

FLOOR 2

July 9, 2018 FY19 Budget Reduction To Faculty and Staff,

Despite earlier indications that CUNY, and therefore Baruch, would have a flat budget in the new fiscal year, one that required no further reductions, we have now learned that unfortunately this is not the case. Indeed, for reasons that I explain below, we have determined that it will be necessary for the College to reduce its overall spending by just over \$5 million in FY19. There are multiple reasons for this unexpected and most unwelcome development, and I want you to understand clearly what they are.

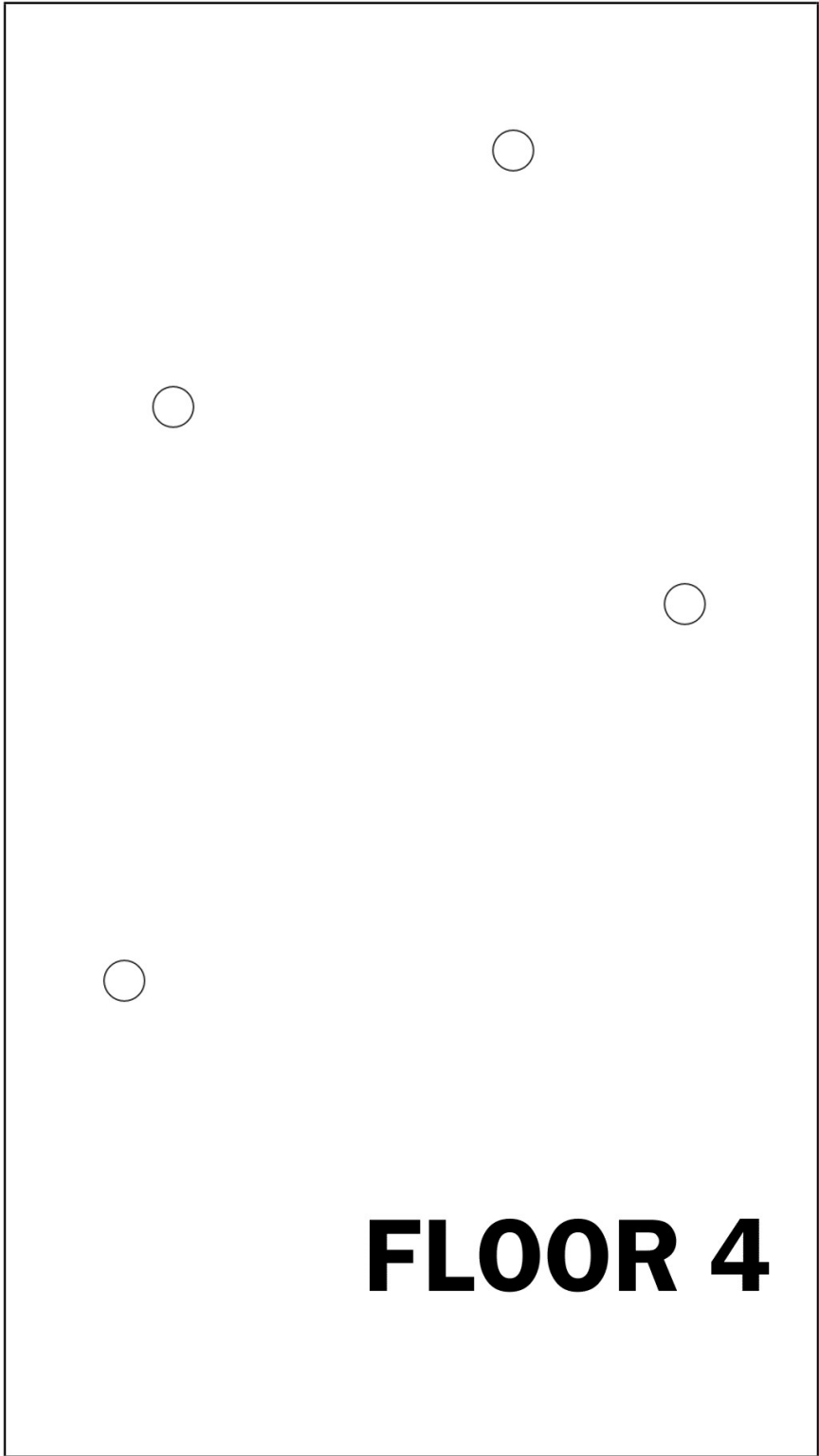
- First, even though tuition is going up by a very modest \$200 per student per year, CUNY recently informed us that it intends to repurpose a substantial portion of these tuition funds. Specifically, for Baruch, \$2,682,000 (out of the \$4.2 million in new tuition revenue) will be placed into a collective-bargaining reserve to cover the College's share of the anticipated cost of a new PSC contract, while an additional \$1,278,000 will be used to cover CUNY-managed expenses associated with FICA and pension costs.
- Second, CUNY is recapturing \$620,000 in savings from Baruch (as well as similar amounts from the other CUNY colleges), which they anticipate will be produced through the CUNY Administrative Excellence Initiative that is intended to affect cost savings on each campus. Then, through a somewhat opaque university-wide budget process, CUNY will return \$340,000 of that savings, but it may be used only for campus maintenance contracts and the contractual cost of reducing the faculty workload from 21 credit hours to 18 hours. CUNY will also hold back an additional \$240,000 of the savings for unspecified purposes.
- Third, CUNY has indicated that it will be unable to provide additional funds this year to help the colleges meet their mandatory needs related to contractually required step and other salary increases. Thus, Baruch must cut an additional \$800,000 in order to fund these mandatory costs. You may be aware that, unlike many of the other CUNY colleges, Baruch was successful over the past three years in avoiding some of the impact of previous CUNY budget reductions through careful conservation and spend down of our one-time resources, known as CUTRA, which was used to make up for the reduced allocation from CUNY. We are fortunate to have a highly capable and financially savvy team of professionals in the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, and they have done an outstanding job over the past few years in mitigating the impact on the College of CUNY's continuing budget woes. We knew, however, that our CUTRA reserves would be largely exhausted in FY19, but we anticipated that it would be possible to deal with any new deficits by using resources generated by the tuition increase. Unfortunately, however, for the reasons enumerated above, this has not proven possible. Therefore, to respond to this financial exigency, the College will take the following immediate actions: 1. We will immediately implement across-the-board budget reductions, which will be allocated fairly and proportionately based on the size of each unit's base budget. 2. We will reinstitute a vacancy-control procedure, which we have used in the past, regarding currently vacant positions and all positions that become vacant during the current fiscal year. All new hires will require written justification and approval by the Office of the President. Approvals will be granted sparingly. 3. All planned faculty searches will require a new review and approval before they can proceed. We are aware that many of these searches must be initiated soon if they are to be accomplished during the upcoming academic year, so I am asking the provost and the deans to expedite this process. 4. Each division and school must submit a financial plan by Friday, July 20, which will be reviewed for feasibility by the Budget Office. Each plan must then be approved by the vice president for administration and finance and subsequently by the president. No new OTPS spending will be permitted until a division or school's financial plan has been approved. I realize that these austerity measures are severe and unwelcome, especially when it appeared that we would finally have a year with no additional budget cuts. I assure you that this situation is equally unacceptable to me, because it will impede the College's continued forward progress and the implementation of the goals identified in our new 2018-23 Strategic Plan. As you now understand, however, the causes of the budget problems are not of our making.



FLOOR 3

Tuition is going up, the faculty is **fearing more cuts**, and facilities not in direct public view are **crumbling**. Students are **demanding full, proper funding**. According to a City report, **nearly 60% of NYC public school students who go to college attend a CUNY college**, and roughly **74% of first-time freshmen at CUNY are graduates of NYC public schools**. City data also shows that there has been a **steady increase in student enrollment** in CUNY colleges from 1999 to 2017. In 1999, the total CUNY enrollment was 194,994, by fall of 2017 it was up over 40% at 275,099 students. With the **rising numbers**, came increases in tuition to offset **disinvestment** from the city and the state. When you look at **tuition** for undergraduate students, there has been a **26% increase** in since 2011 for both in-state and out of state tuition, according to CUNY data. In 2011, the State Legislature passed a measure that would allow a **\$300 increase in tuition per year in the next five years**. Then last year, it was decided that CUNY students will see **about \$200 in increased tuition per year over the next five years**. “**Tuition** is a source of revenue for the university to **compensate for inadequate support** from direct state aid,” Davis said. “[T]here was indeed a 4% increase in State aid to CUNY, which not only is **insufficient** but also *includes student tuition revenue* as one-third of that 4% increase. It’s really **dishonest**. There’s a difference between using **public funds** acquired through the State’s tax base vs. hiking tuition, putting it in NY State’s **coffers**, then calling it ‘State support’ when the **budget** comes out.” The **Trump administration** is planning on **cutting at least \$4 billion in annual funding** for aid programs such as **FAFSA (federal student aid)** that make it possible for many at CUNY, like Corrinne Greene, to **afford a college degree**.

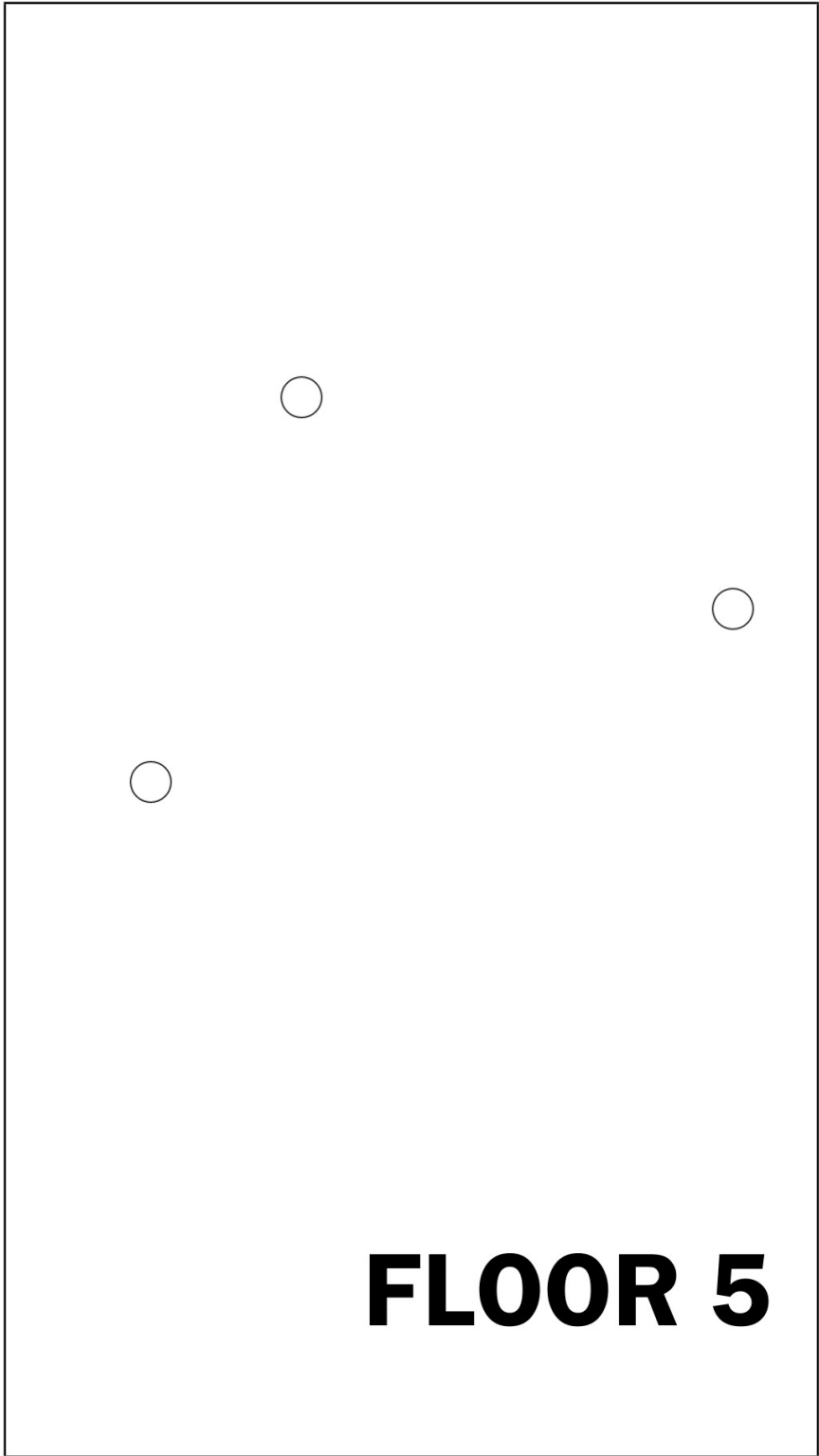
CUNY Students Speak Out Against Inadequate Funding As The Facilities Crumble By Zainab Iqbal - May 1, 2018 (excerpted and cut from the Bklnr.)



FLOOR 4

CUNY faculty, staff and students rallied outside Baruch College's Newman Vertical Campus on Dec. 10 to provide the **proper funding** needed to pay **competitive** salaries to faculty and staff and raise the **near-poverty wage** currently paid to 12,000 adjunct faculty. The demonstration was organized by the professors' union, the Professional Staff Congress, to represent **30,000 CUNY faculty and staff** that have been **without a contract for more than a year**. Their contract expired last November in which the contract between the University and its workers was **not fully funded** by the State causing **major budget cuts** to senior colleges, **increased reliance on low-wage adjuncts**, and **tuition hikes for students**. In an open assembly, PSC expressed themselves peacefully while the CUNY Board of Trustees met on the 14th floor of the NVC to **approve tuition hikes of \$200 per year for the next four years**. Protestors demanded that CUNY **raise compensation for adjuncts to \$7,000 per course**, as now they are only receiving \$3,500. "a Columbia University professor, on average, **earns twice what a CUNY senior college professor earns**." In addition to **increased public funding**, the union also **argues for adjunct health insurance and affordable tuition**. blocked the doorway, making it difficult to enter and exit from the building. **Police** had warned the protesters to move, allowing them three chances, and when they **refused to cooperate**, they were **arrested** on the charges of **resisting police officers**. PSC President Barbara Bowen, an English professor at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center, **was also arrested** along with her colleagues – 17 protesters were **arrested** in total. Sabrina Rich and Jamiee Ian Rodrigues who attend Hunter College and is part of the Coalition for the Revitalization of Asian American Studies from Hunter were also **protesting to keep CUNY out of Amazon**. "and they basically make no money, yet CUNY has the audacity to pay Jeff Bezos and his **million-dollar company** but can't pay its own faculty and staff, it's **ridiculous**." said Rodrigues.

CUNY professors arrested in protest outside NVC By Sheik Floradewan - December 10, 2018 (excerpted and cut from the Ticker)



FLOOR 5

reduce state funding to the City University of New York by some \$485 million “deeply troublesome.” “an attack on the **American dream.**” Mr. Cuomo soon declared that the shortfall would be made up by “**efficiencies.**” The city, he said, would not have to pay “a penny.” “the only way you compel change sometimes is where **you put financial skin in the game.**” Mr. Malatras announced last week that the state would hire a **management consultant to streamline CUNY’s** spending. State investment per student has not kept pace with enrollment, **falling 3 percent** even as tuition has increased, according to the university’s faculty union. Professors tell of the **scarcity of basic school supplies like paper and chalk,** swelling class sizes, hiring freezes and increasing reliance on **poorly paid adjuncts to teach classes.** The faculty has gone **without a contract or raise for six years.**

uncertainty over CUNY’s future has served only to **mobilize a coalition** of lawmakers, professors, students, liberal activists and city leaders in a coordinated effort to turn public opinion against the governor. **Hundreds marched** on Mr. Cuomo’s New York office on Thursday; the rally was part of the alliance’s push to “**humanize the folks that will be impacted,**” said Javier Valdés, the co-executive director of Make the Road New York. the governor’s simultaneous moves on paid family leave, the minimum wage and CUNY “**an exercise in cognitive dissonance.**” “What possible **justification** could exist for **savagely cutting** an institution that for many is a path out of poverty?” Mr. Torres said. “It’s **their only shot** at upward mobility. If CUNY is not a symbol of **progressivism,** I don’t know what is.”

Cuomo Faces Loud Backlash Over Push to Cut State’s CUNY Funding By Vivian Yee - March 24, 2016 (excerpted and cut from the NYTimes)