



DEBORAH J. GLICK
Assemblymember 66TH District
New York County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee
Intern Committee

COMMITTEES
Governmental Operations
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May 6, 2020

Dear City University of New York Board of Trustees:

I write to express my deep concern for the financial hardship faced by current and future students attending CUNY. Although I understand the extreme stress caused by the Covid-19 outbreak is being felt by both students and institutions of higher education, we must hold closely in our mind CUNY's stated mission of being "a vehicle for upward social mobility, providing high quality education to all New Yorkers, ensuring equal access and opportunity regardless of background or means" as we determine how to confront this challenging moment. It is in this spirit that I request a careful reconsideration of the Board's planned tuition and fee increases for the upcoming academic year.

In a time of difficult financial strain, institutions across New York City and State, as well as the federal government have found ways to ameliorate the stress to individuals. We have seen tax payment delays, suspensions on mortgage and federal student loan payments, a halting on evictions, and several federal stimulus packages with more forthcoming, to name but a few of the previously unimaginable mitigating measures that have been taken within the past six weeks. CUNY too has taken supportive action, including accomplishing a sudden shift to distance learning, supplying thousands of students with needed technology, and crediting students with dormitory and some student activity fees. I applaud you for taking these actions.

There remains at the Board's discretion the most meaningful action it may take to relieve the stress of its students and boldly reaffirm CUNY's mission statement; rescind the planned tuition and fee increases planned for the 2020-21 academic year. I fully understand this is a challenging decision to make, but I pledge to work closely with you to advocate for the needs of our nation's largest urban public higher education system. We will continue to jointly advocate for federal support for public education in New York City and State in upcoming relief packages, and we will share one voice as we reaffirm the long-term economic importance of upward mobility that CUNY offers thousands of New Yorkers every year.

In light of our continued partnership, it is my hope that the Board will commit to providing affordable public higher education without asking our students to make up the difference in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember