would continue my studies or even keep my part-time job? Who is going to watch-over my child? My daughter isn't even capable of defending or expressing herself! With no one to watch my child, I would be forced to stay home for a long period of time.

Fortunately for me, a family friend had a licensed at home childcare and I felt comfortable leaving my daughter with her. But this convenience only lasted but so long! And once again I felt lost and this time very angry. I was not able to afford the private daycare center because I was a full time student at CCNY (a four year university) and a part-time employee making only 50\$ a week. My daughter's childcare was \$160.00 weekly, and I couldn't bring this burden upon my mother or anyone else. It was my responsibility to pay for the care of my child. I was now put into a situation where I felt helpless and vulnerable; I was in a four-year college, so also didn't qualify for any government subsidies. I couldn't apply to ACS or an HRA voucher because I was furthering my education.

Where was my child going to stay? Does this mean I have to stay home until she's able to attend public school? Will I be able to go back to school, or will I be forced to work because my daughter would be at an age where her needs are greater? Does this mean I will no longer have the

opportunity to become a professional? I could only think of the future and the what if's.

Once again I was lucky enough to find out about the CCNY Child Developmental Center. I spent my summer potty training my child because I knew the program only watched over children without pampers/pull-ups ages 2 and over, and also because I knew this was going to be my only opportunity to continuing school and providing the best for both my child and myself. And so I took on the challenge and I did it! She was potty trained and enrolled in the center Fall 14'. It was the best decision of my life. At first the tuition of the program was only \$75 a week and it was easier for me financially to pay \$75 than to pay \$160. Over the semester, I was told I qualified for a grant aid program and I paid absolutely nothing for the rest of Fall.

The program not only levitated my pockets, and relieved me of a financial burden, but it improved and ultimately DEVELOPED my daughter in everyway possible. In less than three months, Hailey's vocabulary had expanded tremendously! I was left in awe when listening to her express herself in sentences. She has been able to have a complete conversation with me, recall all of her friends and most events throughout the day, and after reading a book she is able to recount favorite part of the story. She comes home singing nursery rhymes and asking to paint and cut pictures for her collage. That semester, I found that my daughter had been exposed to so much as a 2 year old, and she was absorbing all the information and interaction provided by the Childcare Center at CCNY.

If it were not for this program, Hailey (my two year old baby) , would have probably been in someone's house stuck beside the television all day. The center doesn't focus on the little things like the ABCs and 123s, but they concentrate on the spatial things that allow for deeper understanding and critical thinking. They force the child to use all of their senses to discover and communicate new ideas and activities. For a price of absolutely ZERO dollars a week, I felt as though I had won the lotto, because my daughter was gaining a free education from 7:45am-5:30pm with an amazing group of teachers and a beautifully crafted age-appropriate curriculum.

I truly do hope for the council to provide the center with funds for relocation, so that the center continues to remain open. This center is beneficial to Student-Parents of CCNY and their children. Completely closing the center down for two years without being relocated during the time of renovations, means putting a number of other Student-Parents out of school for the same amount of time. The college should promote, acknowledge and ultimately support Student-Parents, however completely eliminating the option of childcare will leave many of parents like us out of school for an unnecessary longer period of time. We ask for you to fund a site to relocate our teachers, our children, and our center so that we may continue to further our education semester after semester without any interruptions.



Ana Paola White <anapaola.w@gmail.com>

CCNY Child Development Center

Puello, Giovanni (ManhattanBP) <GPuello@manhattanbp.nyc.gov> Tue, May 19, 2015 at 12:47 PM
 To: marina massaro <massaro1508@gmail.com>, Frank Sanchez <Frank.Sanchez@cuny.edu>
 Cc: Betty Pearsall <Betty.Pearsall@cuny.edu>, "ccnyparents@yahoo.com" <ccnyparents@yahoo.com>, "Oscar Martinez (Omart92@hotmail.com)" <Omart92@hotmail.com>, Joseph Awadjie <Joseph.Awadjie@cuny.edu>, "Ana White (anapaola.w@gmail.com)" <anapaola.w@gmail.com>, "Claudia Wald (wald.claudia9@gmail.com)" <wald.claudia9@gmail.com>, "LegislativeAffairs@usscunyc.org" <LegislativeAffairs@usscunyc.org>, "rsingh28@Citymail.cuny.edu" <rsingh28@citymail.cuny.edu>, laura heredia <laurapina0714@gmail.com>, Gabriel Kilpatrick <gabriel.kilpatrick83@gmail.com>, "gaspar-mx@hotmail.com" <gaspar-mx@hotmail.com>, "pmercado121@aol.com" <pmercado121@aol.com>, "rosario@ccny.cuny.edu" <rosario@ccny.cuny.edu>, "carriejanekim@gmail.com" <carriejanekim@gmail.com>, "laddevans@gmail.com" <laddevans@gmail.com>, "sohmar@gmail.com" <sohmar@gmail.com>, Rosario Gennaro <rosario@cs.ccny.cuny.edu>, "Hchari24@hotmail.com" <hchari24@hotmail.com>, "acook@ccny.cuny.edu" <acook@ccny.cuny.edu>, Arendse Paige <arendsepaige@gmail.com>, Kathryn Westerheim <kkwesterheim@gmail.com>, lashawn joyner <lashawn24@gmail.com>, Klovisa Amataj <kloviskl@yahoo.com>, Alexander Gardner <byibzhin@gmail.com>, "liuli@cashq.ac.cn" <liuli@cashq.ac.cn>, Elizabeth Lopez <elizabethlopez89@gmail.com>, "sohmarz@gmail.com" <sohmarz@gmail.com>, Therese Benoit <theresebenoit01@yahoo.com>, "omatyl@aol.com" <omatyl@aol.com>, "bwang@ccny.cuny.edu" <bwang@ccny.cuny.edu>, Priya Elizabeth S <priyaeshajan@gmail.com>, Bolivar Castro <bolivar@gmail.com>, "willymendez176@aol.com" <willymendez176@aol.com>, "jfernan37@citymail.cuny.edu" <jfernan37@citymail.cuny.edu>, jennifer carolina taveras jimenez <jennifertaveras1628@hotmail.com>, alyssia paula <alyssiaosorio@gmail.com>, Giulianna picinin <giuliannapicinin@gmail.com>, "ediaz815@hotmail.com" <ediaz815@hotmail.com>, Aset Lewis <aset726@gmail.com>, Bill Crain <billcrain@aol.com>, "mnazon@ccny.cuny.edu" <mnazon@ccny.cuny.edu>, Russell Weiss-Irwin <russ.weissirwin@gmail.com>, "carlos@gtest.ccny.cuny.edu" <carlos@gtest.ccny.cuny.edu>, "melshaa00@citymail.cuny.edu" <melshaa00@citymail.cuny.edu>, "ppallas@ufl.edu" <ppallas@ufl.edu>, Hleziphi Zita <hzita@cb9m.org>, "ddonastorg@ccny.cuny.edu" <ddonastorg@ccny.cuny.edu>, Robert Jackson <RobertJacksonNewYork@gmail.com>, Conor Tomás Reed <conortomasreed@gmail.com>, Sujatha Fernandes <sujathaf@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Massaro and Mr. Sanchez:

Thank you for keeping me posted on the latest development concerning the proposed closing of the City College of New York Child Development Center. We understand Council Member has been working with you to mediate in this impasse and help solve the problem. However, as stated to you previously, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer is also committed along Councilman Levine to help find a resolution to this issue. Please, let us know how we can better assist you both in facilitating a discussion that is mutually beneficial and yields positive results.

Thank you.

Giovanni Puello

Community Liaison

Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer

GPuello@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Cc: Betty Pearsall; ccnyparents@yahoo.com; Oscar Martinez (Omart92@hotmail.com); Joseph Awadjie; Ana White (anapaola.w@gmail.com); Claudia Wald (wald.claudia9@gmail.com); LegislativeAffairs@usscunyu.org; rsingh28@Citymail.cuny.edu; laura heredia; Gabriel Kilpatrick; gaspar-mx@hotmail.com; pmrcado121@aol.com; rosario@ccny.cuny.edu; carriejanekim@gmail.com; laddevans@gmail.com; sohmar@gmail.com; Rosario Gennaro; Hchari24@hotmail.com; acook@ccny.cuny.edu; Arendse Paige; Kathryn Westerheim; lashawn joyner; Klovisa Amataj; Alexander Gardner; liuli@cashq.ac.cn; Elizabeth Lopez; sohmarz@gmail.com; Therese Benoit; omatyl@aol.com; bwang@ccny.cuny.edu; Priya Elizabeth S; Bolivar Castro; willymendez176@aol.com; jfernand37@citymail.cuny.edu; jennifer carolina taveras jimenez; alyssia paula; Giulianna picinin; ediaz815@hotmail.com; Aset Lewis; Bill Crain; mnazon@ccny.cuny.edu; Russell Weiss-Irwin; carlos@gtest.ccny.cuny.edu; melshaa00@citymail.cuny.edu; ppallas@ufl.edu; Puello, Giovanni (ManhattanBP); Hleziphi Zita; ddonastorg@ccny.cuny.edu; Robert Jackson; Conor Tomás Reed; Sujatha Fernandes

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Ana Paola White <anapaola.w@gmail.com>

Fwd: Child Care Center Reimbursement Application and Protocol

marina massaro <massaro1508@gmail.com>
To: Ana White <anapaola.w@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 6:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Erica Stephen** <estephen@ccny.cuny.edu>

Date: Tue, Jun 9, 2015 at 4:40 PM

Subject: Child Care Center Reimbursement Application and Protocol

To: giuliannapicinin@gmail.com, Ediaz815@hotmail.com, ThereseBenoit01@yahoo.com, [Sujatha Fernandes <Sujathaf@yahoo.com>](mailto:SujathaFernandes@Sujathaf@yahoo.com), massaro1508@gmail.com, jfernand37@citymail.cuny.edu, bwang@ccny.cuny.edu, lashawn24@gmail.com, carriejanekim@gmail.com, rosario@ccny.cuny.edu, gaspar-mx@hotmail.com, Hchari24@hotmail.com

Cc: "mburgos@ccny.cuny.edu" <mburgos@ccny.cuny.edu>

Good afternoon Parents,

As you know, the College is offering a subsidy, not to exceed \$150 per week, to help defray childcare costs for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 terms for parents whose children are currently enrolled in the Child Development Center. Please find attached the Child Care Center Reimbursement Application and Protocol.

Best,
Erica

—

Erica L. Stephen
Office of the VP of Student Affairs
City College of New York
160 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-650-5907
Email: estephen@ccny.cuny.edu

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." **Winston Churchill**



Child Care Center Reimbursement Application and Protocol 060915.pdf
125K



Ana Paola White <anapaola.w@gmail.com>

UPDATE ON CCNY CHILDCARE CENTER

CCNY Parents <ccnyparents@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jun 16, 2015 at 10:58 AM

To: LegislativeAffairs@usccny.org, rsingh28@citymail.cuny.edu, laurapina0714@gmail.com, gabriel.kilpatrick83@gmail.com, gaspar-mx@hotmail.com, pmercado121@aol.com, rosario@ccny.cuny.edu, carriejanekim@gmail.com, laddevans@gmail.com, sohmar@gmail.com, rosario@cs.ccny.cuny.edu, hchari24@hotmail.com, acook@ccny.cuny.edu, arendsepaige@gmail.com, kkwesterheim@gmail.com, lashawn24@gmail.com, kloviskl@yahoo.com, byibzhin@gmail.com, liuli@cashq.ac.cn, elizabethlopez89@gmail.com, sohmarz@gmail.com, theresebenoit01@yahoo.com, omatyl@aol.com, bwang@ccny.cuny.edu, priyaeshajan@gmail.com, bolivar@gmail.com, djordan@ccnyalumni.org
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UPDATE ON CCNY CHILDCARE CENTER

Thank you to all of our supporters who have worked with us on the campaign this year to defend the City College Childcare Center. We fought a long battle to try and prevent the administration from usurping \$1.6 million in City Council funds slated for renovations, as an excuse to shut down the Center for an indefinite period of time.

As things now stand, many of our supporters and others concerned about the future of the Center have been contacting VP of Student Affairs Juana Reina. She has been telling everyone the same message, that the Center will close for renovations in June and the administration will provide childcare subsidies for parents at the Center. The parents rejected the idea of subsidies as we knew that it was a ploy to distract from our real demand for relocation. Relocation will ensure that the teachers keep their jobs, that the public funding for the Center stays intact, and that it will reopen as a childcare center as it is supposed to.

When we have raised the issue with some of our local representatives, we have been told the same thing: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez told us that the CCNY administration is providing for student-parents by offering subsidies and he would personally follow through on this. Public Advocate Leticia James posted the same thing on her Facebook page, and Ndigo Washington from the Office of Councilmember Inez Barron together with the Alumni Association Executive Vice President Don Jordan also told us that they had been told by CUNY admin that parent were going to be provided with subsidies. We made it clear to all of these advocates that we have rejected the subsidies since November 20, 2014, when the administration first raised the idea.

Not only have parents resoundingly rejected the idea of subsidies, but we found out last week that the administration has structured the subsidy program so as to ensure that not a single CCNY parent will be eligible for the subsidy. You can see the attached information about subsidies that was sent to us last week by Erica Stephen from Juana Reina's office. First, they have stated that only current Childcare Center children are eligible. That means that all of the new CCNY parents who come seeking childcare, of which there are many (we have a list), will NOT be eligible for the childcare subsidy. Second, the Center serves children ages 2 to 5 who are potty trained, that means most of the children are 3 or 4 years of age, as they usually start kindergarten by age 5. But the administration has excluded from the subsidy all children eligible for universal pre-K. That means some 3 years olds and all 4 years olds. We want to note that the majority of pre-K programs do not have an afterschool and they finish at 2.40pm, which is why many children of pre-K age use the Center, which has an excellent UPK program funded by the city. Parents who are in school need a program that runs till 5.30pm so that they can stay in school and finish their classes. So the only children who would access the subsidy are those who are 2 or 3 and potty trained, and that is a small pool, especially since the subsidy is limited to current children who will of course be older by next year. Of the very few current children in that age group next

year, their parents are graduating, so it means that no one will be eligible for subsidies. The administration has rigged the subsidy system so that they don't have to pay out money to any parent next year.

Right now we are relying on the intervention of Mark Levine's office and the Manhattan Borough Presidents office, who have promised to escalate the issue of relocation with the administration and organize a meeting between parents, administration and the City Council, which we have been requesting for many months.

Currently the CCNY website still says that there is a Childcare Center on campus for student-parents. There will be parents who enroll in college believing that they will be provided with subsidized childcare, as happens on most other CUNY campuses, only to find out later that this is not the case.



Child Care Center Reimbursement Application and Protocol 060915.pdf

125K

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Name: Frank Sanchez, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Address: _____

I represent: CUNY

Address: _____

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CUNY 3 of 4

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I represent: Hobbs - CUNY

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOSE MAGDALENO

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Box NY 10468
I represent: LEHMAN College, CUNY

Address: _____

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