

**Testimony of Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza
The City University of New York
New York City Council Higher Education Committee Hearing:
"The President's Free Community College Plan"
February 23, 2015**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Barron and members of the New York City Council Higher Education Committee. I am Matthew Sapienza, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance at The City University of New York. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about President Obama's free community college proposal. I am joined this afternoon by Eduardo Marti, the Interim President at Bronx Community College, and James Murphy, our University Dean for Enrollment.

This past January, President Obama unveiled a new proposal called "America's College Promise". This initiative would make two years of community college free, and is based on programs that were instituted this past year in both Tennessee and Chicago. The President's proposal called for a partnership between the federal government and local states to cover the cost of community college tuition. If all states participate, the White House estimates that nine million students could benefit, and that a full-time community college student could save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year.

The White House has estimated that this proposal will cost approximately \$60 billion over 10 years. Congress must approve this proposal before it is enacted into law.

Here at the City University of New York, we are very pleased that President Obama has drawn focus to the critical role that community colleges play in our society. The President's plan for free tuition at community colleges sends a powerful signal of the importance of access to a quality education and of these vital front-line higher education institutions to America's future.

Let me share with you some details that were contained in the President's proposal: Students who attend at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA while in college, and make steady progress toward completing their programs will have their tuition eliminated.

Federal funding will cover three-quarters of the average cost of community college. States that choose to participate will be expected to contribute the remaining funds necessary to eliminate community college tuition for eligible students. States must also commit to continue existing investments in higher education; coordinate high schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions to reduce the need for remediation and repeated courses; and allocate a significant portion of funding based on performance, not enrollment alone.

Community colleges will be expected to offer programs that either are academic programs that fully transfer to local public four-year colleges and universities, or are occupational training programs with high graduation rates and that lead to degrees and certificates that are in demand among employers. Other types of programs will not be eligible for free tuition.

Colleges must also adopt promising and evidence-based institutional reforms to improve student outcomes. When President Obama described this requirement in his press release, he specifically cited CUNY's groundbreaking Accelerated Study in Associate Programs initiative.

The President called on other community colleges to adopt programs “such as the effective Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) at the City University of New York which waive tuition, help students pay for books and transit costs, and provide academic advising and supportive scheduling programs to meet better the needs of participating students, resulting in greater gains in college persistence and degree completion”.

ASAP was an innovation that took some time to develop, but has proved its worth beyond our most optimistic expectations. It began in Fall 2007 with a cohort of 1,132 students. The goal was to significantly improve—even double—graduation rates. Students were required to attend full time and to participate in bimonthly advising sessions, weekly non-credit group seminars, dedicated tutoring, and career and employment counseling. They received tuition, books, and a monthly MetroCard. Results were quite spectacular. To date, ASAP has served 8,670 students and just admitted its eighth cohort. ASAP has consistently surpassed its target with 52 percent of students graduating within three years vs. 22 percent of a comparison group of similar CUNY students. The most recent graduating ASAP cohort has done even better, realizing a 57 percent three-year graduation rate. The national average at urban institutions is 16 percent.

The takeaway is that students in ASAP graduate at three times the national average for urban community colleges. As noted by the President, the program has been held out as a model to be emulated, and the state of Ohio has already made plans to replicate it at several of their community colleges.

Based on the program's truly impressive results, we are planning a major expansion, extending the program to more of our community college students. In Fall 2014, we enrolled 4,000 students and are working towards an enrollment goal of at least 13,000 students by Fall 2017. The program actually saves money by shortening the time it takes for students to receive a degree.

We are extremely proud of President Obama's recognition of ASAP as a national model of effectiveness and successful student outcomes. We join with the President in offering ASAP as a national model to be expanded both here in New York and throughout the nation.

Although we would all agree that more needs to be done to ease the barriers to a higher education degree, we are proud of the University's accomplishments in keeping the costs of attendance as low as possible. Here at CUNY, more than seven out of ten full-time community college students attend tuition-free due to federal and state financial aid.

This focus on maintaining CUNY's historic mission of access and excellence continues to result in students seeking CUNY as their institution of choice. In fact, the enrollment for the Fall 2014 semester was the highest in the University's history: over 274,000 students. This represents an increase over forty percent since the year 2000. In addition, freshman enrollment is also at an all-time high, totaling 38,000 for the fall semester.

This record enrollment, particularly at our community colleges, leads to one of the concerns we have with the President's proposal: that is, the physical capacity of our community college campuses to absorb additional students. If Congress approves the President's plan, and more

students are drawn into the community colleges, our facilities resources – which are already stretched to the limit – will be severely compromised. Stated simply, CUNY's community colleges are oversubscribed in terms of space.

Accommodating additional students could be addressed by providing additional weekend programs and increasing summer course offerings, but this will require additional operating budget resources. Additional capital funding for new or renovated facilities would also be required.

We have additional areas of concern with the President's proposal. For instance, we have a significant associate degree student population at Medgar Evers College, New York City College of Technology, and the College of Staten Island. It is unclear if the America's College Promise initiative would extend to these associate degree students at our senior colleges. University Dean Murphy will be outlining these, as well as further questions and concerns about the President's plan, in his testimony.

Chairperson Barron and committee members, we are grateful for your constant leadership in ensuring that a high-quality and accessible CUNY continues to be a mandate for a successful and progressive City. We look forward to working with you to uphold that commitment.

I would now like to ask Interim President Eduardo Marti to provide his testimony.

Testimony
Higher Education Committee
City Council of the City of New York

February 23, 2015

Good afternoon, Chair Barron and members of the Higher Education Committee. My name is Eduardo J. Marti and I serve as the Interim President of Bronx Community College. Prior to this assignment, I served as Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges of CUNY and as President of Queensborough Community College. All told, I have over thirty years of experience leading community colleges and fifty years of service as a faculty member and administrator, mostly in CUNY but also at SUNY and in Connecticut. I am pleased to share with you what I have learned from my experiences and to enter into this discussion to determine how we can work together to ensure that all New Yorkers have a clear path to a better future.

In all my years of service, I have seen community colleges grow from storefront operations to respected institutions of Higher Education. Now that over 45% of all undergraduates in this country attend a community college; now, that community colleges are seen not only as launching pads to the baccalaureate but as economic development engines for their localities; now, that community colleges are seen as the vehicle for bolstering the middle class, it is time to seize the moment and do something bold, something that will significantly catapult our colleges to enable us to fulfill individual dreams and to work for the public good. But we have a duty to do this carefully and ensure that access leads to graduation and not to failure.

Let me start by giving you my impression of the importance of access and the impact that personal finances have on any student attending our community colleges. While approximately 70% of our students receive full financial aid, and, therefore, already attend school for free, there are approximately 30,000 students who are in need of some sort of assistance. Thus, increasing financial access for the working poor of the City is an important initiative. I am grateful to you, members of the City Council, for trying to get as much information as possible before taking action.

From my vantage point, I believe that retention of students is of paramount importance. Access without completion can lead to grave damage to the self-esteem to an underprepared student attending our community colleges. It also ends up costing so much more! While the CUNY graduation rate for community colleges surpasses that of most community colleges (23%), we are still not graduating enough students. Programs such as the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) have proven that, with sufficient academic and student support, our students are capable of far surpassing the national graduation average.

To date, ASAP has realized an average three-year graduation rate of 52% across the five cohorts that graduated to date. So I ask that as you consider reducing the financial barriers to access that you also consider enhancing the services that lead to increased retention and graduation.

There is one benefit that students in the ASAP program consider to be very important, a free MetroCard. It is one of the best retention tools associated with this program. The program distributes the MetroCard according to the students' attendance and participation in the program. It is clear that attendance and participation in student services are important factors in retaining students. So, if you want to help students attending community colleges of CUNY immediately, give them free MetroCards. The cost for students without taxable income would be about \$9.4 million annually for full time students. It would be a powerful incentive to enroll as a full-time student, as full-time students perform better than part-time students.

As you consider additional funding to improve access and retention, I would urge you to keep working with the University in providing enhanced support for initiatives that reduce the need for remediation at community colleges. Programs such as CUNY Start, College Now and Graduate NYC help ease the transition from high school to college. While ASAP attends to students who have better academic preparation, these programs attend to those who need additional help. I hope that we can find ways to better streamline the relationship between secondary sectors and the community colleges.

At Bronx Community College, I am trying to establish better lines of communication between the five largest feeder high schools and the College. My idea is to utilize the PSAT score at the 10th grade level and norm them to the Compass Exam. Using this data we can determine those students who are in line to require remediation at Bronx Community College. Once we identify these students, I want to work with the faculties of both the high school and the College to better align the curriculum. It is my understanding that CUNY Start does some of this. However, I would want to start quickly to provide some assistance to the students while they are in the 11th and 12th grade. Think about how we could use some of the \$30 million we currently spend on remediation if we worked together!

Another initiative that we are exploring at Bronx Community College is paying attention to our graduating class. We are converting our career and transfer office from a place where students are advised as to how to get a job to a job placement office where we actually get students a job or secure a transfer at a baccalaureate-granting unit of CUNY. My goal is to have 90% of the graduates secure employment or transfer as they complete their studies at BCC.

I applaud this committee's interest in trying to expand access to our great university. There is no question that financial barriers are insurmountable for some, especially, the working poor. And, we should find ways to reduce these barriers. Nevertheless, I urge you to consider providing assistance to existing and proven programs that can significantly impact retention and graduation at our community colleges. ASAP is a great program and, while it is expensive, it produces results; results that translate into better jobs, more taxes paid and, therefore, a better return on investment.

You have always been supportive of CUNY and its community colleges. Thanks to you we have an effective system that provides a pathway for students from a High School Equivalency to the Ph.D. Now, you have an opportunity to significantly increase the access and retention of students at the CUNY Community Colleges, As always, through hearings such as this, and by requesting further information of what works best, I am certain that you will arrive at a sound decision so as to help the residents of our City break the cycle of poverty through an effective higher educational system.

Thank you for your attention.

Testimony by Andrew Stettner

Chief Program Officer, Single Stop USA

February 23, 2015

Single Stop commends the City Council Higher Education committee for drawing its attention to President Obama's America Promise proposal to provide free community college tuition. In this increasingly technical and information-rich era, a college education is the minimum most of us need to find a decent, middle-class occupation. About half of all college students today attend community college. The vast majority of minorities in higher education choose community college—and 83 percent of all CUNY students are people of color. It's their stepping-stone to stability and achievement.

That's why President Obama's proposal to make the first two years community college free for full-time students should be seen as a historic moment -- both from the viewpoint of educational progress and of civil rights. It is a critical first step towards a more just country. It is the necessary baseline to maintain a vibrant democracy. Free community college today is what universal public education meant to our nation a century ago.

We can't stop at free tuition. Low-income students will still need additional social and financial supports to succeed in school and graduate tuition. To maximize the potential of America's College Promise, New York must be ready to meet the other needs of their students: Books. Housing. Food. Transportation. Childcare. And more. The other real costs of a college education quickly add up, particularly for low-income New Yorkers and those with children.

A student who does not have a place to live can't learn. A student who is hungry can't focus. Without childcare, a student parent cannot attend class. This reality can be seen in community college graduation rates. On average, less than 20% of students who enroll at a CUNY community college complete their degree even after 6 years. Many others drop out because they simply can't afford to stay in school. Making tuition free will help, but not solve, this problem.

The good news is that Single Stop is changing the equation. At all seven CUNY community colleges, Single Stop provides a unique one-stop shop that helps students to access food assistance, free tax preparation services, financial counseling, health insurance, legal assistance, and other resources. The average Single stop client receives \$5,400 in existing safety net resources that were previously under-utilized. It's a total of 58,000 students and drawn down \$136 million in resources. Research has shown that CUNY community college students receiving Single Stop services stay in school at a rate that is 17% higher than those who do not.

As America considers President Obama's plan, community colleges must be prepared to provide the necessary wraparound services that are needed to keep students in school. As a first step, we encourage the Council to support the continued provision and expansion of Single Stop services at CUNY.



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Testimony for the Borough President
Before the City Council Committee on Higher Education

My name is Eric L. Adams, and I am the Brooklyn Borough President, representing the 2.6 million residents who call Brooklyn home.

I would like to thank Chairperson Barron and the Committee for Higher Education for taking positive, necessary action on President Obama's bold and forward thinking call for free community college for everyone who maintains a 2.5 grade point average and makes steady progress towards a degree.

While the President's goals are certainly laudable and I fully support the resolution before you today, the likelihood of this proposal passing through the current Congress is slim in the present political climate. Fortunately, New York City does not have to wait for the federal government to act. We can revive the free tuition program at CUNY, provide tuition relief for current students and unburden tens of thousands of current and future students from the heavy weight of student debt.

2016 will mark 40 years since CUNY ended its free tuition for all program. In those 40 years education costs have skyrocketed. In 1976, the average annual tuition and fees for higher education, including public, in-state tuition, was just over \$1,000.¹ By 2012 it was over \$13,000.² Even adjusting for inflation, the rise is significant as evidenced by an even more shocking statistic: In 1976, the percentage of median household income needed to pay that tuition was 9% and in 2012 it was 26.7%.³ These numbers do not include the total costs of attendance, just tuition and mandatory school fees.

These higher tuition costs, combined with an increased reliance on student loans instead of grants have led to an overwhelming amount of student debt, which is now approaching \$1.2

¹ See http://politicalcalculations.blogspot.com/search?q=school+costs+1969-2012#.VOd_8ubF8c2.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

trillion dollars nationwide and second only to mortgage debt in the United States.⁴ Education is a key component creating economic mobility, but it is less effective if those same students are simultaneously overburdened with debt.

The benefits of higher education are indisputable. Twenty-first century skills, better paying jobs, and economic growth all rely on access to higher education. Access means affordability and affordability means being able to pay the bill, and also a better economic situation after graduation.

According to CUNY's Office of Institutional Research Reports, there are over 71,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students enrolled in CUNY's seven community colleges, including over 13,000 FTE students at Brooklyn's own Kingsborough Community College. Tuition for full-time enrollment at CUNY schools is \$4,550 a year. According to CUNY's Master Plan for 2012-2016, 63 percent of two-year community college students receive Pell Grants indicating that they come from financially challenged backgrounds.

But grants alone do not cover all of the costs of attending community college. Living expenses are also a burden on students. Further, in the absence of passing the DREAM Act, immigration status continues to hinder the ability of first-generation students to receive student aid. We can help these strivers to make the voyage from dream to reality a little easier. We can make community college free again.

Last month, in response to President Obama's call to action, I requested that the Independent Budget Office look into the costs and benefits of providing free community college at CUNY institutions throughout New York City. We anticipate the results to be released in the coming weeks and we look forward to sharing them with this Committee, the City Council, and the Administration.

Preliminary data appears to show that with all other things held constant, free tuition would reduce the overall cost of attendance by 18-24% for students living independently, and by 38-74% for those living at home, depending on whether or not they are receiving any other aid.⁵ These are significant savings that can not only make a difference in a student's ability to attend community college, but in their financial stability upon graduation.

I urge this committee to not only support the resolution that endorses President Obama's plan, but to also introduce legislation that would make community college at CUNY free once more

⁴ See <http://www.learnvest.com/2014/07/is-college-worth-the-cost/2/> .

⁵ These numbers are based on preliminary numbers from the IBO: tuition of \$4,550.00; estimated total educational costs of \$11,738.00 for students living at home and \$24,534.00 for students living independently; and an average aid amount of \$5,596.00 for students who received aid.

for those that are seeking a better life through higher education. My office looks forward to working with you and partnering to make that a reality as soon as we can.



Office of the Chair
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Nayeh Yisrael, Graduate of Hostos Community College

February 23, 2015

Good afternoon members of the Committee on Higher Education. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide this testimony. My name is Nayeh Yisrael and I am a recent graduate of Hostos Community College.

As a student in Hostos, I was fortunate enough to be a part of the CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Program, also known as the ASAP Program. I was very lucky to be a part of this program because I did not have to pay for books, tuition, and transportation. However, I had many friends that did have to pay for tuition or other expenses. My friends that had to worry about covering these expenses were not as successful as they could have been. If all they had to do was focus on their course work and not the working full-time or part-time, then I think they would have benefited dramatically, like I did. It took me only a year and a half to graduate from Hostos.

But the reality is that many students in community colleges juggle jobs and family responsibilities. If you had to choose between having one meal for the day before going to class, buying a metro card to even go to class or pay for your tuition, which one would you choose? We know that school is very important but nobody should have to make such a decision. If community colleges were free for those who do not receive financial aid or an entire scholarship package, just think about how many more students will enroll and graduate on time or at-least faster than the national average. These students will have extra money to take care of other responsibilities and still be successful in their classes.

I am glad to say that being in the ASAP program did save me. I graduated before my time and excelled in every class. I did not have to worry about being part-time because I had no money to finish school on time. I am now continuing my studies at Hunter College majoring in English. Everyone, however, cannot get into the ASAP program, so with the President's plan to make community colleges free, every student walking through the doors of Hostos or other community colleges will have the same opportunity of a lifetime that I had. Just think about how many graduates you will have coming out of CUNY, who will then return that initial investment while supporting their own communities.



Office of the University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863
Web: www.ussscunyc.org

February 23, 2015

**NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community
College Plan**

Testimony of Lucas Almonte, USS Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs

Introduction

Good afternoon. Chairwoman, Inez Barron and members of the committee. My name is Lucas Almonte, I am the Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs for the University Student Senate (USS) and the Student Government President at New York City College of Technology (CUNY). I am also a proud resident of City Council District 10, thank you Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez for your service.

I would like to begin by thanking the committee for holding this hearing and advancing the conversation on educational equity. For us at the CUNY University Student Senate, protecting the access to quality higher education is a core tenet of our mission statement. We deeply share President Obama's vision to provide two years of free community college.

The President's plan addresses the problem of affordability for many students throughout the country and, despite the fact that about 60% of CUNY students attend school without debt in part because to their financial aid packages, 40% still have to pay some sort of tuition and most students have to overcome the rising cost of rent, subway fares, textbooks, and the challenges of our struggling economy. These ancillary expenses are not covered by the current Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

The focus of this hearing today is to discuss the Committee's resolution calling on Congress and the State to support and pass legislation to initiate the President's proposal. I

support the resolution and its goal. I, however, will posit several questions that I am hoping will help us better understand the substance or inclusiveness of the President's proposal.

Aside from questions of the total cost of this program, the USS would like to know:

1. Who is eligible to benefit from this program?
2. If a student is, for example, a resident of New Jersey but wants to attend a CUNY community college, would that student be considered for in-state tuition or would they have to cover the differential cost between in-state and out-of-state tuition?
3. Will undocumented students be eligible for a free community college education?
4. Will students who are already a graduate of an Associate Program be able to return to a community college and obtain another degree---free of tuition charges?
5. And lastly, will students who would have been eligible for Pell Grants still be able to receive the Grants on top of their free tuition? This is an important question to have answered because many current students heavily depend on Pell to cover living expenses.

I raise these concerns because perhaps the better option would be for our great State or City to take ownership of the President's vision like Tennessee and Chicago already have done by offering free community colleges. I personally think that our state and city should not wait for our national government to act.

Today you will hear from several students all with different backgrounds and experiences as ~~a~~ community college students. I would ask that you listen to their testimonies carefully and see why it is important that we answer these important questions. Their experiences will show you that we need a free community college program that will provide access to everyone.

We remain optimistic and support the City Council's resolution calling on Congress to pass and fund the proposal we are discussing today. We also would like to motivate the Council to look internally for immediate and effective solutions to ensure that at least NYC offers free community colleges and support services to residents of our local communities.

Thank you.



Office of the Chair
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Nayeh Yisrael, Graduate of Hostos Community College

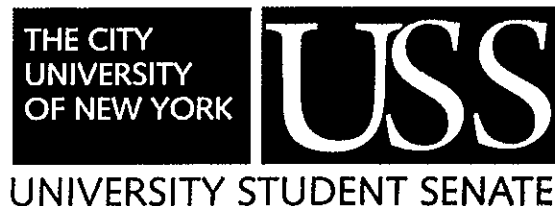
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But the reality is that many students in community colleges juggle jobs and family responsibilities. If you had to choose between having one meal for the day before going to class, buying a metro card to even go to class or pay for your tuition, which one would you choose? We know that school is very important but nobody should have to make such a decision. If community colleges were free for those who do not receive financial aid or an entire scholarship package, just think about how many more students will enroll and graduate on time or at-least faster than the national average. These students will have extra money to take care of other responsibilities and still be successful in their classes.

I am glad to say that being in the ASAP program did save me. I graduated before my time and excelled in every class. I did not have to worry about being part-time because I had no money to finish school on time. I am now continuing my studies at Hunter College majoring in English. Everyone, however, cannot get into the ASAP program, so with the President's plan to make community colleges free, every student walking through the doors of Hostos or other community colleges will have the same opportunity of a lifetime that I had. Just think about how many graduates you will have coming out of CUNY, who will then return that initial investment while supporting their own communities.



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**NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community
College Plan**

Testimony of Lizayda Rodriguez Student at Hostos Community College

Good afternoon to Chairwoman Inez Barron and to all the members of the committee, my name is Lizayda Rodriguez and I am a student at Hostos Community College.

First, I would like to cite a *troubling* fact that currently more than 40 million Americans hold student debt. Student debt is increasing while wages are flat or decreasing. Not to mention that having student debt can also make you ineligible for many government jobs. Over the years, student debt keeps rising while the number of jobs keep going down. Does anyone else see a perpetual problem here?

Let's look at a dilemma many students face. We typically have two options. The first option is not to go to college thus not acquire a degree; therefore, we have to settle for a job that pays little to nothing and still struggle trying to make ends meet. But this option makes us get stuck in low-paying jobs. Option two, on the other hand, is to go to college and get a degree that would enable you to advance socially and professionally, but by the time you graduate, you are sinking in debt from student loans and then stressed trying to look for a job as soon as possible to be able to start paying those crushing students loans. The President's plan for free community would help many students who do not receive financial aid support receive a college education.

We need to also be focusing the discussion on how can we provide students support services to help student graduate on time. Apart from taking care of a their families--whether that consists of being a mom, wife or a primary care giver--many students are also responsible for working full-time while attending school to be able to sustain themselves. This could be a contributing factor to low graduation rates that are common at community colleges.

I myself am a mother of two wonderful boys. During my first year of college I was a full-time student and worker. That was extremely hard for me to handle my responsibilities at home while making sure my GPA was above 3.5. Despite my struggles I manage to do it all and was successful in all of my classes, learned a few new things and shared some of that knowledge with my children. I did spend many hours at work studying, many hours at home not sleeping and many hours at school trying to figure everything out. However, it was overwhelming and I came to the conclusion that I had to make some changes and give up something. I struggled with the idea of taking out loans, but worked enough never to have to do that, but I do not think that will be possible when I get to my senior college to get my BA in nursing. It may even become an issue while I pursue my RN at Hostos. I have stressed a lot about this issue. However, it was overwhelming and I came to the conclusion that I had to make some changes and give up something.

I hope that if President Obama's plan becomes a reality that students attending community colleges will not have to give up their Pell Grant or other sources of financial help. Many low-income and middle-class families who qualify for financial aid depend on using that money to help support ourselves and not have to work while attending college. Focusing on just our studies and not tuition expenses will hopefully improve our student performance and graduation rates as well. Hostos is not the end for me and only the starting point. After graduating, I plan to earn a Bachelor's in nursing and then a Master's in nursing as well. I stand here today to request that you take this plan to heart to help improve the lives of all of us who are working so very hard to make a better life for ourselves and our families.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this idea of free community colleges.



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555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
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Fax: (646) 664-8863

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Cintya Jimenez, Student at CUNY—Hostos Community College

February 23, 2015

Hello, my name is Cintya Jimenez and I am 26 years old. I consider myself to be a New Yorker even though I was born in Ecuador. The first time I arrived to the United States I was 5 years old. After I finished high school it was impossible for me to attend college due to my immigration status. In 2012, the Obama Administration introduced legislation known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This law has given me the opportunity to attend college and start a promising career in dental hygiene. As of now, I am attending Hostos Community College. I expect to get the most out of my education and use my skills to help the community I grew up in. Because I am from a disadvantaged background, in order to reach my full potential I need a lot of support and I strongly believe that the Obama's plan can be part of the support system I and many others need in order to pursue our dreams.

Coming from a low-income immigrant family and not being able to qualify for financial aid or any type of help from the government, I have no other way but to pay for tuition from out of my pocket in order to get education. It makes it harder for students like me that worry everyday about money for college. When it comes to students enrolling in classes, full-time students tuition and fees for Community College \$4,500 per year. This makes it difficult for students who need to have jobs while attending college or parents who have kids and attend classes to be able focus on their studies.

Until this day I have maintained perfect attendance, which proves that I am determined to push myself to my goal to a 4-year college. President Obama once said, that "what makes someone American isn't just blood or birth but allegiance to our founding principles about faith in the idea that anyone from anywhere can write the next chapter of our story."

To live undocumented in America is to live in constant fear--a fear of being taken from your family and being taken from your home. While enrolling for college, that fear was also a constant. When I had to do application there were questions about your immigration status, which reawakened the fear in my family and me. There came a point when come in my family said, "Don't go to college because they will know you are undocumented and they will take you away from us." That fear played a big role in my thinking, but I didn't allow it to stop me. I had to have courage and motivation and just because I am undocumented doesn't mean I should quit. My job and my dreams don't end here just because I don't have the right documents. I want to have more in my future and to be a successful person.

This motivates me to earn a degree and filling out college application was the first step to achieve it. My courage of wanting to have more in life is not only for myself. I'm setting an example for my younger sibling and my future children. When it's time to apply to college they shouldn't have the fear I had. And even if they do, I would like them to be able to stand up for themselves and pursue their dreams without having to worry about these fears or the expenses of tuition because it's the only way to achieve success and make a difference in their lives. This is why—despite all the problems—I'm even more motivated and determined to achieve all my goals. I support Obama's plan for free community colleges but I also would like to see undocumented students benefit for this great proposal. Thank you.



Office of the Chair
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Katherine Gutierrez R., Student at LaGuardia Community College

February 23, 2015

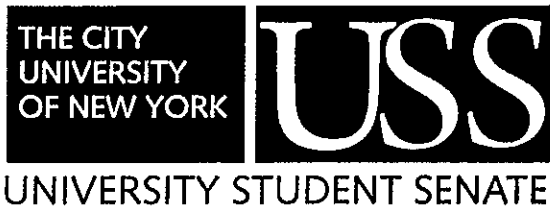
Good afternoon, Chairwoman Inez Barron and members of the New York City Council. My name is Katherine Gutierrez and I'm a student in LaGuardia Community College majoring in Business.

I'm here today to testify in support Barack Obama's proposal to provide two years of free community college. My ability to testify here today has been made possible because of the financial help that I received as a recipient of LaGuardia's Foundation scholarship, and if it wasn't for that, perhaps I would have not received a college education in my life.

In the Fall of 2014, I was struggling to earn money to pay for my semester tuition bill and other expenses. I had to work different part-time minimum wage jobs during the day and I worked more than 40 hours a week to help pay my bills. Yes, the scholarship I received helped me, but what if I didn't have this financial support? I wouldn't have studied.

I believe that free community colleges can help people like me who have a desire to get an education but still need help to afford it. LaGuardia is the first step for me and I'm proud of having chosen a community college as my first step because the opportunities I have today I would have never received in another college. People today need an education more than ever. And like I heard last week at the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus, "if you are opening a door for education, you are closing a door to jail." After LaGuardia, I plan to stay in CUNY because of the tremendous opportunities that I'm receiving. I also want future students to achieve their potential goals and I feel that having free community colleges is a great way to start.

Thank you.



Office of the University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863
Web: www.ussscunyc.org

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Oscar Martinez, USS Vice Chair for Senior Colleges and Alumnus of Westchester Community College

Good afternoon. Chairwoman Inez Barron, members of the New York City Council and New York City students. I'm Oscar Martinez, Vice Chair of Senior Colleges affairs at the CUNY University Student Senate. I'm currently a senior at Lehman College, majoring in Computer Information Systems. One of the reasons why I'm in favor of the new proposal by President Obama of making community colleges free is that I graduated from one, a SUNY community college. I'm an alumnus of SUNY Westchester Community College. Westchester community college provides me with the information needed in order to succeed in a four year institution. Aside from that, right now I see community colleges as the building block of higher education. Nowadays more students are deciding to start their college career at a two year institution, instead of going to the big name institution. The reasons why they choose community colleges is because the schools offer a variety of programs, certificates and the necessary tools to enter the workforce, as well as the affordability.

In upcoming years to have an associate's degree will be beneficial, because you are allowed to work and also able to transfer to a four year institution to complete your bachelor's degree. I still remember my last year of high school, where I saw my friends applying to big name institutions such as Penn State, Dartmouth, Syracuse, Binghamton and I was the only one who decided to start at a community college. I got accepted to many great schools, specially my top choice UCONN, but my parents couldn't afford sending me there. My friends weren't very pleased and they told me why are you going to a community college? It's not the best option for you, well I just told them, wait and let's see how it goes it really can't be that bad. Now I don't regret it, I learned so much in a community college that I could ever imagine. I made friends, I was involved on campus, I was part of the orientation team, and in the end I learned important values on what to expect at a four year institution.

At a two year institution students go to the process of finding what they want to do, and explore many options that the school can offer. In the end once they apply to a four year school, most likely they know what to do compare to a freshman entering college for the first time. If President's Obama proposal is approved in congress, it will help ease the burden of students worrying about debt and other college expenses. It will give them more opportunities to

seek what their school has to offer, and not to worry about working two jobs and been involved at the same time. Some students paid out of pocket like myself and others get financial aid, but there's always the part where students worry about the financial issues on how to pay for school. By providing a free community education, more students will be encouraged to apply to a two year institution and help in the increase of jobs in the upcoming years and be part of the growing workforce. Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a higher education degree and this proposal will made that possible. One quote that I hear the most is "Education is the Key to Success", well I do agree but when you don't have the necessary resources and the help how can you succeed. Thank you.

"Education is most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Testimony of Dean James Murphy
University Dean for Enrollment Management
The City University of New York
New York City Council Higher Education Committee Hearing:
President Obama's America's College Promise

Good morning Chairperson Barron and members of the Higher Education Committee. My name is James Murphy. I am CUNY's University Dean for Enrollment Management. Our offices are responsible for admissions, financial aid, and registration for all 274,000 undergraduate and graduate students at CUNY including the 99,000 students registered at our seven community colleges. We all work diligently to ensure that students can access a top-notch education without being overburdened by debt—and we're proud that CUNY remains one of the nation's best-value institutions. As Vice Chancellor Sapienza mentioned approximately seven out of ten of our full time community colleges' students attend for free thanks to financial aid and benefits from Federal, State, City and institutional sources. Those who do not attend tuition-free include international students, out of State students, those who are academically ineligible and sadly the undocumented students.

President Obama's community college plan called "America's College Promise" provides free college tuition for community college students who attend at least half-time, have a family income of less than \$200,000, maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.5 and make steady progress towards a degree. The community colleges would be expected to offer high-quality programs, with credits transferrable to four-year colleges. The federal government would provide 75% of the cost while participating states would be asked to fund the other 25%.

The "America's College Promise" plan if enacted would lift the perception and value of a community college education. I was originally hired by a CUNY community college to assist students in completing the application for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) immediately following the implementation of tuition at CUNY. I spent the my first 17 years in CUNY as a financial aid administrator so naturally I am in favor of any program which provides funds to students in any form. However, there are several aspects of this program which need clarification.

This plan provides for free tuition at a community college, but it does not specify an amount or the source of determining the amount. Nor does it clearly define a community college. Will students in any "high quality" associate degree program at any public college be included or just those attending a traditional community college. A plan which includes only traditional community colleges would be unfair to those would then have the misfortune of enrolling in an associate degree program at a college which offers bachelor's degrees and would affect enrollment and ultimately funding at CUNY's three comprehensive colleges; College of Staten Island, Medgar Evers and City Tech.

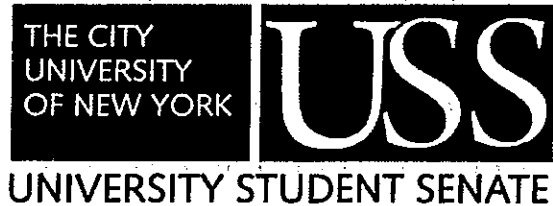
The cost of operating a community college varies by a number of factors including location and type of programs offered. If the plan includes the use of an average tuition, which many believe it does, States

like New York would need to provide additional funding above the 25% or the colleges would either be required to reduce costs or operate at a deficit. We are not sure how the need for increased revenue in future years will be handled and who funds the out of State students, including those on student visas. Also, how will the students' eligibility for other financial aid programs such as TAP and Pell be effected both in the short term and long term?

We were originally under the assumption all community college students met the qualifications would receive the benefit. It is now unclear if this includes both current and new students. We are also not sure if transfer students would be eligible and if they are how remaining eligibility is determined and tracked, as well as the eligibility of students with prior degrees.

Community colleges will be expected to provide high quality programs with credits transferable to four-year colleges. I believe all colleges would argue they currently provide high quality programs and the credits should transfer to four-year colleges. Who will determine if the programs are of high quality? Will all terminal associate degree majors be included or just STEM majors? The transferability of credits is determined by the receiving college, not by the sending college so this will be problematic.

These are points which need clarification and should not be taken as objections to the proposal. CUNY would like to be part of the discussion to ensure eligibility extends to as many of our students as possible.



Office of the University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863
Web: www.usscunv.org

February 23, 2015

**NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community
College Plan**

Testimony of Donovan Borington, USS Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs

Good afternoon. Chairwoman, Inez Barron and members of the New York City Council Higher Education Committee. My name is Donovan Borington, a current resident of City Council District 31. I'm a student at Bernard M. Baruch College majoring in corporate communication. In a few months I will be the first in my family to earn a Bachelor's degree. I also serve as the Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs for the University Student Senate (USS), I'm here today to express my support for President Obama's "*America's College Promise Proposal*"

I'm an Alumnus from the greatest community college in the world, Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College at the City University of New York (CUNY). Before I make points why I support the President's plan, I want to share my experience of how LaGuardia community college saved my life.

Born and raised in Williamsburg Project Houses in Brooklyn, I'm a product of the public school system. Most of my peers didn't earn a high school diploma, and college was extremely far fetched. I had to enter the workforce immediately if I wanted to survive. After three years of working and saving I entered LaGuardia in spring of 2008. After completing one semester, I dropped out. Although I did receive financial aid, I needed to work additional hours to cover living expenses. I returned to LaGuardia in 2010, ready to finish what I started. Little did I know, I would be embarking on the most hardest journey in my life. With no financial aid this time

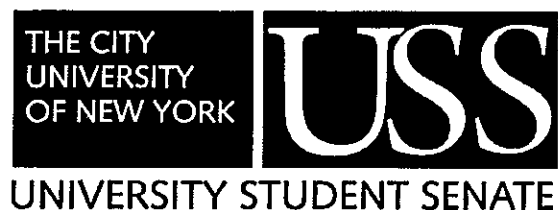
around I had to balance my scheduled so that I earned enough to cover tuition and living expenses. The LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships gave me the opportunity to work less so I could focus more on my studies. The scholarship funding went towards transportation and other living expense after I paid my tuition. The LaGuardia foundation was the support system that made it possible for me to earn a degree, and be eligible to participate in a competitive workforce.

The President's proposal to make community college, not free, but more accessible so that citizens are eligible to participate in the workforce in years ahead. The proposal should provides resources such those provided by CUNY's Accelerated Studies Associate Program (ASAP). It will really address the needs of students while assisting them in making progress toward earning a degree. As various studies have shown, CUNY ASAP 3 year graduation rate is above 50% (<http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/asap/evaluation/>). In Tennessee, a state offering free community colleges, the Tennessee Promise Program provides additional aid to cover students college cost unmet by Pell, HOPE, or TSAA, according to the "Drive to 55" campaign (<http://driveto55.org/initiatives/tennessee-promise/>).

One thing about the President's proposal that I am unsure of is, will this program only benefit students that go directly to college after high school? As I previously mentioned I didn't go directly to college after high school. I had to work to survive, I hope that this program is available to students that have make similar choices. I also mentioned most of my peers didn't earn a high school diploma. However, they did earn a GED. I hope that this plan makes college more accessible for them as well.

Thank you council members for your leadership, your resolution has fostered dialogue amongst members of our community to create a necessary change. This is an example why our city is viewed as one of the greatest in world. if congress fails to pass this proposal and the state legislature chooses to not act, I hope that our city council creates a version of the plan that will bring intellectual prosperity and economic growth.

Please continue leading this effort. Thank you!



Office of the University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863
Web: www.usscuny.org

February 23, 2015

**NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community
College Plan**

*Testimony of Jamell Henderson, Student at Brooklyn College and Borough of Manhattan
Community College Alumnus*

Good afternoon distinguished members of the New York City Council. It is truly a grand honor and privilege to be here among you. My name is Jamell Henderson and I am a senior at Brooklyn College. I will be graduating on May 28th with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science; but before I could have even arrived at this point in my higher education journey, it began with me being a proud 2011 graduate from the Borough of Manhattan Community College with my Associate's Degree in Business Administration. It is my honor to testify here before you and share the importance of supporting the President's proposal for free community colleges and the impact it would have on the community-at-large.

During my time as a student at BMCC, I have truly embodied its great motto and creed, "Start Here and Go Anywhere." Being a student at BMCC gave me a second chance to getting back on the Higher Education highway towards my success. I have enjoyed my academic experience and it was because of phenomenal world class professors who understood that as a student coming from

the NYC Public Education System, I unfortunately didn't learn the fundamentals of the subjects that I am required to learn authentically.

I have utilized all of the resources during my tenure at BMCC as a student who was eager to get back on track, but the one factor that I must say really pushed me to go and reach the maximum was when I sought to use my gift of leadership to serve the students; that opportunity was presented to me through the Student Government Association. One of my great mentors and a legend in BMCC, Curtis Browne saw something in me and he always encouraged me to always go for the maximum. Because he saw something in me, he invested in me in ensuring that the future of the SGA was in true capable hands in serving the people.

I have served as a Student Representative, to Vice President, to becoming President and finishing my tenure as a Senator; all these positions I served in SGA were for the sole purpose of the students, for they say something great within me and it was my obligation to show them that I am of service to advocate and represent them. Even through all of this, I was constantly reminded to never forget the goal of being at BMCC, which was to graduate and move onward and upward.

One of the most glorious events that I will always remember, was to walk down that aisle of the Jacob Javits Convention Center, where my mother was in attendance to witness me become the first graduate from college within my family. The impact that this event had on my family is immeasurable.

As a simple young man who was born and raised in East Flatbush Brooklyn, who had to endure many life changing events that I wouldn't wish on anyone to endure nor encounter, I have persevered to make it to this point in my life and if it weren't for the investment of the great people of the Borough of Manhattan Community College, When I graduate from Brooklyn College and achieve my Bachelor's Degree, I will pursue my Master's Degree and my Doctorate Degree and begin my political journey to one day become the President of the United States of America; and when that day happens I would be beyond proud and honored to say that I started my journey, my second chance at the Borough of Manhattan Community College; a college that is a gateway to the my fellow brothers and sisters of my community and the community-at-large.

Why should Community Colleges be free? Because of the key word in community college; community, where individuals who may never have the opportunity to even think about going to college to honor their families, friends and their community-at-large can be able to be a shining light and a stalwart pillar within their community to make a difference; where my fellow brothers and sisters from East New York, Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, Bushwick and Coney Island can become a positive statistic against the social obstacles that have been placed before us as individuals who won't make it anywhere and become the transcending individuals who will become future innovators and leaders who will make a difference in this great City of New York; where families will be able to have someone to be able to provide a larger

income to help them to be out of poverty and make history within their families to be the first to graduate from college.

In conclusion, I would like to thank USS Chair & CUNY Trustee Joseph Awadije, Vice Chancellor Sanchez and BMCC for the wonderful opportunity to show the importance that community colleges have on students like me. This is just a small piece of my great testimony in how CUNY has truly impacted my life. I must thank my BMCC family, for this is where my journey towards my destiny has begun. BMCC has seen something in me to invest their time, energy and resources because they believe in my destiny; I shall not let them nor this wonderful leadership that stands before me down, for I carry you all with me as I continue to climb to the top as a proud alumni. These opportunities have given me a greater appreciation of my own abilities and strengthened my commitment to help others.

Thank you.



Office of the University Student Senate
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863
Web: www.ussscuny.org

**NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community
College Plan**

Testimony of Lizayda Rodriguez Student at Hostos Community College

Good afternoon to Chairwoman Inez Barron and to all the members of the committee, my name is Lizayda Rodriguez and I am a student at Hostos Community College.

First, I would like to cite a *troubling* fact that currently more than 40 million Americans hold student debt. Student debt is increasing while wages are flat or decreasing. Not to mention that having student debt can also make you ineligible for many government jobs. Over the years, student debt keeps rising while the number of jobs keep going down. Does anyone else see a perpetual problem here?

Let's look at a dilemma many students face. We typically have two options. The first option is not to go to college thus not acquire a degree; therefore, we have to settle for a job that pays little to nothing and still struggle trying to make ends meet. But this option makes us get stuck in low-paying jobs. Option two, on the other hand, is to go to college and get a degree that would enable you to advance socially and professionally, but by the time you graduate, you are sinking in debt from student loans and then stressed trying to look for a

job as soon as possible to be able to start paying those crushing students loans. The President's plan for free community would help many students who do not receive financial aid support receive a college education.

We need to also focus the discussion on how can we provide students better support services to help students graduate on time. Apart from taking care of a their families--whether that consists of being a mom, wife or a primary caregiver--many students are also responsible for working full-time while attending school to be able to sustain themselves. This could be a contributing factor to low graduation rates that are common at community colleges.

I myself am a mother of two wonderful boys. During my first year of college I was a full-time student and worker. It was extremely hard for me to handle my responsibilities at home while making sure my GPA remained above 3.5. Somehow I managed to do it all; however, it was overwhelming and I came to the conclusion that I had to make some changes and give up something.

I hope that if President Obama's plan becomes a reality that students attending community colleges will not have to give up their Pell Grant or other sources of financial help. Many low-income and middle-class families who qualify for financial aid depend on using that money to help support ourselves and not have to work while attending college. Focusing on just our studies and not tuition expenses will hopefully improve our student performance and graduation rates as well. Hostos is not the end for me and only the starting point.

After graduating, I plan to go on to earn a Bachelor's Degree and eventually, a Master's Degree.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this idea of free community colleges.



Office of the Chair
555 West 57th Street, 1420
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (646) 664-8844
Fax: (646) 664-8863

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: The President's Free Community College Plan

Testimony of Eber Blanco, USS Vice Chair for Community Colleges

February 23, 2015

Good afternoon Chairwoman Barron, Members of the committee, and fellow students of New York City. My name is Eber Blanco; I am a student at Queensborough Community College and I am honored to be testifying as the Vice Chair of Community Colleges for the CUNY University Student Senate. As a representative of over 100,000 students in the CUNY community colleges, I am not only speaking for myself when I say that it is crucial that we support President Barack Obama's proposal regarding free community colleges.

The proposal to make community colleges free is a progressive step not just for all parts of our country. As one of the world's most influential cities, it is important that New York City maintains an educated work force that will continue to carry the legacy of our great city.

It is no longer enough, nor should we allow ourselves to be satisfied with only providing a high school education to future generations. But how can we push our students to pursue higher education when the cost of living in this great city alone is a financial hardship. Free community college is about offering opportunities to those who have the capacity and will to better their lives, but don't have the resources to do so.

Ask around at any community college and you will find that many of these students are bright individuals who are grateful to have an opportunity to better themselves. Many work long hours or multiple jobs to pay for their education, on top of balancing their school with other responsibilities.

What if these students didn't have to worry about paying for community college? What if instead of having to take an extra shift, or pick up a second job they were able to attend an internship, go to a career workshop, or maybe even pick up an extra class to learn a new skill. Having the opportunity to have time to participate in research and internships will make an associate degree student as marketable and competent in the work-field as many bachelor degree student.

Community Colleges cater to many different individuals including people fresh out of high school, veterans, single parents, and hundreds of ethnicities. A free community college program would allow the nation's diverse population get a better education, hence, providing our citizens the steppingstone to attain better jobs, wages and benefits. This nation was built on the fruits of

labor of hard working individuals, and by providing this opportunity, we are also investing in the future of this country.

According to the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, by the 2020 an estimated 35 percent of jobs will require at least a bachelor's degree and 35 percent will require some college or an associate's degree. Let's make that process more attainable by providing students with free community college.

It's about time that our government begins taking proactive steps towards this country's educational future. It should be a necessary decision to prioritize increased funding towards education—whether it be on the city level, state level, or on a federal level.

By proposing the first two years of community college to be free, we are taking a step in the right direction to becoming a more educated and successful nation. It is important for the citizens of our great country to get an education so that we can keep a competitive edge in this globalized world.

President Kennedy once said “ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.” We are not asking for our country to give us anything, we are asking YOU the citizens of this very country, to think about the future of your own nation and what YOU can do to ensure the United States gets the education it deserves. Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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 in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

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Name: Jeff Lowell

Address: 209 Joralemon St Brooklyn

I represent: Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Address: Same

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Name: Katherine M. Gutierrez Pies

Address: 41-09 Judge St Apt 3c

I represent: LA Guardia Community college / USS / Students

Address: _____

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Name: Jamell N. Henderson

Address: P.O. Box 330678 Bklyn NY, 11233

I represent: BMCC (Alumni) + University Student Senate

Address: 199 Chambers St NY NY 10013

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Name: ANITA BHATTACHARJEE

Address: 601 MORRIS AVENUE APT 5G BRONX NY

I represent: HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Address: 500 Grand Concourse BRONX NY 10451

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in favor in opposition

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Name: Kerri-Ann McHayle

Address: 921 Utica Ave, 3/F

I represent: Hostos; City College; Lehman College

Address: _____

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

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Name: DONOVAN BARRINGTON

Address: _____

I represent: University Student Senate

Address: 555 W 187th St

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2-23-15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lizayda Rodriguez

Address: 1515 Metropolitan Ave Apt 5H

I represent: Hostos Community College

Address: 500 Grand Concourse Bronx NY
10451

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cintya Jimenez

Address: 1861 Lincoln Street Apt 2R

I represent: Hostos Community College

Address: 500 Grand Concourse Bronx NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Naveh Yisrael

Address: _____

I represent: Hostos Community College (Alumni)

Address: 500 Grand Concourse Bronx NY 10451

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lucas Almonte

Address: 73 Ellwood Street Apt 1B

I represent: University student Senate (USS)

Address: 555 W 57th Street

THE COUNCIL CUNY Panel 3 of 3
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James Murphy

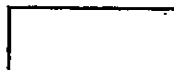
Address: University Dean for Enrollment Management

I represent: CUNY

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL CUNY Panel 2 of 3
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eduardo Marti

Address: Interim President

I represent: Bronx Community College

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL *CUNY Panel 1 of 3*
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: *2/23/15*

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Name: *Matthew Sapienza*

Address: *Vice Chancellor for Budget & Finance*

I represent: *CUNY*

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: *2/23/15*

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Name: *Barbara Bowen*

Address: _____

I represent: *PSC President*

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *Andrew Stettner*

Address: *449 WOLFS LAKE PSC No. 1, NY 10003*

I represent: *Single Stop*

Address: *1825 Park Ave #503 NY 10028*

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Oscar Martinez

Address: 404 No. High St.

I represent: CUNY USS

Address: 555 West 37th Street + 11126, NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/23/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William George

Address: _____

I represent: Federal Reserve

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Feb 23, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eber Blanco

Address: 609 Middle Neck rd

I represent: University Student Senate

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆