



Frank H. Wu  
President

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear Members of the New York State Senate Queens Delegation,

My name is Frank H. Wu and I have the privilege of serving as President of Queens College of The City University of New York. I am grateful to have the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the college. I want to acknowledge the long-standing support of the Queens Delegation and publicly recognize the outstanding leadership of the Chair of the State Senate Committee on Higher Education, Senator Toby Stavisky.

As I shared with some of you in Albany during my visit last week, and at the recent legislative breakfast meeting Queens College hosted on behalf of all CUNY colleges in Queens, we are asking for greater funding consideration than is currently the case in the proposed state budget. As you all know from your knowledge of the communities in your districts, our students reflect the demographics of our borough and city. They face social and economic barriers that have been hugely amplified as a result of the pandemic. CUNY is recognized as the most successful engine of success in providing upward social mobility in the nation. We rank in the top tier of every national survey of colleges in moving students from poverty to prosperity. We positively transform the lives of students and their families. We are the port of entry for first generation college students— for immigrants and migrants and their sons and daughters. We are the Ellis Island of higher education.

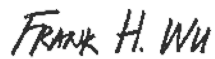
I especially ask your help in maintaining the historic 60-40 funding ratio between SUNY and CUNY you have fought for over many years. We therefore request your support for an appropriate portion of the new \$975 million of funding that the proposed budget has assigned to the SUNY University Centers. The funding should be shared proportionally with CUNY, with all due fairness and equity.

As you know, the New York City Budget supports CUNY two year institutions and the city has historically and properly covered the "mandatory needs" of the community colleges. We ask that the State do the same and cover these costs for the four-year CUNY campuses. This \$40 million investment includes collective bargaining and salary increments for our faculty and staff and OTPS inflation and contributes to addressing the University's structural deficit.

I want to take a moment to share with you a most critical capital need at Queens College and ask the New York State Senate Queens Delegation to help fund this need. Our request is for \$1 million to allow us to purchase and install infrastructure technology for networking, wireless access, fiber optics and classroom technology. This is vital to our efforts to upgrade and enhance student recruitment, faculty research, student success and key administrative functions that impact every member of our campus. We cannot succeed in the race to both transmit and create knowledge if we don't have the technology our college community needs.

I again thank all of you for your support of CUNY and for your deep appreciation of what the University and Queens College means to the future of our students, faculty, staff and our community at large.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank H. Wu". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Frank H. Wu