

CUNY STUDENT/FACULTY/STAFF PLATFORM

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

University Student Senate of The City University of New York (USS)

Professional Staff Congress/CUNY (PSC)

Mayor Bloomberg has proposed a flat-line budget for CUNY community colleges that doesn't account for enrollment increases, inflationary costs and devastating cuts to scholarships and other programs. His plan for CUNY assumes a requested \$300 tuition hike that many community college students cannot afford and it defunds council-supported initiatives that enrich the college experience and improve student success. Don't let the Mayor squander an opportunity to build up CUNY. The Council must reject his cuts and make a bold investment in CUNY. Students are the future of our City.

Fund CUNY's Mandatory Cost Increases (\$8.2 million)

By failing to provide additional funds to cover regular, inflationary cost increases associated with energy and personnel that are necessary to run the university, the Mayor's Preliminary Budget leaves CUNY unable to maintain its current level of service to students. The Council must first provide these funds.

Increase Public Funds to Add New Full-Time Faculty and Staff Lines and Avoid a Tuition Hike (\$28.9 million)

Instead of hiking tuition, support CUNY's full budget request with increased public funds for CUNY community colleges. Protecting students from another tuition hike would require \$24.3 million. Funding CUNY's requested enhancements would require \$4.6 million. CUNY needs public funding for new full-time faculty lines, new counselors and student services. These investments will help students get the classes they need to graduate on time, bring class sizes under control, and ensure that community college students get the support they need both in and out of the classroom.

Continue to Fund Programs Supported by the Council (\$19.5 million)

The Vallone Scholarship (defunded in 2011) and Safety Net program (defunded in 2009) provided crucial financial aid to thousands of low-income CUNY students and were the only publicly-funded aid available to undocumented students. These and other Council-supported programs such as the Black Male Initiative, Murphy Institute for Worker Education, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, the Dominican Studies Institutes and the Creative Arts Team have all provided a gateway to opportunity and a better future. The Council should restore them all to 2009 funding levels.

Capital Budget Enhancement and Critical Maintenance Needs

After years of enrollment growth and deferred maintenance, CUNY community college facilities need sustained capital investment. Students learn more and faculty and staff are more productive when they have modern equipment, decent facilities and a safe, healthy learning/working environment. The Council must fully fund CUNY's capital budget request for the community colleges, including matching state capital appropriations completely. For too many years, the city has "left money on the table" when it has not matched state contributions and critical building maintenance and construction projects have remained stalled. It's time to build up CUNY.

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