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Editorial:

Cuomo Plays the Tune for CUNY's Dance Macabre

With CUNY's budget reduced to a skeletal structure, the purported liberal Democrat Mario Cuomo and the New York State legislature now propose to remove its bones. Though the CUNY administration still locates the final effect of the cuts in the future, we have already moved beyond that point. The cuts have already adversely and drastically affected access and the quality of higher education; now it is time to ask the question of how long CUNY can last, or what it will be reduced to. The yearly budget cuts come from the operating budgets which are needed to run this university. If five years ago the governor said \$200 million would be taken out of the CUNY budget, the city would have been up in arms, but the current apathy has evolved due to the public's acceptance of austerity-think and persistent and debilitating cuts which continue in drips and drabs. We no longer blink at \$20 million dollar cuts. Over the last couple of years tuition has doubled. These cuts and tuition hikes continue the planned shrinkage of the City and State university systems and shrinkage of the state's professed commitment to quality higher education. Cuts to education have been incorporated as part of a general fiscal policy.

We are fast approaching the point where campuses will close and the CUNY student body will be drastically reduced. At that point proposals to merge SUNY and CUNY and phase-out certain CUNY features like open-admissions will be described as "reasonable" and "fiscally responsible" by the daily newspaper sycophants who de facto work for MAC and Lazard Freres hitman, Felix Rohatyn. The trajectory from Wall Street to 80th street is direct, and no one should fool themselves for a minute that our board of Trustees and government are our friends. The intentions of these Finance Capitalists are antithetical to a democratic institution such as CUNY. Recently, the *Daily News* editorialized against CUNY, calling for its budget to be cut, and demagogically denouncing lazy and overpaid professors who teach courses of "questionable academic value". Though CUNY Professor Leonard Jeffries is undoubtedly the bait here, even our most conservative faculty should fear the scrutiny of an anti-intellectual and violent fascism which has seized the rhetorical high ground. The previously unspeakable word, re-

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CUNY Budget Faces Cuts: Another Tuition Increase Expected

••• Tara McGann •••

The City University of New York is facing mid-year state budget cuts of anywhere from \$13 to \$23 million based upon three state legislative proposals to balance New York state's budget deficit of \$825 million. Governor Cuomo's last minute decision on December 20 not to seek the presidency meant the New York State Assembly and Senate did not have to immediately agree upon a deficit reduction plan. Nevertheless, the Governor has called both the assembly and senate back into session, insisting they agree upon a 15 month deficit reduction plan this week.

Currently, all the deficit reduction proposals call for drastic cuts to CUNY, SUNY and the state's primary and secondary schools. CUNY, however, is being forced to absorb proportionally more of the cuts than SUNY. CUNY Chancellor Ann Reynolds has estimated that \$13 million in budget cuts from the state would mean the loss of 6,000 class sections for the senior colleges. These proposed mid-year cuts of \$13 to \$23 million do not include mid-year cuts to the community colleges of a probable \$900,000, as the budget for the senior colleges and graduate programs come from New York state, while the community colleges are funded by New York City. The New York City Council had originally proposed \$5.6 million in mid-year cuts to the community colleges, but the Chancellor responded by saying that the spring admissions of 10,000 community college students would be delayed — a gambit similar to the Board of Trustees' threat this summer to shut New York City Tech and John Jay if city money wasn't restored. The resulting outrage and confusion of thousands of students was credited with knocking down the the City Council's proposed cuts to under \$1 million and the rescinding of the threat.

These further cuts have been proposed while CUNY is still reeling from \$74 million dollars in cuts made last year to CUNY's 1991-92 budget.

The 1992-93 budget news for CUNY already looks bad; the current information is that there will potentially be \$20 million in further cuts from CUNY's operating budgets and a \$500 a year tuition hike that would increase the annual tuition at CUNY to \$3,000. This would represent nearly a 100% increase in tuition from the 1990-91 to 1992-93 school year. The tuition hike to SUNY will raise it to \$4000 a year; SUNY's Chancellor has said that budget cuts to SUNY might force the closing of three campuses: Cobleskill, Farmingdale and Purchase.

While the proposed \$20 million in cuts to CUNY on top of a \$500 tuition hike is the proposal from the Republican controlled state senate, and therefore offers the worst case scenario, CUNY will definitely face calls for further cuts and a tuition increase. Certain legislators are trying to make the tuition increase a done deed by calling for the increase to be mandated by the state rather than proposed by the state and voted upon by the CUNY Board of Trustees. In the budget cuts over the last several years, the state has presented CUNY with the amount that CUNY has to cut from its budget, and with proposals for tuition increases. CUNY then presents the campuses with the amount they have to cut from their budgets, curiously phrased as the amount they will "contribute."

Our current fiscal budget for 1991-92 was determined over the summer; the decision over the state budget was delayed last spring because of arguments over what to cut and by how much, and protest from those being cut. Ord-

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On December 4th at Lehman College, the CUNY administration gave its first public forum to discuss the College Preparedness Initiative (CPI), a plan to institute tougher graduation requirements at all the CUNY colleges. Dean Ronald Berkman, chosen by Chancellor Reynolds to publicize the CPI plan, spoke at a one-hour slide show forum which he claimed would present "a very compelling case" for the institution of the CPI. Rather than being persuaded by the statistics, however, many of the Lehman faculty voiced doubts about Berkman's statistical claims and about the logic behind the CPI plan in general. Berkman argued that since many students who go on to college have taken college preparatory classes, the way to improve college performance is to require students to take more college preparatory courses in high school.

CPI Bombs at Lehman

••• Granville Ganter •••

Several of the faculty who disputed Berkman's conclusions were professors of mathematics. They complained that the data was misleading and that the administration was far from establishing a causal relationship between high school preparatory courses and success in college. Berkman acknowledged their concerns but stated that he thought the data he presented were fully compelling.

The faculty also complained that Berkman failed to accompany his statistics with the real numbers

from which they were drawn. For many of the auditors present, it was useless to know that "some of" the student body had an "average" GPA of 1.9, and that "another part" had an "average" GPA of 2.7, unless one knew the gross numbers of the averaged groups, and how many of the group with "average" failing GPAs actually had GPAs in the As and Bs. When these absences were pointed out to Dean Berkman, he said that the raw numbers would back up his claims, but the only figure he gave was that the data were drawn from a group of 6,000 students. One professor of mathematics responded to Berkman's presentation by saying, "Any student who brought this as an argument in a paper would have to flunk! Correlation does not mean cause and effect! Just because you have a correlation, you can't go on and say requiring all of those credits is going to make students succeed in college. . . Everybody who works with data knows that, and I'm surprised that you throw this out as your most important point."

Berkman conceded that there was always "some degree of doubt" in interpreting the meaning of a statistical correlation, but he pointed out that no matter what it means, the correlation exists.

The faculty also complained that the statistics tried to oversimplify complex socioeconomic factors. One statistic in particular seemed open to such criticism — a 1990 study of the entire American population which correlates taking high school geometry with enrollment in college. The national data contrast the 82% of the Latino/a students who went on to college and took high school geometry

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Board Prepares to Enact CUW Anti-Protest By-Laws

Ronald B. McGuire

The City University of New York Board of Trustees is poised to enact fundamental revision of the university's disciplinary rules in order to guarantee harsh penalties for participants in future student protests. The most sweeping revision of CUNY disciplinary procedures in twenty-two years features proposals calling for the virtual abolition of the current student-faculty disciplinary committees, the enactment of mandatory sentencing guidelines and the empowerment of the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designees to summarily suspend students and initiate disciplinary procedures without consulting college authorities. Hearing procedures will be revised to make it more difficult for students to defend themselves against disciplinary charges. Student governments would be precluded from paying for the defense of student activists and provisions aimed at protecting students against self-incrimination and guaranteeing the right to counsel at pre-hearing proceedings would be eliminated.

The current disciplinary rules and procedures were enacted in 1969, several months after the Black and Puerto Rican students who led the historic student strike at City College that won open admissions throughout CUNY were granted amnesty by the City College faculty and administration. Except for minor amendments, the university-wide rules and procedures adopted in response to the 1969 Open Admissions strike (the "Henderson Rules") have remained in force since that time.

The current proposed changes in the disciplinary procedures come in the aftermath of last spring's protests in which thousands of CUNY students resorted to civil disobedience in an attempt to preserve open admissions and to protect the ability of the university to fulfill its educational mission. Despite calls by Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds for suspension or expulsion of last spring's student protestors, only one student of the almost two hundred protestors who were cited for disciplinary violations was suspended. At a number of campuses college presidents reached agreements with student protestors and

community leaders providing that no penalties would be assessed against the students (although the Chancellor's office refused to allow the agreements to use the word "amnesty"). At other campuses students successfully argued at disciplinary hearings that their acts of civil disobedience were legally justified.

The Chancellor repeatedly expressed her frustration at the failure of college authorities to impose severe penalties on student protestors. Following the agreement made with student protestors by Lehman College President Ricardo Fernandez, the Chancellor reportedly convened an emergency meeting of College presidents to criticize the Lehman agreement and announce that there would be no further agreements with student protestors without approval of the General Counsel's office.

Despite the hard line taken by the Chancellor's office, the students successfully argued that their actions were legally justified at hearings at LaGuardia, Bronx Community, and York Colleges and no students at any of those schools were suspended.

Alarmed by the willingness of the academic communities at the CUNY colleges to empathize with the student protestors, the General Counsel, with input from the Chancellor and her counsel, prepared the current proposed by-law amendments in an attempt to remove control of the disciplinary process from the college presidents, students and faculty, and to centralize control with the central CUNY administration in an attempt to guarantee that future student protestors will be treated more severely.

Abolition of the Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committees

The student-faculty disciplinary committees would be virtually abolished under the proposed by-laws and replaced by a chairperson, who would function as an administrative judge appointed by the college president with a jury panel of two students and two faculty who would be excluded from participating in any decisions by the

chairperson regarding procedure, evidence or sentencing. The chairperson could be a member of the administrative staff and could be a faculty or staff member (but not a student) from another campus. The by-law appears to anticipate the appointment of a few circuit judges to preside over disciplinary proceedings at various campuses.

The central concept unifying the various proposed by-law changes is the abandonment of the longstanding practice treating student discipline as an internal matter relegated to the colleges and their faculty and student communities. The proposed amendments call for a centralized CUNY-wide disciplinary process establishing prosecutorial authority in the Chancellor's office, with rigid sentencing guidelines and provision a quasi-professional judiciary.

The current by-laws provide for committees composed of three students and three faculty with a chairperson who can be a student or a faculty member. All members of the committee are currently selected from panels which are elected by the student body or the faculty governing body at each college. All major questions regarding evidence or procedure are decided by the entire committee, which also determines the sentence for any student convicted of an offense. Any ruling of the chair may be appealed to the entire committee. Historically, student-faculty disciplinary committees have reflected the notion that the academic community is fundamentally capable of and responsible for policing itself. The ultimate appellate authority has been the college presidents, except in instances where the penalty assessed is expulsion or suspension for more than one term.

Under the proposed amendments to Article 15, the chairperson would rule on all questions regarding evidence or admissibility as well as imposing sentence in accordance with the mandatory guidelines promulgated by the General Counsel's office. The role of the student and faculty committee members is reduced to voting on the guilt or innocence of a defendant, after hearing the evidence deemed admissible by the chairperson.

The proposed by-laws provide that the chairperson shall decide all questions regarding the impartiality of committee members or adequacy of notice. This *continues on p. 6*

EDITORIAL

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trenchment, and the code of David Duke are a part of our immediate future.

It is entirely possible that the Graduate Center will be phased out or at least that some Ph.D. programs will be eliminated. There are many forces that would like to see the Graduate Center closed, combining anti-intellectual fascism and recession politics. As we already know, it is possible that academic standing will be used to cull the herd at the Graduate Center. Still, now more than ever we have to unite to fight the cuts, taking a principled and unwavering stand, joining with SUNY to fight for public higher education. Recently, and at the behest of our campus administration, students were brought into the budget negotiation situation. While we applaud this unprecedented action taken by our president, Francis Degen Horowitz, the central administration must wholeheartedly and sincerely include the entire CUNY community: 200,000 students, faculty, staff, and alumni to stop CUNY budget reductions. In order to finally succeed we cannot stand alone, for practical purposes and principle, but must join with other progressive forces and form a pro-city and pro-social services alliance, rather than fancying that we can play back-room influence peddling. Let the administration join with the struggle or be caught in the cross-fire.

Andrew Long, Tara McGann, Michael Waldron

City Council Calls on State to Pick Up CUNY Funding

By Ian McGowan

Student Leader News Service

NEW YORK CITY— The Speaker of the New York City Council, Peter Valone, released a four year fiscal plan this week, that called for, among other things, transferring additional funding responsibilities for the City University to the State.

Valone's proposed budget suggested that the state should pick up the funding for the associate degree programs at New York City Technical College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, which were almost forced to close due to a lack of funding this summer. He also recommended that the state restore four year status and funding to Medgar Evers College.

Currently, CUNY's four year colleges are funded by New York State, while community colleges are funded by New York City. According to the New York Times, the City Council "proposes several ways to prune city services." One pruning measure would be that "The Council would transfer the City University to the state."

"We would strongly support a program that would transfer funding (of CUNY Associate degree programs at four year schools) to the state" said CUNY press spokesperson Rita Roden, "CUNY is important to the city because it is directed by the city. (The State) might not have the same sensitivity to the needs of CUNY students."

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