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July 20, 2026

Dear Chancellor Matos and Chairman Thompson,

I write with concern about Queens College. This is a campus you both know well. As its 90th anniversary approaches, a jewel in the CUNY crown risks being tarnished beyond remedy. Temporary services were curtailed for years, yet additional cuts were imposed on departments last month. Course offerings have been dramatically reduced - nearly 4,000 fewer sections were offered in 2019-2020 - yet QC department chairs were recently directed to cut adjunct budgets by at least 25% for the coming year. *We urge you to reconsider and relent.*

The fiscal controls imposed across CUNY after the pandemic were thought necessary to address structural deficits. Pandemic-era enrollment declines compounded the budgetary strain from decades of underfunding. In the process of cutting programs, reducing college budgets, and shedding employees or reducing their hours, the sacrifices and stress have been borne by faculty, staff, and students. Enrollment has now rebounded at CUNY, with three straight years of increases. Among the slowest to return, Queens College experienced a protracted enrollment drop but is now recovering. By all indications, 2026-2027 enrollment will be stronger than previous year for the first time since the pandemic. Cuts and fiscal controls have pushed the academic community into a tailspin. It will take years to recover, and now is the time to invest in Queens College, not intensify these measures. These are people's jobs - college assistants, teaching and non-teaching adjuncts - and they should be restored. They are also essential student supports. When programs like ACE, Reconnect, and the application fee waiver bring more students into classrooms, those students must be guided on their path to a degree and receive an excellent, well-rounded education. That is what Queens College has done in the past and must resume doing again.

The administration's latest cuts are ill-timed and unstrategic. When departments like Early Childhood Education are experiencing exceptional growth as a result of the city's 2-K expansion - a joint commitment of the Governor and Mayor - it is self-defeating to impose cuts when program offerings and staffing should be enhanced. When the full-time faculty already contracted by 61 in two years from 2023 to 2025 alone - the single largest decline at CUNY - the effective hiring freeze imposed by your administration adds insult to injury. The faculty who perform the challenging role of chairing Queens College departments have already been told to do more with less, and they deserve better, as do our students. Departments need not only more full-time faculty but also the support of college assistants and non-teaching adjuncts which recent cuts badly depleted. They need the blue books and printer paper that your administration's OTPS cuts turned into a luxury.

Queens College academic departments are not living beyond their means. The Temporary Services cuts must be restored, the demanded adjunct budget cuts must be withdrawn, and the effective freeze on full-time hiring must be lifted.

Fall semester is around the corner. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



James Davis, President