

Numerous studies, including those by CUNY sociologist David Lavin and NY State Comptroller Carl McCall, praise the enormous success of the Open Admissions policy, not just for the life of students, but for the economic welfare of the City.

Ignoring this track record of excellence, CUNY's governing body, the Board of Trustees (BoT), has stepped up the battle to eliminate Open Admissions. On May 26, 1998, under pressure from Mayor Giuliani, the BoT voted to eliminate remediation at the senior colleges. One trustee, Richard Stone, a Columbia University law professor, voted to end remediation at CUNY, while Columbia continues to offer remediation. Hmmm?

According to CUNY's own study, 55% of Latino, 51% of Asian, 46% of Black and 38% of white students would be excluded from the entering class of 1999. That adds up to 46% of the entering class!

But the battle ain't over yet. On August 10, a state judge ordered CUNY to temporarily cease any preparations to end remediation at its senior colleges because he found that CUNY had most likely violated the state Open Meetings law at their May 26th meeting. Even though the BoT is supposed to work for us, the opposition to their plans was so unanimous and intense, they needed to kick the public out and vote in private.

During the Spring of 1998, students consistently mobilized themselves in support of Open Admissions. Along with CUNY faculty and community members, students organized rallies that grew to over 800 students by the April meeting of the BoT. This along with petitions, fax zaps and visits with trustees, helped to rally the city in support of Open Admissions and repeatedly postponed the Trustees vote to end remedial courses. We proved that unified we can win.

And now, the battle continues... for more information, call (212) 772-4261

An Open Admissions Program for a Democratic University

CUNY Coalition for Open Admissions

- 1. Defend and Extend Open Admissions**
- 2. Stop the Plans to Stratify CUNY by Race and Class**
- 3. Full Academic Support for Incoming Students**
- 4. Full Financial Support for Full and Part Time Students**
- 5. Full Support for Public Assistance Recipients**
- 6. More Full-Time Quality Instruction**
- 7. Democratic Election of CUNY Trustees**
- 8. Appropriate Assessment of CUNY Students**
- 9. Improve Public School Education**
- 10. Celebrate Open Admissions: April 22nd Will be Open Admissions Day**

Open Admissions and Remediation

Just the Facts

*a public service announcement from
Hunter College SLAM!
Undergraduate Student Gov.*



HUNTER SLAM! USG
(212) 772-4261

What is the Real Story on Open Admissions?

Open Admissions began in 1970 as a result of the 1969 student strike at City College demanding an increased enrollment of urban, working class people, and specifically Blacks and Latinos, into the university. This policy was intended to provide social and economic opportunity for people who otherwise would not have access to college. The result was an example to the world; a university of mothers, immigrants and young people. For once, an institution of higher learning that mirrored the city.

CUNY students transformed our University through taking action. The student strike and a larger need in society for college educated labor, forced CUNY to adopt a policy of Open Admissions. This policy guaranteed all graduates of NYC high schools placement in one of the CUNY colleges. Enrollment skyrocketed. For once, students who were under-serviced by NY City high schools would still have access to higher education. The SEEK program was instituted to ensure that remediation and aid helped get all students up to speed. The glory years didn't last long. Just as the college opened up to all people, drastic reductions in the quality of public primary and secondary education and cuts to student support programs at CUNY threatened the mind and spirit of our people.

First came the implementation of tuition, *surprisingly* just as CUNY became majority people of color. Then, the cuts got more specific. SEEK, the program that gave meaning to Open Admissions, was dimmed to a shadow of its former self. With skyrocketing costs and support programs gutted, students dropped out by the thousands.

The politicians claimed students couldn't cut it, but they weren't even given a knife.

Students answer Giuliani

Myth #1: Giuliani Says CUNY Has No Standards

The Reality

1. CUNY awards more master's degrees to Black and Latino candidates than any other institution in America.
2. CUNY offers nearly all its courses for 3 credits each. Exactly comparable courses are offered at NYU for four credits each. This puts an additional burden on the number of courses students at CUNY must complete to obtain their degrees, currently 40 for CUNY, only 30 for NYU.
3. City College is the 3rd largest source of Bachelors degree recipients who have gone on to earn doctorates and Hunter College is the 3rd largest source of women who earn doctorates.
4. City College alone has graduated eight alumni who went on to win Nobel prizes, more than any other institution in America.
5. Over the past 11 years, 178 CUNY faculty have been recipients of National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowships and 34 are Guggenheim Fellows.
6. In 1991 CUNY conferred 1,011 Master's degrees to Black and Latino students while SUNY awarded only 233.

Myth #2: Giuliani says entrance exams improve standards

The Reality

Tests do nothing to prepare students for College, they only exclude those most in need of an education. Real preparation at the high school and primary school levels raises quality. Most New Yorkers support quality public schools, so the mayor is trying to justify his program cuts by blaming students for the failure of schools to teach them. Entrance exams exclude students, they don't teach and don't raise quality. They are really an admission of failure, not a program for improvement.

Myth & Reality

What Rudy don't know is alot

In fact, no other community college system in the country has an admissions exam. Most people are civilized enough to know that the job of schools is to teach. Throwing students out guarantees they won't learn. Strong remediation and enough financial aid to ease the work burden will encourage students to excel.

Myth #3: Giuliani says ending remediation at the senior colleges and reducing it at the community colleges will improve the schools

The Reality

Hello!? What world does this guy live in? Let's go over this one last time... Schools teach people things they don't know. The purpose of the community colleges is preparation for the 4-year colleges. They can't make up for 12 years of over-crowded, under-funded schools in 6 months. Many students come into the senior colleges prepared to do work in their major, but with a weakness in a different area. Should young scholars who never got geometry be denied their chance to learn? Hundreds of Hunter College students were expelled in January, yet most had passing GPAs. This is what Giuliani's madness does to our lives. Only we can stop him.