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THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001

# CUNY Officials Seek Relief From Spending Cuts

By DIANE CARDWELL

Officials from the City University of New York warned a City Council committee yesterday that the spending cuts required of most agencies in the wake of the World Trade Center attack would lead to faculty layoffs, canceled classes, lowered enrollment and a significant loss in state financing for the system's six community colleges.

The president of the Borough of Manhattan Community College, the city's largest community college, also said that it would cost $275 million to restore a newly renovated building that was severely damaged in the attack.

Louise Mirrer, the university's executive vice chancellor, told members of the Council's Higher Education Committee that the required 15 percent reduction, about $19.5 million, would cause the community colleges to cut about 100 classes and lose about 3,600 students. Compounding the situation, officials said, is that many students, for reasons varying from emotional distress to military obligations, have indicated that they will not return to school.

As a result, Ms. Mirrer said, the school will lose about $9.5 million in tuition and about $11 million in state aid, in effect doubling the cut.

In addition, at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, Fiterman Hall, which has recently had a $60 million renovation and sits just north of where 7 World Trade Center once stood, has been severely damaged and could take years to replace, said Antonio Pérez, the college president.

It is not yet clear, he said, how much of the necessary repairs will be covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or by insurance, and displaced students have been working out of portable classrooms, trailers set up on the Lower Manhattan campus.

For the spring term, Dr. Pérez said, the university plans to add trailers at City College in Hamilton Heights, to accommodate students displaced by the attack and to meet increased demand in Harlem.

Ms. Mirrer said that the chancellor of CUNY had sent a letter last week to the city's Office of Management and Budget asking that they be subject to the same spending reduction target as the Board of Education, or 2.5 percent.

Adam Barsky, the city's budget director, said that the administration would help the university to secure whatever financing was necessary for its restorations. But, he also said, while the university might not have to cut its spending by the full 15 percent, he was unsure whether the administration could agree to drop the reduction to 2.5 percent.

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