

Report to the General Faculty
President Kathleen Waldron
March 30, 2006

School of Public Affairs Dean Search

I am pleased to announce that we have successfully concluded the search for a new Dean for the School of Public Affairs and will recommend David Birdsell to the Chancellor and the City University of New York Board of Trustees. We hope and expect that the Chancellor and the CUNY Board will endorse our recommendation at its next Board meeting in June.

The College conducted a national search for a dean and had excellent candidates, including three finalists of high academic standing and academic leadership experience. The Search Committee, reporting to Provost David Dannenbring and chaired by Professor Fred Lane and Associate Provost Barbara Lawrence, with faculty and student representatives, did an outstanding job and I thank them for their efforts.

Many of you know David Birdsell. He has served as acting dean since Dean Stan Altman stepped down last summer and he has been a member of the faculty of Baruch College for twenty years. Professor Birdsell ran the SPA Executive Programs for the past several years and built those programs into an important part of the School and the College. Through his good works, SPA provided leadership training to the New York City Council and other New York City agencies, establishing SPA and Baruch College as a destination point for city and state government officials to obtain executive training and to earn their masters degrees.

David Birdsell holds a PhD. in public communication from the University of Maryland and has served on the faculty of Baruch College since 1986. Prior to joining Baruch, he taught at the University of Virginia and has served as a consultant to the New York Public Library, the Congressional Management Foundation and the U.S. Information Agency among others. His scholarly interests include Presidential debates, public policy and the web and voting. Professor Birdsell also is a regular guest speaker around the city and has been an active member of the Baruch College community, serving on numerous committees and task forces in his long career at the College.

We are delighted with the selection of David Birdsell to be recommended for the position of Dean of Baruch College's School of Public Affairs.

Provost Search

As you know, at the start of this new year we launched a national search for the College's next provost. Arthur Downing, Assistant Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Librarian is ably chairing a search committee which includes Ramona Heck (Management), Richard Holowczak (Computer Information Systems), Elena Martinez (Modern Languages), Terrence Martell (Finance), Glenn Petersen (Anthropology), Ryan

Smith (Public Affairs), Shoshanna Sofaer (Public Affairs), Anthony Hernandez (Undergraduate Student), Charles Dreifus (Baruch College Fund Trustee), and Mary Gorman Hetherington, ex officio (Office of the President). The College is being assisted in this process by executive search consultant Nancy Cook of Gyres International.

The search committee will begin first round interviews during the last week of March and continue throughout the month of April. We expect that three to four finalists will emerge and be invited for full-day campus interview visits during the first two weeks in May. These finalist visits will include open forum sessions to which all faculty will be invited, similar to those conducted during the most recent presidential search.

I am optimistic that we will have a new provost in place for next academic year.

Strategic Plan

After ten months of work involving literally hundreds of members of the College community engaged in discussions about Baruch's future, we have finalized the *Baruch College Strategic Plan, 2006-2011*. The final version can be accessed at <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/president>. Of course, in some sense, our work is just beginning. I am confident that we are ready for the tough job of hammering out the specifics to support our ambitious plans. I will continue to update the community with progress reports.

The CUNY Compact and the State Budget

In July 2005, the CUNY Board of Trustees approved an innovative funding model, called the CUNY Compact, to address the serious shortfall of funds CUNY institutions have experienced since the early nineties. As you know, public funding has lagged, and tuition increases have been used to cover operating expenses (since 1992, tuition for senior college students has risen over 30 percent). The CUNY Compact calls for a shared system of financing so that students do not unduly bear the cost of budget shortfalls.

In the CUNY Compact, the state and city commit to tax-levy fund 100 percent of CUNY's mandatory needs (i.e., labor contracts, fringe benefits, and energy) and at least 20 percent of the costs of the Investment Program (i.e., hiring more full-time faculty, support for research, academic enhancements, and student services). CUNY commits to funding the balance through philanthropy, restructuring, enrollment growth, and tuition revenue increases averaging less than 3 percent per year.

To fully fund the Compact, the University is seeking an additional \$35.7 million in state aid above the FY 2007 Governor's Executive Recommendations. In addition, the University is seeking more Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding since the governor's budget proposal calls for a reduction in the overall TAP. This reduction not only hits CUNY students hard, but it jeopardizes the Compact. If you are interested in learning more about the higher education portions of the current and proposed state

budgets and/or emailing your views to your elected officials, you may wish to visit <http://www.supportcuny.org>.

Baruch's Strategic Plan rightfully calls for strengthening our working relationships with Albany policymakers. To that end, Baruch College actively participated in the 35th annual Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. conference held in Albany in mid-February. Our delegation of 19 – including Vice President Ben Corpus, Director of Government and Community Relations Eric Lugo, and I – attended a CUNY legislative luncheon celebrating the State Assembly's Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus's Internship Program. The College also co-hosted an evening reception honoring Manhattan's newly elected Borough President Scott Stringer, who is a strong CUNY supporter. I am especially proud of the students who participated. As always, they were articulate ambassadors for the College at all the events and staffed our information booth at a concurrent exhibition and arts fair.

Earlier this month, Eric Lugo and I returned to Albany for the CUNY Board of Trustees Legislative Luncheon, and on March 21, Mr. Lugo will lead a delegation of students on visits to legislators during CUNY's annual Lobby Day in Albany. During all these conversations, we have stressed the importance of supporting the CUNY Compact for the sake of our students, and have taken the opportunity to brag a little about all the wonderful things going on at Baruch College today. I believe these efforts will have a long-term impact on the visibility we have and support we receive from Albany.

Valuing Our Employees

On April 26th, I will host the 20th annual Baruch College Employee Service Awards event, a ceremony celebrating honorees for their dedication and commitment to Baruch. This year we will honor those employees with 10, 15, 20, 25, and 35 years of service, and for the first time we will recognize each employee who has attained more than 35 years of service. I am particularly pleased that this year's ceremony will include the inauguration of the Baruch Excellence Award. Several individuals will be selected to receive this distinct honor, recognizing those employees who do an outstanding job, whether in the public eye or behind the scenes. Nominating forms for this award will be available soon, both online and in hard copy; I hope that you will take the time to nominate a Baruch employee who consistently provides superb service to our community.

New Leadership at the College

Finally, since our last meeting, a number of new senior administrators have joined the College: Carol Abrams, Chief Communications Officer, formerly Assistant Commissioner for New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Christopher Cloud, Vice President for College Advancement, who joins us from New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College; Jim Lloyd, Assistant Vice President for Campus Operations, who arrives from a similar position at Oregon State University; Eric Lugo, Director of Government and Community Relations,

former Chief of Staff to City Councilwoman Margarita Lopez; Elizabeth Robinson, Director of Human Resources, who joins us from New York University; and Corlisse Thomas, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, formerly associate dean at Columbia University.