

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

JOINT COMMITTEES ON FINANCE and HIGHER EDUCATION

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May 15, 2009
Start: 10:12am
Recess: 12:35pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

DAVID I. WEPRIN
Chairperson

CHARLES BARRON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tony Avella
Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Bill DeBlasio
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Darlene Mealy
G. Oliver Koppell
Miguel Martinez
James S. Oddo
Diana Reyna
Helen Sears
Eric Ulrich

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Matthew Goldstein
Chancellor
City University of New York

Barbara Bowen
Professional Staff Congress

Steve London
Vice President
Professional Staff Congress

Ferdinand Almatavar
Student
Borough of Manhattan Community College

Cristian Garcia
Student
Hostos Community College

Viola Burgess
Student
Hostos Community College

Stephan Melvin
Student
College of Staten Island

Francisca Villar
Student
Bronx Community College

Monique Lewis
Student
Bronx Community College

Sandra May Flowers
Student
Hostos Community College

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning.

Welcome to today's executive budget hearing for fiscal 2010. My name is David Weprin; I chair the Finance Committee. Today's Finance Committee hearing will be held jointly with the Committee on Higher Education, chaired by my colleague to the right, Council Member Charles Barron. And we will be hearing testimony from City University of New York Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein.

In the executive budget, CUNY's total budget of \$2.5 billion has not changed from the fiscal 2010 preliminary budget. Of that \$2.5 billion, there is \$1.9 billion for the senior colleges, which is a 3.9% increase from fiscal 2009. These increases from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2010 are offset by increased tuition revenue and enrollment. In addition, as reflected in the city's budget, there is \$646 million in the fiscal 2010 executive budget for the community colleges scholarship aid, Hunter campus schools and a funding advance for state payments to the senior colleges, which is a 5.4% decrease from the fiscal 2009 adopted budget.

An important fiscal 2010 executive

1
2 budget action to note is the inclusion of the \$6.8
3 million for the Peter F. Vallone scholarship, \$6
4 million in fiscal 2009 and \$750,000 in fiscal
5 2010. Since its inception by the City Council in
6 fiscal 1999, this is the first time the
7 administration has included the funding for the
8 scholarship program in the executive budget. The
9 Council is pleased that students will continue to
10 receive this important award during these
11 financial times.

12 I'm anxious to hear from the CUNY
13 Chancellor to learn more about the effect of
14 executive budget actions on CUNY's budget and how
15 CUNY has and is dealing with PEGs. Which since
16 released in the last three financial plan, CUNY
17 has received a total of \$51 million in reductions.
18 We're joined by Council Member Tony Avella from
19 Queens and we'll be joined by other Council
20 Members shortly. I'm going to turn it over to
21 Chair Barron for a statement.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
23 very much Chair Weprin for this meeting. And I
24 just wanted to say to you, you know we don't
25 behave this quietly at our hearings. So just

1
2 because David is here, don't be so quiet. Give us
3 a hand clap, give CUNY a hand clap. David hit
4 that gavel and you'll didn't move. I trained you
5 better than that. You know that.

6 Let me say this, that we in the
7 future we're going to work very, very hard because
8 when we speak to CUNY, we're usually on the same
9 page with fighting our battles. There are some
10 things in the administration that we're going to
11 be opposed to, most things we are on the same page
12 about. But we need to get the city to come here
13 at our hearings so that they, in addition to
14 having the Chancellor testify. We need to get the
15 city to come here at our hearings so that we can
16 lay our claims and our concerns to the city. Let
17 them know what happens when the Mayor takes these
18 things out of the budget and the devastating
19 impact it can have on CUNY students so that we
20 don't have to go through this annual budget dance.

21 So I'm going to read my statement
22 for the record but I appreciate all of you coming
23 out, taking time to come out here. Believe me,
24 remember last time we packed this place and that
25 led to the Vallone scholarships being put in the

1
2 executive budget. We don't even have to debate it
3 this time around. So you have a very big victory
4 on that. So your presence means something because
5 this is the first year that has ever happened.
6 They leave it out and then we have to get into the
7 negotiating part of the budget to try to get it
8 back in. We succeed in getting it in but right
9 now they conceded to you and your organizing and
10 said, here, let's put it in. We're not even going
11 to fight this one. But I have some concerns about
12 that and you'll hear that in my statement.

13 I already said good morning but
14 good morning and welcome to fiscal 2010 executive
15 budget hearing. I'm Charles Barron, chair of the
16 Higher Education, joined by Finance Committee
17 chair, Chair Weprin and also Tony Avella. Give
18 Tony a big hand clap. He's always here first, on
19 time. And also we have coming in another new
20 member of our committee from Brooklyn, Council
21 Member Darlene Mealy, please give her a big hand
22 clap as well.

23 Chancellor Matthew Goldstein has
24 been invited to testify before the Committee on
25 the University's proposed expense and capital

1
2 budgets. Although we appreciate the Chancellor
3 sharing, as I said, his insight on the
4 University's proposed budget this hearing would be
5 even more beneficial and informative if a
6 representative from the Office of Management and
7 Budget or a Deputy Mayor was here to testify since
8 it was the administration who created this budget
9 we are reviewing today.

10 Here we are, same need, same
11 struggle for the same purpose, which is to provide
12 quality education and advancement opportunities
13 for New York's resident from a high school
14 graduate to a mid-year profession. I want to
15 interject this as well. I know the Mayor is
16 bragging about how there are 6,000 high school
17 students going into CUNY universities and said
18 that that represented some success of his mayoral
19 control. Quite on the contrary, after 12 years of
20 education under Mayor Bloomberg's mayoral control,
21 students are not coming to CUNY prepared for
22 higher education and they're not coming after 12
23 years are able to even have any skills to get
24 jobs. So while the number may be there, the
25 quality of education is not there, which means we

1
2 have to have remediation in CUNY to fix up, to
3 repair the students that the Mayor failed.

4 Because mayoral control has failed. Whether you
5 agree with me or not, give me a hand clap so I can
6 look like I have some support.

7 What's the need? The fiscal 2010
8 executive budget proposes \$212 million in funding
9 towards the community colleges, which is a \$25
10 million decrease from the fiscal year 2009 adopted
11 budget. The administration has proposed \$22.2
12 million in reductions in the preliminary budget,
13 which on top of the \$28.8 million in reductions
14 from previous fiscal budgets, leaves \$51 million
15 in reductions alone to the community colleges.

16 Although we have some wins, such as
17 the administration paying for the Vallone
18 scholarship in fiscal 2010, we still can not dance
19 and rejoice because the demonstration is providing
20 the reduced funding amount of \$6.7 million instead
21 of the full scholarship needs that we had at \$11.2
22 million. This translates to students receiving
23 \$250 per semester instead of the \$625 during the
24 times when students rely even more on scholarship
25 funding. So while they did put it in, they put it

1
2 in at the reduced rate. And we want it to be back
3 to the \$11.2 million so we get \$625 instead of
4 \$250.

5 On the capital side, CUNY has \$160
6 million deficit for its multi year capital
7 commitment plan. This is due to the city not
8 matching state capital funds, which has partially
9 impacted CUNY's inability to receive new state
10 capital funding for fiscal 2010. What's the
11 struggle? CUNY, the administration and the City
12 Council have to negotiate each fiscal year how to
13 cover these basic aspects of CUNY's budget for the
14 community colleges.

15 In addition, the City Council must
16 negotiate with the administration to find
17 approximately \$3.8 million in City Council
18 initiatives like the Black Male Initiative. And
19 you saw from the last hearing we had, the success
20 of the Black Male Initiative was phenomenal. That
21 story needs to be told and they need to put their
22 money where their mouth is. If they want us to
23 succeed then back it up with some dollars.

24 Somehow CUNY must provide core
25 services. [Applause] I want to say, you have to

1
2 be on cue a little quicker than that. When I
3 pause, the reason why I stopped is so you can do
4 your thing. So don't let me stop and then I start
5 reading again and then you do it. I got a rough
6 life, I have. Somehow CUNY must provide core
7 services to its 244,000 degree seeking students
8 and its 246,000 certificate seeking population
9 with a \$25 million operational deficit and the
10 inability to enhance on existing infrastructure,
11 which contains its overwhelmed population of
12 students, faculty and staff.

13 Instead of negotiating for new
14 services, new buildings and new faculty, we must
15 waste a lot of time and negotiate for the status
16 quo even though CUNY institutions have outgrown
17 the status quo several years ago. The Committee
18 looks forward to hearing how the CUNY
19 administration is tackling the same need and the
20 same struggle for this upcoming fiscal year. In
21 particular, how CUNY will negotiate with the
22 administration to make sure its fiscal 2010 budget
23 at least meets the maintenance of effort agreement
24 with CUNY, which is eliminating this \$25 million
25 deficit.

They did something very interesting also with the maintenance of effort agreement. They took \$5 million out of that saying that the energy cost was less, which is absurd. So they reduced \$5 million and broke it down to \$25 million. You know energy costs in CUNY. It's not like we get a break on energy. Then the other thing, they now have difficulties defining who is the city. You'd be surprised how fundamental definitions get confusing. Is the City Council the city or is the Mayor the city? They come in here and play these games with us and say you're the city, too. No, you are, the Mayor, the executive branch is the city and it's your money that they should really use and not try to use City Council money for your responsibilities.

It is true tragedy how our community colleges continually remain underfunded each fiscal year but the administration looks to these institutions for workforce development, remediation efforts and educational access.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our state legislatures and president Jackson for the work

done to change the capital funding status for Medgar Evers college to a senior college status. You can clap on that one. We handled that one for the longest. Jay Hurchinson, John Katalski and Chancellor, we know we battled that one, that was a true victory. I want to say to my t my colleagues here on this committee, Tony and Darlene, all of us fought hard to make that happen. It's good, now we don't have to worry about a 50/50 capital split for Medgar Evers, the only senior college that had to deal with 50/50 on the capital side. All the other senior colleges got 100% capital funding from the state so they didn't have to deal with the city, which also means that the city has less capital money that they have to dole out now so they should have some money to take care of our other business.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for coming to this hearing. Now we'll hear from the Chancellor Goldstein and we'll go forward with the hearing. Thank you very much.

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN: Good morning Chairperson Weprin and Chairperson Barron and members of the Finance and Higher Education

1
2 Committees. Thank you for giving me the
3 opportunity to speak with you this morning about
4 the Mayor's 2010 executive budget and the effect
5 on the City University of New York, especially our
6 six community colleges.

7 Chairperson Weprin and Chairperson
8 Barron, I'd like to take a moment to extend our
9 appreciation for your long standing support of
10 CUNY's operating and capital budget needs. In
11 particular, Chairperson Barron, the topics of the
12 Higher Education Committee hearings this year,
13 including student loans, workforce development and
14 opportunity programs have been particularly
15 helpful in bringing to light so many of the issues
16 faced by our students and the need for the
17 restorations now included in the executive budget.
18 These include funding for the Vallone scholarships
19 and additional funding for the accelerated study
20 and Associate programs or more commonly known as
21 the ASAP initiative.

22 As New Yorkers grapple with the
23 effects of a national recession, more and more of
24 them are turning to CUNY's community colleges for
25 educational and career preparation opportunities.

In fact, our colleges are literally bursting at the seams. As I will detail later, this is just one reason why a lack of city funds to match \$160 million in state allocation for capital funding is of such concern.

Our six community colleges are now serving more than 84,000 students, an increase of more than 7% since just last spring. Borough of Manhattan Community College alone experienced an enrollment increase of more than 13% since last spring and now serves more than 22,000 students. To put this into context, the six community colleges have added more than 20,000 students since 1990, the equivalent of New York University's entire undergraduate school. In Queens, enrollment increases at LaGuardia and Kingsborough since 1990 are the equivalent of adding half of all of St. John's University. In the Bronx, enough students have been added to create half of Fordham University. And in Manhattan, BMCC's increases are comparable to adding Columbia University's entire undergraduate college.

This is only one of the reasons

that we continue planning discussions for a community college in Manhattan, which would improve access to literally thousands of students. The new college would draw some ideas from the ASAP initiative, intending to help students graduate in a timely way with an Associate degree and viable job opportunities. Our ASAP students now completing their second year are consistently outperforming a comparison group of similar students. They take and earn more credits, achieve higher GPAs and re-enroll in greater numbers for a third semester. And a significant number are on track to graduate only after being in the program for two years.

As our enrollment increases, our community colleges really are the best engine for workforce development. Walk into your doctor's office and the chances are that the lab technician conducting your diagnostic tests graduated from a CUNY community college. So did the medical assistant recording your vital statistics. And the billing expert overseeing your insurance payments. In fact, almost 90% of our graduates are employed within six months of earning their

Associate degree and over 94% are either employed or enrolled for additional education. CUNY students stay in New York City. Of those who are employed, 91% work in New York City, contributing to the city's vitality and its overall economy.

While we are very grateful for the restorations in the Mayor's 2010 executive budget, the budget also includes continuing reductions that are cause for very serious concern. This includes \$25 million less in city support for the community colleges than the recommended 2009 budget. While restoring this funding is required by the maintenance of effort agreement, it is not the only cut. CUNY began the year with a \$7.7 million cut in operational funding, which included \$1.8 million for water payments at our community colleges, an area for which the University had not previously been responsible. The executive budget also--

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: [] And they're going up, those water payments.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: The executive budget also eliminates funding for several crucial initiatives in areas at CUNY including \$2.5

million for the Black Male Initiative, \$900,000 for centers and institutes and \$400,000 for the creative arts team. Taken together, these cuts total more than \$36 million. I ask for the Council's assistance in restoring this much needed funding.

I'd like to take note in particular, and Chairman Barron you mentioned this in your opening remarks, of the importance of the University's Black Male Initiative. At a recent hearing the Higher Education Committee learned of the wide range of projects underway through the BMI, from mentorships programs to teacher education initiatives to graduate school preparation. Much has been accomplished since this initiative was first launched in 2001 to 2006, inaugurated by the eminent historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, who as we all know just recently passed away.

As part of his distinguished career as a scholar and civic activist, for which he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dr. Franklin served CUNY's Brooklyn College as Chair of the History Department, the first African

American department chair at any university outside of the historically Black institutions. And if you have not read his Seminole history book including From slavery to Freedom, a history of African Americans, it is a must read for everybody in this room. We are pleased that we will be able to honor Dr. Franklin's work at this fall's BMI conference, which I hope all of you can come to.

I'd like to mention our immigration initiatives, which in prior years received funding of \$600,000. This is the brain child of Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson who has brought a tremendous energy to this important initiative. That funding was removed in FY09 and the city has not proposed including it in FY10. University offers a comprehensive citizenship and immigration project which reaches thousands of immigrants each year.

For example, just two weeks ago our seventh annual Citizenship Now Call in Service with the New York Daily News offered free information and advice to 15,000 individual callers, bringing the total to 70,000 callers helped over a seven year period. This

overwhelming response surely indicates the need for immigration services In the city and the central role that our university plays in meeting that need.

Given the serious budget reductions the University sustained over the past year, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York approved a tuition increase to begin in the fall of 2009. This obviously was followed by the imposition of tuition increases imposed in the executive budget by New York State. Such a decision, certainly for our Board, is not made lightly as we are well aware of our student's financial challenges, particularly those students at our community colleges. In fact it has been six years since a tuition increase at the University.

Ultimately, the University determined an amount of \$175 per semester that was less than had been authorized by the Board in order to reduce the burden on our community college students. Still our first concern is to protect any students whose matriculation could be at risk because of a tuition increase. To that

1
2 end, I recommended to our Board and they approved
3 unanimously a \$10 million fund to support an in
4 house student financial aid initiative. The
5 initiative aims to mitigate the effect of the
6 tuition increase and assist those students at risk
7 of maintaining matriculation due to higher tuition
8 costs. I should note that students most in need,
9 those receiving full tuition assistance program
10 and Pell grants awards will not be affected by a
11 tuition increase since their existing financial
12 aid support will not be jeopardized and recent
13 Pell increases will raise their support to a level
14 above the new tuition levels. We will continue to
15 advocate, as we have successfully done in the
16 past, for continued Pell increases at the federal
17 level.

18 We also greatly appreciate this
19 body's help in resorting most of the state
20 recommended TAP cuts. The special CUNY Student
21 Financial Aid Initiative includes five components,
22 partial tuition waivers, the largest component, to
23 reduce the effect rate of tuition increases by
24 about one-third for approximately 25,000 students.
25 Second, a tuition payment plan to spread tuition

over several months. Third, a textbook initiative to reduce the cost of books, a student employment program to offer work study opportunities to more students. And fifth, the program to focus on issues of hunger, nutrition and homelessness for very low income students.

Our intention is to assist as many students as possible and allow them to continue to make steady progress towards their degrees.

CUNY's Student Financial Aid Initiative is just one way to foster our students' success. We know that we must also work toward that goal through sustained investments in our community colleges. An investment that builds strong curricular opportunities, a large core of full time faculty and modern facilities is essential to our ability to serve students and the city.

For example, we have made the hiring of additional full time faculty a priority at the University. Knowing of the importance of long term institutionally focused peer review faculty to the advancement of our students. CUNY has made great gains adding more than 1,200 new full time faculty since 1999. Members of this

committee, we stand alone in the United States of any university that has had a record of this type. We are alone in putting tremendous energy and resources into adding full time faculty. But with enrollment growing at such a rapid pace, we still have a long way to go, especially at our community colleges where part timers still outnumber full timers, comprising 63% of our total faculty. And from where I sit, that is unacceptable. Investing in full time faculty, who in turn invest in their home institutions, students and communities, is vital to the future of our community colleges.

Our community college capital program is also in need of serious investment. While CUNY's enrollment has dramatically increased, the amount spent to rehabilitate and modernize our facilities has just not kept pace and the need at our campuses has become urgent. And I underscore the word, urgent.

At the end of 2007, CUNY completed an important state of good repair analysis of all of its facilities. The study was conducted in partnership with the State University Construction Fund, using a nationally recognized model. The

1 results of the analysis indicated that the
2 University's six community colleges have a sever
3 backlog of deferred maintenance. This includes
4 basic infrastructure needs such as heating and
5 ventilation systems, exterior walls and electrical
6 equipment to name just a few.
7

8 As you know, education law requires
9 that capital projects for the community colleges
10 be funded 50% by the state and 50% by the city.
11 With the recent restoration of senior college
12 status for Medgar Evers College for capital
13 funding, it is no longer included in this
14 formulation, something all of us are deeply proud
15 of that fight. Restoration of Medgar Evers senior
16 college status has been a long time priority for
17 the university. Chairperson Barron, we are
18 particularly grateful to you and your committee
19 for your support of this important change.

20 Currently CUNY can not access \$160
21 million in state funding already allocated to the
22 community colleges because of a lack of a city
23 match. In addition, the state has indicated that
24 it will not allocate additional funds to CUNY due
25 to the lack of continuing non-city matches. We

1
2 continue to discuss this important issue with the
3 Mayor and his staff and we ask for the Council's
4 assistance as well. Your support was critical in
5 enabling CUNY to finalize the funding for
6 Fidderman Hall at Borough of Manhattan Community
7 College and we are deeply grateful for that help.

8 Let me give you a brief update on
9 Fidderman Hall. With the exception of a very few
10 small areas, remediation is now complete. The
11 remaining areas are expected to be cleaned and
12 ready for inspection by the regulatory agencies,
13 including the EPA, by next week. And we expect to
14 have all regulatory approvals in connection with
15 the remediation within two weeks. Deconstruction
16 of the building will immediately follow the
17 completion of remediation. Deconstruction is
18 expected to take four to six months, putting the
19 completion date somewhere between September and
20 November of this year.

21 By early next month in June, we
22 expect to finalize foundation construction
23 contracts for the newly designed Fidderman Hall.
24 This will enable us to begin the first phase of
25 the new building immediately following

deconstruction. Construction for the new building is expected to take approximately 27 months.

The University would like to move forward on several other much needed facility projects at the community colleges. The \$160 million allocated by the state covers critical maintenance projects, including health and safety projects, our number one priority. Each of the six community colleges has maintenance issues that need immediate action, including the replacement of all utilities at Bronx community College. The replacement and upgrade of the electrical system at Queensborough Community College, the rehabilitation of 199 Chamber Street at Borough of Manhattan Community College and the replacement of roofs and the renovation of two buildings at Kingsborough Community College.

Funding for these projects is not only essential for the colleges but has logical benefits for the city. For every dollar we put in by the city, a dollar of state support is available. We simply can not afford to continue to leave dollars on the table. Maintenance and construction contracts spur the local economy

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2 during this very critical time and the city reaps
3 the tax benefit, thereby offsetting some of its
4 contribution.

5 Construction is a central part of
6 the city's economic plan and the availability of
7 state capital funds offered a well time
8 opportunity to enhance the city's efforts. We
9 will continue to work with the Mayor's office and
10 this body to address the lack of matching funds.
11 In this time of enormous growth at our community
12 colleges, a unvaried city approach to leveraging
13 state funding is essential to meeting urgent
14 health, safety and plan maintenance issues at our
15 campuses.

16 Chairperson Weprin, Chairperson
17 Barron and members of the Committees, we have
18 always appreciated your support in ensuring that
19 our community college students receive the best
20 education possible and that our college remain the
21 principal workforce engine of this city, indeed
22 its very best stimulus package. In these
23 difficult times, we again look to your leadership
24 to champion the needs of our community colleges
25 and their extraordinary students, many of whom who

are here today with us in this chamber. Thank you for your valued partnership.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you Mr. Chancellor and we've been joined by Council Member Oliver Koppell from the Bronx and Council Member Leroy Comrie from Queens. Deputy Chancellor Hershenson reminded me before we came in today that each and every year, and you went into it at great length in your testimony as well as Chair Barron. That every year we've brought up the Medgar Evers College stepchild issue, how it hasn't been treated for capital purposes like the other four year colleges. I think it finally sunk in and I think there's a lot of congratulations all around on that. But obviously we have to continue to make sure that Medgar Evers College gets the full resources they need now that they've been fully recognized by the state as they should be for all purposes, capital as well as expense.

We're happy that there were some restorations, as Chair Barron mentioned in his opening statement as well as myself, about the Peter Vallone scholarship. Can you give us an update? And of course the Peter Vallone

scholarship names after the former Speaker, Peter Vallone, was a City Council initiative and one that we've been very proud of supporting each and every year. We'd love to see it expanded. Obviously we've been in tough fiscal times the past couple of years. Do you have the statistics on how many recipients received the scholarship over the years? Has it been steady as far as on an annual basis? How does it compare the last couple of years to previous years?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Let me give you an update on that. You may recall that in 2008, as I think Chair Barron mentioned in his opening remarks, we had a pool of about \$11 million for the Vallone scholarship program providing approximately \$1,250 per year. At that time there were 22,000 students that satisfied the criteria for making those scholarships available. But in the 2009 adopted budget, that \$11 million was reduced to \$6.7 million. As a result of that, the amount per year was reduced from \$1,250 to about \$500.

The number of students in 2008 that received the Vallone scholarship program was about

13,700 students. Those awarded for the spring 2009 were reduced to 9,400. The executive budget provides the recommendation of that \$6.7 million and it's certainly down from the \$11 million. But it will allow us to provide the kind of support that we did in the spring of 2009 of about 9,400 students.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay, thank you. We in the Council, and we've gone through this every year in budget negotiating as we go into the last remaining weeks before budget adoption, are particularly concerned about the \$51 million in cuts to the community colleges. If these cuts were to stay in effect, what would the result be and what would the community colleges have to do as far as changing their programmatic issues and staff personnel, etc. What would the \$51 million cut mean to the community colleges?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: \$51 million would have a very chilling effect on the core operations of our community colleges. Just look at all of the core activities that we had. We would not be able to keep up with the enrollment needs of providing adequate faculty support, adequate

support for assistance for students in a variety of areas that are commonly referred to as academic support. It would have chilling effects on our ability to maintain our campuses, to keep evening hours open as long as we do with essential services. It would curtail acquisition of materials, equipment and instrumentation. It would go to the very core of what is needed to operate these community colleges at the level that the students deserve and expect and our faculty deserve and expect in providing the opportunities for students to take full opportunities for these great campuses.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We share your concern and we'll be doing everything in our power as we go through budget negotiations over the next couple of weeks, to see that all if not most of the cuts are restored. We've been joined by some additional Council Members. We have Council Member Eric Ulrich of Queens and Council Member Helen Sears of Queens and Councilman Jim Oddo coming in the door now, minority leader from Staten Island and Brooklyn. I'm going to turn it back to Chair Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. Chancellor, just a couple of things; one, the good thing about your presentation is that we are probably one of the few, if not only, hearings we have where the Chancellor shows the devastating impact the cuts will have on the University. Other agencies come in here and they talk about how they can absorb it and they'll be all right because they're afraid to take the Mayor on. So that's the good thing. The bad thing, I've never seen students cheer a tuition increase, that's not anything to be applauding.

As a matter of fact, I used to be a parliamentarian so even when a resolution is passed, at future meetings they can have a motion to rescind or a motion to reconsider a question. Meaning that even though something was already passed, and this thing got by all of us because we really should have been out there more when the University trustees passed this tuition increase. But we should have been out there fighting this more. They can make a motion to rescind or reconsider a question. So we should all be at the next trustee meeting, whenever it's going to be.

1
2 We have to fight this tuition increase. I don't
3 care what they say, we got to fight this, we got
4 to fight it.

5 And I don't want anyone to say to
6 you that you're going to be all right because TAP
7 will take care of you. Or you're going to be all
8 right because Pell will take care of you. And the
9 \$10 million is a good gesture but if you have the
10 \$10 million, if it was going to take care of all
11 of us you wouldn't need to raise the tuition. You
12 could put the \$10 million in the budget. Let me
13 ask you, just how much does this tuition increase-
14 -what is the total amount of revenue that you'll
15 be generating from the increase?

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: The senior colleges
17 have approximately 120,000 FTEs, a \$600 tuition
18 increase would generate about \$110 million.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: 110.

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: And the amount of
21 money that was extracted out of the executive
22 budget was in excess of that. At the community
23 colleges we have slightly under 60,000 FTEs, that
24 would generate approximately \$30 million. Now
25 remember, what we did was push the envelope as far

as we can. The authorization was for a \$200 tuition increase per semester and--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [] At the community.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: At the community colleges and I recommended...

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And that's \$300 per semester at the senior colleges.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: ...and I recommended and the Board approved that we come in under that.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yeah, \$25.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: By \$25. Yeah but remember Chair Barron, these are serious issues that the University faces. Nobody likes to do tuition. Let's go on record; you don't like it, I don't like it, our students don't like it. There would be devastating impacts on this University, huge numbers of lay offs. This would have been a very, very chilling effect and it would not have provided an opportunity for these students to really get access to the institution in a way that we--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: []

Chancellor, no one's denying that the cuts will be devastating. That's not the issue. No one's arguing that. It's how you patch up the cuts is where the arguments come in. Are there other ways to get \$110 million and \$30 million? What's happening in the University, over the years we see a decrease in the commitment from the state and the city. And now there's going to be an increase in tuition. Of course there is private sector, the way you certainly raise your money is private sector, tuition and public sector.

If we keep going on this trend-- because there are students working two jobs that TAP is not even taking care of. When we look on the paper, when we sit on these budget hearings and we look on the paper, it looks good because we're just looking at numbers. Oh, it's only a couple of hundred dollars for the students. TAP is going to pick up most of it. We can generate \$110 million and then \$30 million on the community colleges, that's \$140 million. Wow, that will even help the students. That can patch up a lot of things.

But what we don't see is that

1
2 student that gets up in the morning and has to buy
3 textbooks and has to work a couple of jobs and
4 isn't receiving enough TAP already. Some may get
5 100% and there are those that are not receiving
6 any TAP or any Pell and those who have to take out
7 loans. I still say it's the same thing we have to
8 do on the larger budget.

9 How do you get the money? There
10 are only several ways to balance a budget? You're
11 either going to raise revenue, cut services,
12 borrow money, sell assets. But we should not
13 continually, whether it's raising the transit
14 fare, raising CUNY tuition, putting tolls on
15 bridges, adding five cents to pay plastic bags,
16 raising sales tax. This is a taxation on
17 students. It's a regressive taxation on students.
18 And in a city that has a \$60 billion and a state
19 that has \$130 billion we have to find other ways
20 to balancing it other than on the backs of our
21 students. We should fight this budget cut. We
22 have to fight this budget cut.

23 So I don't think we should settle
24 for this. I think we should still fight it. We
25 should call on the Board of Trustees to rescind, to

come up at their next meeting to rescind this.

And the Board of Trustees gives the Chancellor the authority to do this. It's not something you have to do. It's not something that you must do. It's something that you're choosing to do. So even though they give you the authority, it's not something that you have to act on.

The reason why I am going to be as strong as I can on this one, win, lose or draw is because we've been partners in Fidderman Hall. We've been partners with Medgar Evers. We've been partners in making sure the City Council restores and sometimes enhances programs in CUNY. We've been partners in fighting for capital improvements in CUNY and doing all of this fighting together. Now when it comes to the students you can not now say, here's where we separate Charles, here's where we have our differences. No, we have to be partners in this too, to make sure that this tuition does not get increased.

I just want to encourage you. I want to appeal to you once again, don't do this. This hurts. It may look fine on paper but don't do this one; it hurts. It hurts students. And as

1
2 you said so accurately, students stay here for,
3 what did you say, 1920, 50, 1,000 years and put in
4 millions and billions of dollars to the economy.
5 A lot of students are going to leave college--and
6 this is why I'm so adamant on this one and I'll
7 stop soon Mr. Chair.

8 But I'm so adamant on this one
9 because when students leave college, some times
10 they have debt and some students have to find
11 living wage jobs, which is going to be a
12 challenge, affordable housing, which is going to
13 be a challenge, affordable health care, which is
14 going to be a challenge. So we don't need to put
15 an extra burden on them while they're in college.
16 We need to do something to reduce that. As we
17 partnered in so many other things, I'm appealing
18 to you to be a partner with me on this one and
19 fight this tuition increase.

20 Let's go back to the drawing board.
21 I don't know where we're going to get \$130 million
22 but I think if we put our minds together and if we
23 appeal more whether it's to the private sector or
24 to the public sector and even appealing to the
25 Mayor more so that the students don't have to

1
2 carry this load.

3 Because I just find it interesting
4 on capital projects and when we cry all of this
5 pain yet we can build a Yankee stadium, we can
6 build a Mets stadium, we can build something for
7 the Nets. We have so much pain but we can float
8 tax free bonds for developers and that tax free
9 bonds means that we're not going to get money in
10 our coffers so they can have less money they kick
11 out to develop.

12 I'm saying let's be a partner in
13 this. Let's not say this must be done. Let's not
14 take the easy way out. The easy way out is just
15 do the \$110 million on the students, the \$30
16 million in the community colleges and let's move
17 on. That's the easy way out. I say let's
18 struggle. Let's take the more creative way out
19 and don't hurt the students like that.

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I think the problem
21 is even more severe than your eloquent remarks
22 would indicate. There has been, over the past
23 probably at least two decades, and it's not just
24 here in New York State, it's across the United
25 States, a regression away in supporting public

1
2 higher education. It's something that I'm deeply,
3 deeply concerned about because I don't see any
4 where near an inflection point occurring in that
5 particular momentum. It's something that I've had
6 very serious ongoing discussions with higher
7 education leaders around the United States.

8 There was a time in places like
9 Michigan and Virginia and Florida and Texas, to
10 name just a few, where the state support was
11 hovering maybe 50 or 60 cents on the dollar. It's
12 now plummeted to 15 cents on the dollar, in some
13 places 12 cents on the dollar. This is a very
14 chilling process that has been going on in the
15 United States for a very, very long time. I don't
16 see it being abated.

17 I also see very real storm clouds
18 ahead. And this is an area that we have, you and
19 I in particular and Chair Weprin, have not had
20 discussions about but it's something that I think
21 needs to be put out into the public domain that
22 when we look at how the budget was constructed in
23 New York State this year, it is really patched
24 with revenue that is not going to be sustainable
25 over maybe another 15 to 18 months.

I also see and the people that I speak to in financial services and other business people, political people like yourself. See structural changes happening in New York State with the financial services industry being restructured and so much loss that has occurred because of bad behavior and not recouping very, very quickly. As you know the numbers as well as I do, about 20 cents on the dollar in 2007 came from the industries associated with financial services. That number is going to go down considerably and I don't see New York State recovering very, very quickly in the next few years. With the stimulus money, perhaps there will be another iteration but it's certainly not going to be at the level that we've seen through the good work of President Obama that this state, I think, is positioned to have some very, very rocky roads that it's going to have to navigate.

That's going to have an effect on all agencies in the city and in the state and in particular, it will have clearly an effect on CUNY and SUNY. We have to be prepared to think about how we are going to deal with these much more

1
2 macro problems that are going to have a very, very
3 serious effect on us. So it's something that I
4 just put out there.

5 I think it's important for the
6 record that I at least make something that's known
7 to all of you. I'm not telling you something you
8 don't all know but I think it's important that in
9 the public domain, we start having some very
10 serious conversations about how we in the state
11 and we in the city are going to address those
12 kinds of problems, which right now are not obvious
13 to many people but will become very, very real and
14 profound on a going forward basis.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Believe me,
16 I couldn't agree with you more on the devastation.
17 I just want to appeal to you to work with us this
18 way because we definitely are in tune with the
19 macro problem. Part of the macro problem is not
20 just that we'll have temporary stimulus money that
21 will run out and we'll come back to our problems.
22 Part of the macro problem is our unwillingness to
23 get those who have more to pay more.

24 And I can tell you this Chancellor,
25 where the Governor and the Senate and the Assembly

1 fell short in my opinion, the Governor needed \$15
2 billion to balance the budget and they have a
3 state taxation line where everybody has to pay
4 6.85%, whether you make \$40,000 or \$40 million.
5 When you have that kind of taxation--and then what
6 they did is they increased by 1 point some odd
7 percent those who are making \$250,000 or more and
8 1 point some odd percent of those who are making
9 \$500,000. Out of that, they got and I say a mere
10 because it's a lot more they could have gotten, \$4
11 billion.
12

13 Things were presented to this state
14 where we could have gotten close to \$12 billion if
15 we would have moved the tax bracket up to those
16 making \$1 million, those making \$5 million, those
17 making \$10 million. We could have gotten close to
18 \$10 billion from those who are less than 2% of the
19 population, 97,000 people that are making the
20 tens, the fives, the four, the three million a
21 year. If they would have paid 2.5%, 5.6%, 7%, we
22 could have had \$10 billion. So it's not like we
23 don't know the problem. The problem I have is the
24 solutions we come up with; it's the solutions we
25 come up with.

1
2 So we'll be glad to have the
3 conversation if we can open up the solution talk
4 to a stock transfer tax that can bring us \$2 to \$4
5 billion a year, a commuter tax that can bring us
6 billions of dollars, \$1 or \$2 billion. If we can
7 think of closing the loopholes where the
8 corporations hide money so they don't have to pay
9 taxes, that brings us billions. I'm not just
10 talking a whole lot of hot, empty rhetoric. I'm
11 talking fiscal responsibility that makes those who
12 have the most pay the most. And not have it so
13 that when you present the problem, and this is a
14 problem we have.

15 When you present a problem the way
16 you do, no one can argue with that. But the
17 solution is not raise the subway fare. The
18 solution is not raise CUNY tuition. The solution
19 is not more money on the paper, plastic bags. The
20 solution, we agree on the problem, it's the
21 solution we need unity on. Let the rich pay more
22 and especially when you have a Black Governor, you
23 have a Black President, we have a Democratic
24 Senate, a Democratic Assembly. There is no reason
25 why.

1
2 And this City Council, I did not
3 vote for the last year's budget because of the
4 cuts in the Vallone scholarships and so many
5 social programs. I didn't vote for it. We have
6 25 people of color in the City Council. The City
7 Council passes the budget, not the Mayor. So if
8 the City Council would say no they would have to
9 come up with other ways of balancing this budget.
10 If the state Democrats, that's why you'll really
11 need to get to your representatives because they
12 come here and then all of a sudden--it isn't the
13 Chancellor.

14 The Chancellor's not at fault with
15 this. I disagree with his solutions but the
16 Chancellor is not at fault because they're putting
17 him in a spot, even, to say hey look, we're
18 putting less money into public education so he has
19 to now come and do his best. I disagree with the
20 tuition hike but he's not the one that's at fault
21 with what's going on in the state and in the city.
22 We have to build a movement of students here that
23 says to any--I'll stop in a minute.

24 We have to build a movement in here
25 so that when the Chancellor comes back again he's

1
2 going to say, guess what, I don't even have to
3 consider tuition because we got more money from
4 the state and more money from the city. And
5 that's what we have to build. Our campuses are
6 too quiet, they're too quiet because they're doing
7 too much to us and we have to do that.

8 But in the meantime, until that
9 movement is built to have the kind of influence on
10 the state legislature, the state Senate and the
11 City Council. People think the Mayor--I don't
12 even know what to say about him but anyway. The
13 power, always do a power analysis. The Mayor did
14 not pass the term limits law, the City Council
15 did. The Mayor does not pass the budget, the City
16 Council does. The Governor doesn't pass the state
17 budget, the State Assembly does. So we have to
18 get to these folks and say look, don't come in our
19 neighborhood and don't come in our churches
20 seeking any votes if you're supporting less money
21 for public education so that now students have to
22 pay some tuition hike.

23 Then we have to say to the
24 Chancellor, in the meantime, until we get to that
25 level, we have to find other creative ways of

raising that money other than off the backs of our students. I'll stop there. Thank you Chancellor for your presentation.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We've been joined by Council Member Miguel Martinez and Council Member Comrie had a question.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairs. Let me just go to the capital first. I was looking in the allocations and I see where the CUNY Law School Foundation was zeroed out in the 2010 budget, is that correct?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And also the York College Performing Arts Center was zeroed out in the 2010 budget?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And the solar energy program was zeroed out in the 2010 budget, is that correct also or am I not seeing that correctly?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: I have to find out what that is. I'm not aware of that.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay. Right. What does that mean to the two programs,

1
2 the Law School and the York College Performing
3 Arts Center that those dollars are zeroed out?

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: We are making a
5 very significant effort to bring things to York
6 College that very important institution. We have
7 an extraordinary president there in Marcia Keys.
8 I know that you know well and she's doing a
9 wonderful job. We have several initiatives that
10 we are now moving methodically towards getting
11 embraced and then ultimately to get funding. At
12 York in particular, we're looking to establish a
13 new pharmacy school, which has not been discussed
14 here at the Council in the past. But I'd like to
15 make that for the record that it's our intention
16 to build a new pharmacy school at York College.

17 We're also interested along the
18 lines that you just said about the Performing Arts
19 Community Center and Student Center, that is one
20 of the major kind of complex that we are very
21 interested in moving ahead but expanding the focus
22 on what you just mentioned. So when things are at
23 a better place for us capital wise in particular
24 but also on the operating side, I think we're
25 going to see some wonderful new ideas and new

1
2 programs in construction, consistent with the
3 issue that you just mentioned.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay.
5 Maybe I didn't give you enough advance and I
6 appreciate your answer. Thank you for mentioning
7 that you want to place a new pharmacy school at
8 York College. But I really wanted to phrase it in
9 the fact that with the lack of capital support
10 from the city you're not going to be able to build
11 any of those things at this particular time.

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: York is a senior
13 college. We don't get any significant capital
14 funding. The obligation for the state is to
15 provide 100% of the capital needs for your--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [] Okay, so
17 the pharmacy school can be built with--

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: [] Well the
19 pharmacy school may have some component of it that
20 will require capital funding. But the major
21 costs, given that we may be able to use some of
22 the facilities, will be around personnel, faculty,
23 in particular instrumentation and equipment for
24 the pharmacy school. Now remember we have the
25 Federal Drug Administration facility there and

1
2 that was the decision why we would want a site the
3 pharmacy school there because we could see using
4 part of the FDA facility and all of the great
5 laboratories and personnel that they have to help
6 inform some of what it is we want to do. I've
7 also been--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [] That's
9 all good. But I'm sorry, I'm off topic. I
10 appreciate that topic but I was trying to get to
11 the issue of the lack of support from the city for
12 the capital plan when you have millions of dollars
13 sitting on the state side. Maybe I'm focusing on
14 a senior college when I really should be focusing
15 on the community college because I know that both
16 LaGuardia and Queensborough Community Colleges
17 have some real capital needs and emergency needs
18 right now.

19 I brought York up because I know
20 there's an emergency miscellaneous support needed
21 to do some repair at York College to deal with the
22 flooding. I really appreciate you bringing up the
23 pharmaceutical school and I think that's great
24 news for the college and the growth of the college
25 also. But that's outside of the capital issue

that I wanted to talk about right now.

I really wanted to focus on the fact that we need to have the city make sure that they maintain and match their support for capital dollars that are in the state budget that we could possibly lose, especially in this climate, if the city doesn't meet their match. If you could just expound upon the fact that you mentioned in your statement about the fact that the city would actually make money by investing in the capital now. It would be part of the ability for the city to stimulate the economy if we engage in those capital projects now. And just also if you could talk about the issue of your frustration with getting the capital dollars that are actually in the budget now to be actualized so that projects could get started that have been in the bands for a while, if you could just talk about that.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: It is frustrating now. It's been frustrating in the past and I think it may be frustrating on a going forward basis. Let me just reiterate what I said earlier in my testimony, we have \$160 million that has been appropriated by the state for various needs

at our six community colleges.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Most of those needs are immediate needs, right?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: They are, some of them are very serious and urgent needs.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Right.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: The constraint that we have in accessing any of those dollars is that for any dollar that we spend from the \$160 million that has been appropriated by the state, the city has to provide a match of that dollar. And that is the way the legislation was written with respect to capital financing of our community colleges. So in the past we have had these problems that we have battled with. We've had some success. We certainly had a major success with Fidderman Hall.

With the money that's already appropriated, I can't access that money unless the city puts in. But there is even a further chilling effect here in that the state says to me, the legislature and the people with whom I interact say to me, why should we on a going forward basis appropriate any further dollars for

1
2 the community colleges if the past is any lends on
3 future behavior. So it's not only the current
4 money, which is critical for us, but I am
5 concerned about the future financing unless there
6 is a change in the way in which city government
7 here appropriates the money.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I agree
9 with you 100% Chancellor. I just wanted you to
10 reemphasize that point. I think that whatever we
11 do in the budget to make sure that capital money
12 is at least matched this year as much as possible
13 is critical. Because they are for urgent
14 projects, they are for critical projects, they
15 offer an ability for the community colleges, which
16 is the first point of people to actually take the
17 leg up and reestablish or start a career is
18 important.

19 I think that it's unconscionable
20 and just cruel for this Mayor that's talking about
21 restarting people's lives not to utilize, not to
22 fully fund the capital for the one organization in
23 the city that we know is actually doing the
24 retraining and taking people to the next level of
25 career opportunity and that's the community

colleges. I have to go downstairs to a Leadership meeting in a minute so I can't take a lot of clapping, although it feels good. But--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [] Boo him. Boo him. He doesn't want a clap, boo him.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: The issue of also the funding for the expense for the community colleges as well is something I think is another black mark on this administration.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: A white mark.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm sorry, a white mark. A negative indication of an administration that's talking about job creation and trying to stimulate the economy. When we know that we're depending on LaGuardia College to help retrain people at the Willis Point area. Where we know we're depending on Queensborough College to do--I'm only talking about Queens. I'm sorry, I'm kind of borough biased. Not to reflect on all of the other great institutions and community colleges, Hostos. But to not give the full funding to community colleges that are doing the job training, job prep, the ESL programs that are

1
2 necessary to put people to work, especially when
3 we have work areas that the community colleges
4 have identified like the excellent nursing program
5 and pre-nursing program at Queensborough.

6 It's just ridiculous that the city
7 is not fully funding these programs. I just want
8 to reiterate my support to you as I always have in
9 the past to do whatever we can on this level to
10 push. But I think we need to highlight this in
11 the media because the media only sees ads every
12 five minutes that are saying one thing that the
13 reality of retraining is much deeper than trying
14 to create green jobs for 100 or 200 people. We
15 have a lot of other people that need to get
16 retrained.

17 We have the ability right here in
18 the community colleges to do that and we need to
19 make sure that all of the money that is allocated
20 out of our budget is focused on the need to
21 actually retrain people on a larger level that the
22 community colleges have proven they can do. I
23 just think we need to fight for all the expense
24 budget monies and the capital budget monies as a
25 part of our major thrust in the budget. I will be

1
2 working with the Chair of Finance and the Chair of
3 Higher Education to make sure that all of those
4 programs are invested in.

5 As you know, I have a particular
6 affinity for the immigration program and also the
7 Black Male Initiative program and also the tax
8 prep program. As you know York College had the
9 largest tax prep program to allow people to do
10 free tax preparation in the city this year. I'm
11 very proud of Professor Robert Clovey and his team
12 that came out with the highest number of tax
13 preparation opportunities for women. I think that
14 we need to highlight that program and continue
15 that program. It's a real help to people that are
16 making under \$45,000 to get free tax preparation
17 with instant tax returns.

18 It was an excellent program in
19 three different ways because it gave young people
20 an opportunity to develop a real job skill to
21 develop real self esteem and to give back to the
22 community in a significant way that they can see
23 immediately. I want to congratulate CUNY for
24 adopting the program. I want to congratulate York
25 College for embracing it. I think that's

1
2 something that we really need to highlight because
3 it gives people.

4 As I said earlier, it gives the
5 young people real job skills. But it also gives
6 them a sense of community because they're really
7 actually helping people. They're looking at the
8 constituents as they come in to do the tax prep.
9 I was at a couple of the sessions and people were
10 really happy to know that someone is looking out
11 for them and someone is trying to take of them on
12 a real level. So I just want to say
13 congratulations to all of the people who are doing
14 that around the city. I hope that we can keep the
15 money to continue those particular programs.
16 Whatever I can do, please count on me.

17 I think that you've already talked
18 about the Peter Vallone scholarship and the other
19 scholarships but I think that it's really
20 unconscionable that the community colleges,
21 especially, are not being fully funded. Thank you
22 Mr. Chair and I appreciate the opportunity to say
23 my peace.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
25 very much. We're going to hear from Miguel

1
2 Martinez in a minute. But Chancellor I just
3 wanted to ask you, how much money did the city
4 match on the capital? That \$160 represents the
5 unmatched, nothing?

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Zero.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Zero. So
8 they haven't matched anything at this point. And
9 the SEEK program, which I think was funded by the
10 state. How come they, at Baruch College, I
11 understand that they cut back on SEEK.

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: As far as I know
13 and I haven't had specific conversations with the
14 president on this. But some of my senior people
15 have been in touch with the senior people at
16 Baruch. There's been no change in the level of
17 freshmen that are admitted into the SEEK program
18 this year or last year at Baruch. So I'm unaware
19 of any particular problems. But I know that this
20 is something that is in play that you've mentioned
21 this very recently. I will specifically look into
22 this.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Finally, we
24 have Mr. Paul Washington here. Give him a big
25 hand clap from Medgar Evers College. He helps us

1
2 with the Black Male Initiative. Mr. Washington
3 used to be my former chief of staff and something
4 he instituted here at City Hall that we are very
5 proud to say we do this annually and that is the
6 Juneteenth program. So on June 19th, some of you
7 celebrate the fourth of July as Independence Day
8 but Black people weren't free about that time. So
9 we don't support the fourth of July, Juneteenth is
10 when we walked off the plantation so that's our
11 date of liberation.

12 But we want you to come here at
13 6:00 right here in these chambers because our
14 special emphasis, and it's interesting that John
15 Katalski and I were talking about this, but our
16 special emphasis for this Juneteenth will be on
17 Blacks and science. We have some miraculous
18 scientists in CUNY that no one talks about and
19 we're going to be honoring five scientists right
20 here. And CUNY can boast to say they have some of
21 the most brilliant scientific minds in this
22 country is coming right out of CUNY. So we're
23 going to celebrate our science on June 19th.
24 Thank you Paul. Council Member Martinez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Thank you

1
2 Mr. Chair. I celebrate my independence February
3 27th. Chancellor, sorry I was walking in and out.
4 I just was doing several things at the same time
5 but I definitely wanted to be here to focus my
6 question on the \$25 million that CUNY does not
7 have in the budget for 2010, particularly the
8 maintenance effort of agreement. And also
9 highlighting some of the other items that you
10 mentioned, the \$7.7 million cut in operational
11 fund and the \$1.8 for water payment that now CUNY
12 has to incur.

13 The question is these are all
14 separate dollars, the 25, the 7.7 and the 1.8,
15 correct?

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Let me give you a
17 thorough answer to this so that it incorporates
18 that you'll have everything in front of you. The
19 2010 executive budget does not presently contain
20 approximately \$24 million restored to the
21 community colleges by the City Council in fiscal
22 year 2009. So we start at that \$24 million. The
23 remaining fiscal 2010 reduction of \$14.4 million
24 and the additional reduction of \$2.9 million make
25 up the entire amount of money. So based on all of

1
2 this, we are facing about a \$51 million cut to the
3 community colleges and that's where we stand at
4 this particular point in time.

5 The \$25 million, which you
6 mentioned on the maintenance of effort agreement,
7 is an obligation that the city has to adhere to
8 legally. So the \$25 million change from the
9 adopted budget in 2009 and what is proposed in
10 2010, 25 of that is associated with maintenance of
11 effort. The remaining are the aggregation of all
12 of the cuts that you just mentioned. If you add
13 up all of that together, the 25 on maintenance of
14 effort and the other cuts that I just delineated,
15 they come out to approximately \$51 million.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: The
17 maintenance of effort, it usually goes towards the
18 staffing, in terms of the professorship, the
19 support staff?

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It goes to
21 everything. It is part of our core operating
22 needs of the campuses. So they relate to just
23 about every particular component of how we expend
24 money in our operating budget, whether it's
25 personnel or things. Together that's what the

money would be used for.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: What would be the impact if that \$25 million is on tin the budget in terms of the teaching staff?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: That could have an effect. It would not have an effect, I don't believe, on any full time people but could have a very serious effect on part time people.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: I just want to make sure they're two separate things and I'm sure they are. From the \$25 million when you highlight the tuition assistance program, the student financial aid initiative. Any of the money from the \$25 million go towards the student financial aid initiative?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: The initiative that we announced recently is a result of carving out of our operating needs that would go to things other than tuition assistance will be going to tuition assistance. In my testimony, as you have in front of you, I delineated five areas of that we would be using that money for. We certainly intend to do that with the adopted budget.

We've announce this already, the

10 And one thing, I didn't mention
11 this in my testimony but recently at one of our
12 council president's meeting. I chair a council
13 president's meeting monthly at the University. A
14 few o four presidents indicated, with this very
15 serious downturn that we are all mired in this
16 city in and in this nation, some students, more
17 students than any of us imagined, were coming to
18 class hungry. They did not have adequate dollars
19 to pay the transit fare and they had to make a
20 decision between utilizing the subway or buses and
21 having a sandwich or an adequate breakfast to
22 sustain them for the rest of the day.

I was very moved by that testimony
and asked our Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs,
Gary Moore, who is seated to my right to come up

1
2 with a program to provide pantries on our campuses
3 to ensure that those students that are indeed in
4 very desperate straits will have nutritional needs
5 provided to them across our campuses. Out of that
6 \$10 million that we carved out, we allocated about
7 a quarter of a million dollars to provide stocking
8 of those pantries so that we feel a level of
9 comfort that for those students who come in.

10 Some students are ashamed to
11 designate that they didn't have anything to eat.
12 But we're working with our vice president for
13 student development across our campuses. This is
14 a serious issue.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: It is and
16 it brings up a legitimate point to highlight which
17 is, and I don't know who's in charge. But who
18 ever is in charge in the different campus looking
19 at the concession agreement with those that
20 provide the cafeteria services, the food services
21 at the different campuses. That we have those who
22 are sensitive to those needs of those students. I
23 was a student at John Jay, as you know, and if it
24 were not for, he's still there, Johnny to provide
25 the food for John Jay. Oftentimes when we had a

dollar in our pocket, he would still serve you the food. That's the type of individuals we need in all of the campuses, particularly during these hard, economic times. I'm glad you're looking at that. I'm glad that it's come to your attention.

Chancellor, I want to go back to the \$25 million that is needed. Because we have more students attending CUNY, correct?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: We have more students attending CUNY.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: So in fact if we don't have this \$25 million there will be an impact in classroom instruction because if we don't have the \$25 million we won't have those full time to be in the classroom, correct?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: If we don't have the \$25 million, it will absolutely have an effect in classroom instruction. We would not be able to provide as much opportunity to hire our part time faculty. Remember at our community colleges in particular, 63% of our teaching force are part time faculty. While we would certainly be protecting full time faculty, a cut of that particular magnitude would invariably have some

1
2 impact on our ability to hire as many part time
3 faculty as we would need in order to provide for
4 the instruction of this onslaught of students that
5 legitimately need to have an opportunity to learn.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: I know
7 it's not in your testimony. If you have the
8 answer, great if you could give it to us. If not,
9 I would definitely be interested in looking at it.
10 As my capacity now as Chair of the Civil Service
11 and Labor Committee for the City Council, we're
12 looking closely at the budget of every city agency
13 or entity that receives tax levy dollars.

14 One of the items that we're looking
15 in the budgets are the contracting out budget for
16 every entity. I would like to know what's the
17 total number for CUNY contracting out budget.

18 That's important to us in the Council because I
19 want to bring it to the budget negotiating team as
20 we make decisions in the City Council.

21 Particularly when our labor force is under attack,
22 literally is under attack. We have a Mayor that
23 talks about job creation and at the same time he's
24 proposing laying off hundreds of city employees.

25 When I am sure that there are alternative cuts

1
2 that we could do in the city budget and city
3 agencies without having to lay off city employees,
4 which is not the case in CUNY. I'm not saying
5 you're testifying to that.

6 However, I'm very interested Mr.
7 Chair in looking at the city college contracting
8 out portion of its budget with tax levy dollars
9 and not state dollars, obviously. So that when we
10 do have a discussion in the budget we have a full
11 discussion of every agency, particularly when it
12 comes to our labor force. So if you have it now
13 it's great, if not we'd love for you to share that
14 with me.

15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I do not have the
16 aggregate number in front of me but it would be
17 easy enough to get it to you and we'll get back
18 and get it to you as quickly as we can.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Thank you
20 Chancellor. Thank you Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: If you could
22 provide it to both committees as well.

23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Absolutely.

24 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: It would be
25 terrific.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. We're going to go to another panel at this time. Bt thank you so much. Just once again, we should be very, very sensitive to tuition hikes. If we can't afford a sandwich, you know we can't afford a tuition increase.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I want to thank you Chancellor for your leadership and working closely with us in making the case not only here in the city but to Albany and Washington as well. I'm very happy to see all the students here that have come to participate in the democratic process. We appreciate you coming and feel free to stay as we go through these budget hearings. We have hearings all of next week and the week after as well. So feel free to come to City Hall.

We have two panels from the public. I'm going to call up the first panel first.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Say bye to the Chancellor first.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We did.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Oh, bye. He didn't want to go. He wants more questions.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Did you want to say something Chancellor?

MR. GOLDSTEIN: I'm happy to stay as long as you need me.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: No, we're fine. We know where to get you if we need you. Thank you. The first panel from the public will consist of Barbara Bowen and Steve London from the Professional Staff Congress, Ferdinand Almatavar from NYPIRG and Steven Melvin representing CUNY it says. If someone would like to testify and they haven't filled out a slip, please see one of the Sergeant at Arms and fill out a slip. We're going to set the timer at three minutes but we'll use our discretion. So we're not, at least I'm not, that strict with the timing but it's just a guide. Ms. Bowen.

BARBARA BOWEN: Good morning. It's a pleasure to be here. We weren't sworn in, do you want us to be sworn in?

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: That's okay. We trust you.

MS. BOWEN: I think we're trustworthy.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We know you always tell the truth anyway so.

MS. BOWEN: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I don't trust anybody. I put everybody on record. But no, just go ahead.

MS. BOWEN: Okay. Good morning and thank you very much for your patience in listening and also for the very good questions that you've raised so far. Also, it's a great pleasure to be here representing the 22,000 faculty and staff at CUNY, many of whom are here in the room. And also to stand together with our students. We do this for our students.

We have written testimony but I think I'll just hit the highlights. We strongly support the request from the University to restore the proposed cuts to the CUNY budget. That should be a starting point of our discussion, it should not be the limit of the discussion. And what I'd really like to talk about at least briefly, is where we go beyond that restoration.

But just let's start with the principle that in any economic climate, if this

city wants the people sitting in this room to have a future, the city has to invest at a decent level in the City University, which is the people's university. Really the question that faces the city is do we want a real future, not a third rate future, a scraping by future where you're reduced to food pantries future for our students. But do we want an expansion of life.

I'm a professor because I saw in school how school and college expanded my life. And there's no reason that the students in this room, working class students, people of color, women, new generation of immigrants, that our students shouldn't also have access to that expansion of life. This is not just about a job. It's about one's whole life. And it's not just about your own life, it's about the whole family that's standing behind you. The family for whom you're the only one, maybe, going to college and they're all standing behind you. Their hopes are riding on you. So when we invest in CUNY or when the city makes a decision not to invest in CUNY, it's a decision about investing in a whole population.

1
2 So I start by mentioning and
3 strongly urging this City Council to stand very
4 firm, and you have in the past stood very firm, on
5 restoration of proposed budget cuts to CUNY. In
6 the union, the faculty and staff, we know that and
7 we deeply appreciate that. We also appreciate
8 your openness to coming and talking with us.
9 Several of you came to the budget hearings on our
10 campuses. We thank you very much for that. Some
11 of you gave speeches, you wrote speeches. We hear
12 you there and I think you heard us and we
13 appreciate the effort that that took. The voices
14 of those hearings, I think, will be with you as we
15 speak today.

16 First we call on you to restore the
17 proposed \$36.3 million cut in operating funds.
18 Also that includes the maintenance of effort
19 requirement you've heard about that I won't go
20 into details about here and it includes the cut in
21 the needs based scholarship. Chairman Barron, you
22 took the leading role in that, the \$4.5 million.
23 And we strongly support restoration of a needs
24 based scholarship

25 We also call on you as a Council to

1
2 continue your strong support of the Vallone
3 scholarships, which you have supported in the past
4 and restore it at least to the fiscal year 2008
5 level by adding \$4.45 million to that. We ask you
6 to restore the City Council sponsored program such
7 as the Black Male Empowerment Initiative and that
8 totals \$4.3 million.

9 We also ask you, we join with the
10 City University management in strenuously urging
11 that the city never again leave capital funding
12 for CUNY unused. It is criminal that we have to
13 form the kind of partnership you described and
14 spend, what was it, six years trying to get the
15 funding for Fidderman Hall, trying to get the city
16 to match funds that were already there from the
17 state. That process is a waste of everyone's
18 political energy and time and a waste of having
19 that building, that lack hulk standing there
20 downtown New York.

21 So we should start now with the
22 principle that capital funds should never be left
23 on the table again. And that investment for
24 shovel ready projects, as you describe them
25 Council Member Martinez, should begin immediately.

So we strongly support the capital investment.

Finally and this is in some ways where I'd like to dwell, we call on the Council to go beyond where you have gone. I think in previous years which has been strongly advocating for restoration of proposed cuts. We are asking you to make an additional investment in CUNY that would eliminate the need for tuition increase.

The union absolutely opposes using our students to pay down the city's deficit because that's what a \$350 tuition increase is. It's saying we have a deficit here in New York City, somebody has to pay down that deficit. Who is it going to be and the answer so far is the poorest people in New York are going to pay down that deficit. It's a regressive tax to call on our students to pay \$350 more.

I have to say Council Member Barron, though I strongly agree with your position of absolute opposition to the tuition increase, we would suggest that the way to solve that problem is to turn to the city. There might be some economies you could make at CUNY, the administrators make large salaries but that is not

going to pay down that amount. There really aren't that many economies that could be made to scrape together that amount.

The Chancellor just said that the tuition increase was expected to yield \$30 million. We take the position that the city must find that \$30 million. We should not be looking to it for CUNY. Many of you here have been champions of progressive ways to solve a budget deficit. The budget deficit did not drop down from heaven. It was not created by God, it was created by policies, by political and fiscal policies. And we're asking for those policies to be reversed. That means progressive taxes rather than regressive taxes. And it means not treating our students like an ATM for the city. They are not the cash machine for New York City and should not be treated that way.

I'll just say two more things. One is just to give a sense of who our students are. It's wonderful that you're here and I also appreciate that you stayed and didn't all leave after the CUNY Chancellor left. Our community college students, for many of them a tuition

1
2 increase would not just be \$350. It would be for
3 several members of the family.

4 We heard testimony at one where a
5 Queensborough Community College student spoke at
6 one of our budget hearings about how she was in
7 college and now both of her parents are in
8 college, they're Chinese immigrants, because her
9 parents both lost their jobs in this recession.
10 So now all three of them are paying college
11 tuition so that increase would be multiplied by
12 three. This would occur in many situations where
13 we have several generations of the same family in
14 college. So we need to understand that about our
15 students, many of their parents are also newly
16 finding themselves. Great that they can go to
17 college now and many of them were denied the
18 opportunity to go and they're going now.

19 60% of our community college
20 students come from households whose annual income
21 is less than \$30,000. So \$350 is not a small
22 amount. 44% work more than 20 hours a week. 43%
23 are part time. 40% are foreign born and 46%,
24 nearly 50% of our students have a native language
25 other than English. Our students are already

doing double duty by simply coming to school.

I remember in the early days of the feminist movement, some early feminists wrote about the second shift. How women typically had their own job and then they had the second shift at home. Our students are on the second or third shift because they are translating for their parent when they go to the doctor's office. They're taking care of their elderly grandparents, their own children. They're working full time or part time and they're going to school.

To further burden those students is to make a decision to cut off life chances from this population of New York. Really what we're asking you is a hard thing. I want to end by saying it's a hard thing. I understand that the entire thinking about the budget this year in New York is how short the budget is and to be asking for additional investment beyond restoration of the cuts. We recognize that that's a very hard thing

We in the union ask you to look both to the future of the people sitting in this room and to the past, to a time in the 1930s where

1
2 tuition remained free and New York City and State
3 invested in three new CUNY colleges.

4 Teddy Roosevelt just said that he
5 hated to see Mayor LaGuardia coming because he
6 knew every time he see Mayor LaGuardia coming it
7 meant a new college for New York City. That's
8 what we should have right now in this city. So
9 we're asking of the Council to work with the
10 Speaker. We have also worked with the Speaker, to
11 make it one of the Speaker's priorities not only
12 to restore the funding that's proposed to be cut
13 from CUNY, the entire amount but to make a
14 sufficient investment, \$25 to \$30 million, which
15 would eliminate the need for the tuition increase.

16 I

17 f there is desire for a future of
18 New York City, for the whole city not just for a
19 thin slice at the top, for the whole city then
20 that's the only way for New York to go. So we
21 pledge to work with you on that and hope that we
22 can make this a year that is a real turnaround, a
23 change and a standing strong for increased
24 investment. Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.

1
2 Let me say Ms. Bowen, I appreciate your very
3 strong advocacy and working closely with us. I
4 particularly appreciate your passion about the
5 issues that we all care about so much. I would
6 urge you to continue that advocacy and to continue
7 what you've been doing, being very present. What
8 you did with the hearing process on behalf of PSC
9 and I had a conflict but I sent a representative
10 to present testimony. But I thought it was a very
11 good thing you were doing and PSC was doing. And
12 hopefully working together we'll be able to--I
13 don't know if we'll be able to achieve all of your
14 passionate goals but we certainly will strive to
15 do as much as we can.

16 MS. BOWEN: Thank you. Vice
17 President Steve London will be available for
18 questions with me. He joins in my testimony.

19 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. Great.

20 FERDINAND ALMATAVAR: Hello, it's
21 nice to see you again Chairman Barron, nice to see
22 all of you Council Members. Thank you for this
23 chance to speak. Hello my name is Ferdinand
24 Almatavar. I am a BMCC student studying human
25 services. When I finish my studies at BMCC I plan

1
2 to attend a four year college, probably Brooklyn
3 or City College. Ultimately I hope to be a
4 guidance counselor. In addition to my studies I'm
5 also actively involved in the BMCC NYPIRG chapter
6 and I write for the school newspaper, Voice of the
7 Voiceless.

8 I'm going to reiterate some of the
9 things that are said in the Higher Education
10 committee hearing. I'm here to urge you to
11 restore increased city funding to CUNY's community
12 colleges and to urge you to restore the funding
13 cuts that would eliminate important centers,
14 institutes and initiatives like the Black Male
15 Initiative and the Dominican and Puerto Rican
16 Studies Institutes.

17 CUNY has said they will increase
18 community college tuition by \$350 per year. If
19 the city restores the proposed \$36.3 million cut
20 and provides additional funding for CUNY, that
21 tuition hike can still be mitigated. We need
22 faculty because classes are too crowded and there
23 are not enough course offerings. Allowing the
24 proposed cuts to stand would make the problem even
25 worse.

I have a particular concern that a reduction in city funding can make it harder for CUNY to honor their commitment to expand counseling services for students. I know CUNY is trying but I speak from experience when I say that the counseling services they offer aren't always adequate to address students' needs. They simply don't have enough resources and too many students don't get the help they need until they are already in crisis.

I know because I struggle with depression. Last semester when I had a tough time, I had to end up drop two classes. Dropping those classes caused my enrollment status to change from full time to part time. I lost some of my financial aid because of that change and the whole episode ended up costing me \$900. If counseling services were more accessible, I might have gotten help earlier before things got out of control.

Thank you for the chance to speak. Please, fight hard to keep CUNY affordable and well funded. Now more than ever students need CUNY to be strong. I would just like to add that

the Chancellor said that he sees storm clouds on the horizon. I believe that he is correct. I believe that there has been a snowball effect happening for some time now when it comes to higher education funding. That snowball has the potential to become an avalanche.

We are in the beginning stages of what I see as a potential crisis in higher education. And a crisis in higher education is a crisis for the entire city and the entire state. We can still alleviate and mitigate this crisis, we can avoid it, we can stop it from happening. I urge you, the City Council, and I urge my fellow students today to take action immediately before it becomes a true crisis. I know something about crises from my personal experiences. I know how to avoid it when I see the effects coming on.

I urge my fellow students, my fellow CUNY students to try to take at least one hour a week and become active in trying to support higher education or your own individual campaigns. If half of all CUNY students took one hour a week to become active, we would definitely impact the city on a positive level. Thank you very much.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just
3 wanted to thank you very much for your testimony,
4 your commitment. I hope everybody adheres to what
5 you're saying because that is a major part of the
6 resolution. And Barbara, we have to work on
7 enhancements because I think that's part of the
8 strategy is to always get us talking about
9 restorations and then even less restoration than
10 what we even had in the past. So we have to fight
11 for enhancements and you have my commitment on
12 that and so do you, sir.

13 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Yes and Mr.
14 Almatavar, we appreciate your passion as well.
15 Just a good example of what a success story CUNY
16 students are. If you're interested in an
17 internship, you can see me afterward. I'll leave
18 you my card.

19 MR. ALMATAVAR: Thank you Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Give him the
21 card. We've been joined by Council Member Alan
22 Gerson. Yes, Mr. Gerson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: First of
24 all, David, with all due respect to our great
25 Chair the Borough of Manhattan Community College

lies within Council district number one so we get first option for all the outstanding potential interns so we'll give you our card as well.

MR. ALMATAVAR: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: That's fine.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I just need to state Mr. Chair, Mr. Chair first of all thank you for your indulgence of me in addition to other issues. Early this morning we had a terrible fire in China Town. Thank God no one was seriously injured and thank God no one was killed. But a major supermarket and adjoining building was totally destroyed I know this hearing was in the best of hands with Chair Barron and Chair Weprin.

I just want to add, state or reiterate if it was already stated for the record, because it is so important, a point concerning the situation with the Borough of Manhattan Community College. As the articulate testimony of our recent witness reminds us, that college and our community colleges rank amount the jewels of our system.

I have been in touch with our administration and Mr. Chair with your efforts and

1
2 the efforts of the BMCC community joining together
3 we achieved a major victory in the funding for the
4 demolition and replacement of Fidderman Hall. But
5 we learned we can not rest on our laurels. That
6 victory does not mean that other critical work for
7 BMCC should come to a halt. To the contrary, it
8 all must proceed.

9 Mr. Chair, once again we have a
10 situation where the state had allocated a critical
11 capital funds for significant work at BMCC and
12 elsewhere but that money is being held up because
13 of the failure thus far of the City of New York to
14 match that state allocation. If we in the city
15 don't step forward, not only will BMCC and other
16 colleges lose the city allocation benefit but they
17 will also lose the state allocation which has been
18 made on a contingent basis.

19 So I'm stating on the record that
20 as a budget priority, we must and I repeat we must
21 make sure that the City of New York matches these
22 allocations made in the current state budget so we
23 can continue to move forward on critical projects
24 at BMCC and elsewhere. That has to be a non-
25 negotiable, absolute position.

Mr. Chair I know you will work on that and I will work with you to see that that is done. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Absolutely Council Member and actually that's something that the Chancellor stressed as well as all of us as well. We'll join with you in that effort. We've been joined by Council Member Gale Brewer from Manhattan. Thank you very much. I'm not going to call the next panel. If anybody did not fill out a form and wants to testify, fill out a form and come up now. We have Viola Burgess from Hostos Community College, Cristian Garcia from Hostos Community College, Monique Lewis from Bronx Community College, Francisca Villar from Bronx Community College and Stephan Melvin, are you still here? Come on up.

CRISTIAN GARCIA: Hi, my name is Cristian Garcia and I need to understand something because I didn't. That's why I'm going back to school even though I have a degree in accounting but I didn't understand this math. They give money to the bank so people can purchase houses but I don't understand how they are taking the

1
2 money that they are supposed to give to the school
3 so we could get an education so we could get a job
4 so we could purchase a house. So I didn't
5 understand that type of math and the adding that
6 they use to subtract. I'm going back to school so
7 they can explain it to me. Maybe that day I
8 wasn't in school. I was daydreaming and I didn't
9 understand so I want somebody to explain it to me.

10 Plus, in the school in the
11 community college we need money for the special
12 programs that we have there. We have students
13 with disabilities. With disabilities, some
14 disabilities you can see and some disabilities you
15 can not see it. And in community school they have
16 those type of programs that they help the
17 students. Also they have tutoring that we need.
18 You forgot, even if you become a president I'm
19 going to vote for you but the only thing that you
20 forgot was the single mothers that are in
21 community colleges.

22 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Charles,
23 Charles.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I didn't
25 forget that.

MS. GARCIA: But everything you say, I love it. I'm supporting you 100% because everything you said was right.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I was raised by a single mother, I'll never forget single mothers and single fathers too.

MS. GARCIA: So I just want to understand what's going on and how come they're taking the money that they can give to the schools and giving it to the bank. How can we purchase a house when we don't have an education, we don't have a nice job to get the house?

VIOLA BURGESS: Hi, good day. My name is Viola Burgess. I'm part time Hostos Ambassador and emerging leader. It's like something crazy is going on in New York and I don't know where to start from. We all the time are increasing taxes, we're putting money on bags and things that will not phase the deficit. We the students didn't create this, we come here and find it. They want us to bail them out. I don't think it's fair because as you see no one here has no Frankenstein or Rockefeller.

Everybody here is from poor people

1
2 that their mother has two or three jobs and trying
3 to make ends meet. I don't think none of those
4 Congressmen that are passing these bills have any
5 family members in community college. Because if
6 they do so they wouldn't pass this type of bill
7 because it doesn't make any sense.

8 If you have to get a loan to pay
9 your school, when you graduate you will continue
10 paying this loan until you die or either until you
11 get in some wheelchair and you can not afford to
12 keep paying the loan because you have to pay for
13 your wheelchair. So it is not making any sense.
14 I don't know what Mayor Bloomberg is thinking
15 right at this time because even though if it goes
16 to Congress and they try to put this bill, he has
17 to sign it. And he's signing something that will
18 jeopardize all middle class people, not upper
19 class.

20 The mention all the different
21 colleges. What happened to Hostos? What
22 happened, we don't exist? It's like we're blacked
23 out and we are here. We need to be heard. So I
24 will really like when you'll be making budgets
25 and you are thinking of upper side Manhattan and

Queens, you all think back on Hostos because from Hostos we get a lot of important people and people that qualified to do any type of job that Queens and Manhattan do. We can do it too because we have the capability of doing it. I feel that we could do much better than them.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much for your testimony. But let me just set you two straight for a second here. When we fight for CUNY whether we mention your college or not, or whether we mention single parents or not, we fight for every single college and every single person in CUNY. So we appreciate your testimony but I have somebody that I need you to tell that to but it sure isn't us. But we'll take the testimony for the record because people need to know.

Did anyone lose a cell phone? We have a cell phone that someone may have dropped. We forgot Sandra May Flowers, you can come forward to testify as well. They forgot to call your name. If anybody lost a cell phone, it's up here. But yes, you may continue to the next testimony.

STEPHAN MELVIN: Hello, name is

Stephan Melvin from CSI, College of Staten Island. When I first heard about the college budgets I kind of panicked a little bit because for people like me who have gotten into college after long years of hard work, that was kind of nerve wrecking. I just can't understand the Mayor's though process behind it. When you're building a house, you don't forget the foundation. You don't cheap out the foundation. We are the foundation of this city. Thank you. Thank you for your time.

FRANCISCA VILLAR: I want to say to my fellow students that class isn't taught in math class, it's taught in history class and it's called capitalism. I'm a student at Bronx Community College. I'm a very active student at Bronx Community College. I am part of my student government--

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: [] Excuse me. We need to ask you to state your name for the record.

MS. VILLAR: My name is Francisca Villar. I'm a student at Bronx Community College. I'm a student senator with the student government

and I'm a delegate for the University Student Senate. And I'm also parliamentary for my college at BMCC.

The reason I'm here today and I come to every budget hearing, every hearing that has to do with CUNY is because it's true what the student said that came up before. We need to organize ourselves as students. If we don't do this together, the Council can not fight for us if they don't know who they're fighting for. So we need to be here, not only today, not only when the Chancellor testifies but we all need to be here to testify for ourselves.

I am a product of CUNY. I was a recipient of welfare and I came in through CUNY and I graduate this semester with a biology major. I plan to go to Lehman for one year to require my pre-med and then I go to Cuba for med school for six years. The reason I'm going to Cuba is I can't afford medical school in the States so that's something to consider.

While we as students struggle with our daily lives like everybody else has mentioned, I myself pay \$1,300 a month for rent which is

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2 increasing. I pay for transportation, which is
3 increasing. I pay for food and child care because
4 I'm also a mother of two young children in the
5 public school system. My son is five and my
6 daughter is four. So all of these things together
7 and adding an extra \$350, to me, is impossible.

8 We at Bronx Community College has
9 evaluated our students and we realize that if this
10 tuition goes up at Bronx Community College, we
11 will lose 20% of our student population. Well 30%
12 now because it increased this semester. Last
13 semester we were here fighting against a \$600
14 tuition increase and I thank you Mr. Barron for
15 being out there in the streets with us. Not only
16 here but being in the streets with us fighting
17 with us, together. We really appreciate that in
18 CUNY, that you always come to our defense.

19 The BMI project, our president of
20 student government is a product of the BMI project
21 or the Black Male Initiative. These young men are
22 extraordinary transformation when they come on to
23 our campus and they leave. They come in not
24 caring about anything but themselves and money and
25 leave with a conscience of community and

development and leadership. So we thank the BMI project to a lot for them.

The Vallone scholarship is something that's being underfunded. But I, myself, am a recipient of the LSMP. I am one of those future scientists from CUNY. The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is a scholarship that I receive. Because of that scholarship I was able to leave my midnight, from 12:00 at night to 8:00 am job last semester, which I was working in a check cashing place. So I can be able to concentrate on my studies. I'm also receiving the LSAMP scholarship which is for students in technology and environmental and mathematics.

These are scholarships that also need to be funded. Not only the \$36.3 million that's being taken away and not only the \$51 million that Chancellor Goldstein is thinking about but we need to add more money into these foundations, more money into these scholarships and into these community colleges. As everyone has said, I'm going to reiterate it, we are the foundation for the city, we are the work force.

We are the ones that become doctors and engineers and then turn around and pay those taxes. So our fellow communities and our next generation can come up and develop themselves. So we re-reiterate this and it sounds like rhetoric but we urge you to please come to our defense against this \$36.3 million cut. Please fight for us to get more funding so we can develop not only the middle class. The "middle class" because I don't know what that is because I am poor.

But they say the bottom, from the Bronx you have no idea what an honor it is for you to say I go to Bronx Community College or I got to Hostos Community College or I'm graduating from BMCC or from Hostos. Me, personally, I would be the first one in a 30 year generation from both my families, mother and father, to graduate with a degree from college. And that is thanks to CUNY. Without CUNY we won't have these doors into our futures. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Excuse me just one moment, before we hear from our final two witnesses. Let me just acknowledge that we've been joined by Council Member Gale Brewer from

Manhattan and Council Member Diana Reyna from Brooklyn and Queens. Please proceed.

MONIQUE LEWIS: Good afternoon. My name is Monique Lewis and I'm a student at Bronx Community College as well as the USS Vice Chair for Technology Fees. I'm here today as I have been throughout the past year to advocate not just for myself but on behalf of all my fellow CUNY students.

This whole budget cut is really serious to me. I think that I proved how serious it was when last December my youngest child passed away. I was at the hearing to testify against the tuition hike when I should have been home making funeral arrangements. But this is something that's important to me. My son was one of the reasons I came to the college. He was born with a disability and I plan to follow social work to work with disabled members of the community. I also made a promise to my mother over 18 years ago before she passed away that I would get my college degree no matter what.

This budget cut, despite the fact that I received full financial aid, every semester

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2 when I do my financial aid I never know what my
3 financial status might be. So to have that risk
4 and then also I have two children still at home,
5 almost ready to come into college. I'm afraid
6 that one day I may have to choose whose education
7 is more important, mine or theirs. That's not
8 fair. We all deserve an education. I want to
9 show my children, my fellow students and just the
10 community overall, education is important. For
11 New York City to be made up of their employees,
12 the majority of them are CUNY graduates. How can
13 they do this to us when we help sustain this city?
14 We are the backbone of New York, CUNY. We make
15 things happen. They need to make things happen
16 for us.

17 I get up every morning at 5:00 am.
18 Get myself together, get my children together. I
19 wake my friends up to make sure that they come to
20 school so that they can follow their dreams. This
21 is nothing that's just a joke. But again with the
22 tuition hike being proposed and the
23 transportation, even with the benefits that I get
24 I'm still struggling. There are a lot of times we
25 cook at home and bring food for a group of us just

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2 so we can make it through the day. We're there
3 from the time school opens sometimes until 10:00
4 at night. My children come to the school
5 sometimes and sit and wait for me. I'm going to
6 do whatever I can to stay a CUNY student but the
7 struggle should not be this hard. We should not
8 be afraid.

9 This gentleman right here sitting
10 next to me should not be afraid that his education
11 and his future is at risk. So I would like you
12 just to take back to Mayor Bloomberg, not the
13 statistics. Take him back the stories of us as
14 real people and show them how it's affecting us
15 because if he doesn't take care of us now, we
16 can't take care of him in the future. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Before the
18 last testimony, let me just say this, that that
19 was probably the most passionate, steering
20 testimony that we've had in a long time. I'm
21 going to go back to what I used to do when I first
22 came, let the students testify first and let the
23 administration hear their testimony before they
24 leave. I think everybody needs to hear that. I
25 certainly respect your leadership that you've

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2 shown over the years at CUNY and especially the
3 way you'll speak up for the Black men at CUNY. I
4 know some Black men didn't come in there just for
5 money and stuff like that. Some of them came
6 already to be committed. I just want to make sure
7 that they put that out there. Let me just hear
8 the last testimony and then we'll wrap it up.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Excuse me Mr.
10 Chair, before we hear from Ms. Flowers. I would
11 just make one or two brief points and then Ms.
12 Flowers you'll be the grand finale and have the
13 final word for this hearing.

14 I have always been inspired by the
15 testimony and the activities of each of you and
16 all of you, both at today's hearing and at
17 previous events. Clearly the future of our city
18 is in the best of hands with each of you. My
19 goodness, this was an unusual day at City Hall
20 when one of our witnesses kind of put Chair Barron
21 on the hot seat for a brief moment but we love
22 Chair Barron for all the great work he did.

23 I just want to say to Ms. Lewis,
24 that you along with all your fellow students are
25 doing your families proud. I'm quite confident

Ms. Lewis that your late son and mother are looking down upon you and smiling with such great pride.

My concluding point if you'll indulge me because I think it's important point to emphasize. It's one I made when I spoke at an event not too long ago with the Professional Staff Congress. When you all say that you are the foundation and the backbone of our city, you are 100% correct. I want to emphasize that because we sometimes lose sight of what a strong foundation CUNY provides. It is the backbone CUNY provides to its students, to each of you and your contributions which goes through the generations. I am living proof of that.

I did not attend CUNY but I would not be here were it not for CUNY because my mother, the daughter of hard working, struggling immigrants was only able to pull herself ahead and make a life for herself and then her family, me, because she was able to attend. At that time we had free tuition, which we never should have done away with but that's a different.

But she was able to attend Hunter

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2 College and go on to become a teacher and go on to
3 become a union leader and create a family and I
4 was able to benefit. If she did not have the
5 benefit of that CUNY education she couldn't have
6 done that. I would not have received the
7 benefits. Hopefully I'm passing on that through
8 my service here on the Council.

9 So when you say that CUNY is the
10 foundation, it is a foundation that lasts
11 throughout the generation. And it's an investment
12 from which this city reaps much more in return
13 than the dollars we put forth in our budgets. We
14 need to make that point continually and you do it
15 so well and so articulately. So you are, each of
16 you, are to be commended. Ms. Flowers, with that,
17 you're going to take it away.

18 SANDRA MAY FLOWERS: ...again for
19 the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of
20 myself and students. Thank you Chair Barron and
21 the Council. My name is Sandra May Flowers. I'm
22 a student ambassador from Hostos College. I'm
23 also the vice president for the Abilities
24 Awareness Club. I'm happy to say that I was one
25 of the people chosen to receive the CUNY

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2 leadership award for this year. I received that
3 award for doing volunteer work and also being a
4 leader.

5 Two of my concerns is that this
6 place should be packed with students. When I have
7 my class on Wednesday, I told them what I was
8 coming for. It was government class and I told
9 them I was going to be coming to City Hall to
10 speak on behalf of them. I said does anybody want
11 to come? You should come because they're
12 threatening the hikes for us. The students were
13 looking for the professor to say, well sir are we
14 going to get extra credit if we go. It's like
15 they don't want to go unless they're getting extra
16 credit. But the thing is, if you want something
17 done you have to be active. You have to come out
18 and speak up because I know that if we just be
19 quiet like was said earlier, nothing is going to
20 happen. The money could go forward and nothing is
21 said. But I agree with Chairperson Charles
22 Barron, we have to fight.

23 We have to fight for what we want.
24 In numbers, there is power in numbers. We do need
25 to have a movement. We do need to encourage

1 students to come out and speak up. They're not
2 going to know. There was a student that was in
3 one of my classes. He is not in school now
4 because he owes \$900. Myself, I have had my
5 advisement but I don't know how I'm going to pay
6 to get to school next semester. I have no idea
7 because I lost my job several months ago. But you
8 know what? I'm not going to let the City Council
9 break my dreams. I'm saying to each and every
10 student here, we have to continue to fight.

12 I don't know who I need to direct
13 this question to. But is there a way that we can
14 mandate that the City Council that votes against
15 us because it's really against us. They vote for
16 these policies to be enacted. Is there a way that
17 we can mandate that they come, whether it's either
18 on our campuses or whether they be present here so
19 that they can see the students before the
20 Chancellor leaves. And let them know what we feel
21 about these hikes that they're going to give.

22 We don't want to keep coming here
23 year after year to be speaking about these things.
24 Let's move on. We have to move on. Again, I want
25 to encourage students, continue to come out.

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2 We're not going to give up. We have to fight for
3 what we want. Sometimes we have to weep, honey.
4 I have a disability too, a slight one, and I do
5 reach out to all people. I think that that's what
6 it's about. Pleas do not break the dream of CUNY
7 students. Thank you, Council.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well let me
9 say this that you certainly have the support of
10 this City Council. You've had our support for a
11 long time. I think the venom needs to go to the
12 Mayor and to the Board of Trustees and to those
13 who are raising your tuition and to the state for
14 some of the stuff that they're doing. So when we
15 gear some of our anger, we just have to properly
16 direct it to those who are responsible.

17 MS. FLOWERS: I thought you said--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [] Let me
19 finish. However, as I say that the bottom line is
20 the City Council passes the budget. But it is the
21 Mayor who is proposing all of the cuts in the
22 budget. Put pressure on each and every one of
23 your City Council members to say that they should
24 not pass a budget that has these kind of draconian
25 cuts. In that sense you're accurate about the

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2 City Council's role. But it's the Mayor and the
3 Governor and the Board of Trustees that's doing
4 the greater damage.

5 The best that we could do is reject
6 the budget but they have to come up with the
7 monies. The City Council can, I don't think they
8 ever do this, but we can do our own budget if we
9 don't like the budget that the Mayor proposes to
10 us. We have a role in it but the real culprit is
11 the Mayor, the Board of Trustees and the state.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member
13 Gale Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
15 very much. I just want to add to what the Chair
16 said, we also can not decide what the revenue is.
17 One of the issues is how much money is coming and
18 we have to rely by law on what the Mayor's office
19 tells us. So that's another challenge just so you
20 know.

21 I chair the technology committee
22 and I heard you talk to your credit about the role
23 that you play in that technology. I want to know
24 how the fee works. If it does, it doesn't, what
25 do you get for it, etc. I wanted to get your

input.

MS. LEWIS: My biggest concern regarding the technology fee is that it's applied to the students. A lot of the things that I see are for research projects to be quite honest, for the professors. I see the things that they're using the money for are kind of put more towards-- the professors actually use them more. I do see some professors, and I'm speaking as far as my campus specifically, some professors do really implement them and try to take the initiative to make sure that the technology that this money is being used for is geared towards teaching the students. But there needs to be more focus.

A lot of campuses are lacking technological devices for disabled students. That needs more attention. There's not enough money or attention put aside for that. We have a higher enrollment of disabled students that are coming in, people that are coming back from the war. It's so many different things.

The technologies for the classrooms definitely need to be updated. We have a few but there can be more. I've spoken to other campuses,

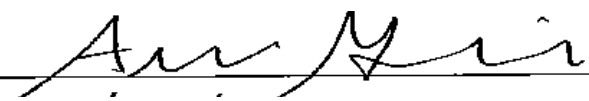
I've spoken to other students and there needs to be focus on us, what's best for us. And that, I think, is sometimes lacking.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Again, thank each of you for your testimony. You've inspired us and you've given us our charge. Speaking for Chair Barron and myself, we'll do everything we can moving forward and my other colleagues present and those who could not be here to keep the backbone and the foundation as strong as possible to match the strength that you impart to it. Thank you all very much. With that, today's Finance Committee hearings are adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date June 5, 2009