The City University of New York

TO: The College of Staten Island Community

FROM: Kathleen M. Pesile, Chair
The College of Staten Island Presidential Search Committee

SUBJECT: Presidential Search Progress Report #1

DATE: January 5, 2007

The CUNY Board of Trustees and The College of Staten Island community have begun the process of selecting a new president. I would like to advise you that the Presidential Search Committee was formed, as follows:

Five Trustees were named, including Valerie Lancaster Beal, Philip Berry, Rita DiMartino, Jeffrey Wiesenfeld, and myself. The President of a CUNY campus sits on every search committee; President Regina Peruggi of Kingsborough Community College was also named to serve on the Committee. The faculty of The College of Staten Island selected three of their colleagues: Professor Sandi Cooper, Professor Alfred M. Levine, and Professor John Verzani. The two student members are Ms. Alexandra Porto and Mr. Arishna Ramphal. Mr. Joseph A. Franzese, Treasurer of the CSI Foundation Board of Directors is the alumni representative. Dr. Lia Kudless, Special Assistant to the President, will serve as campus liaison to the committee. The first meeting of the Search Committee took place late fall.

An advertisement for The College of Staten Island’s presidency ran in The New York Times of November 5, and ads appeared in The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Staten Island Advance, America Oggi, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, Women in Higher Education, Inside Higher Education, and the Affirmative Action Register. At its first meeting, the Committee discussed the opportunities and challenges facing a new president and approved the timetable for the search. A college profile/brochure that will be used to recruit candidates was prepared by CSI in cooperation with the Executive Search Office. These brochures were sent out mid December to presidents and provosts nationwide.

On October 23, 2006, several dozen members of the campus community participated in a series of meetings with University Dean for The Executive Office, Dr. Robert A. Ptachik, and Ms. Dolly Martínez, Executive Director of Executive Search and Evaluation. These meetings were very useful in giving us a clearer picture of The College of Staten Island’s needs and priorities and the qualities it considers most important in a new President. Among the many challenges mentioned, the next president must raise the visibility and public awareness of CSI; articulate and advance the accomplishments of the College’s distinguished faculty, students, and alumni; take a leadership role in fundraising; manage the complexity inherent in a comprehensive academic institution; support
and influence the College’s recruiting efforts to improve the academic preparedness of its incoming student body; influence and oversee the construction of CSI’s new residence halls, among others.

We expect an outstanding group of candidates because of The College of Staten Island’s stellar and distinguished faculty, its diverse and motivated student body, and its prominent alumni. After narrowing the candidate pool, the Search Committee will invite seven to ten candidates to be interviewed early spring. From those interviews, the Committee will select at least three finalists to visit the campus sometime between the middle and end of March.

Each finalist will spend a day on campus meeting with members of different campus groups, as well as addressing an open forum to which all members of the campus community are invited. Feedback from each campus group that meets the candidates will be forwarded to Chancellor Goldstein, to assist him in deciding which finalist to recommend to the Board for appointment.

I invite all members of The College of Staten Island community to submit the names of any individuals they feel should be encouraged to become a candidate. Those communications should be sent to The Office of Executive Search and Evaluation, The City University of New York, 535 E. 80th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, N.Y. 10021. The fax number is 212-794-5532; email can be sent to Dolly.Martinez@mail.cuny.edu.

The Search Committee will issue periodic reports to The CSI community to keep it informed of progress in the search, while respecting the need to keep the names of all candidates confidential.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.