

LaGuardia Community College

Summary of Findings:

A review of the available information concludes that LaGuardia's financial position is good. Some of the line item fluctuations need clarification. Being part of the CUNY system can add additional constraints to financial related decisions. An example is, that with very few exceptions, community college budgets were frozen for 2015-16 and 2016-17 under University's guidelines.

Commentary:

LaGuardia received Standards 2 and 3 commendations from the Self Study Accreditation Evaluation team visit in 2012. The transparency of the budgeting process and the well-established and participatory planning process were noted for Standard 2. The team also pointed to their new fund-raising unit and efforts to increase Grant funding as examples of seeking alternative sources of funding. No recommendations were given.

In the Final Outcomes portion of their FY17 PRR regarding their strategic plan, it was noted that fund-raising revenue increased 33.9% from the three- year period ending FY13 to the three- year period ending FY14.

LaGuardia received an unqualified audit opinion for fiscal years 14,15, and 16. No findings or recommendations were presented.

Net Position has shown large fluctuations, per IPEDS data, during the past four years. For the three-year period FY13-FY15 it dropped by \$27,700,423. The drop was probably attributable to the CUNY system's \$150.4 million capital program for new construction and

improvements, as well as capitalization of CUNY's first software. Net position did increase by \$20,072,296 in FY 16.

State appropriations have remained constant from FY14-FY16. Local appropriations, level from FY14 to FY15 had a dramatic increase of 72% in FY16. Tuition and Fee revenue changes were similar to local appropriations, a slight decline from FY14 to FY15 and an 18.6 increase in FY16. FTEs decreased slightly by 351 between FY15 and FY16. The decline in New York City high school graduations and the impact on enrollment of potential immigration law changes need to be considered.

Fluctuations occurred in two major expense classifications, Institution Support and Other Core Expenses. Instruction, 52% of core expenses increased 36% from FY14 to FY16.

All in Higher Education need to consider the future impact on Financial Aid programs, as well as local and state funding, due to change in Administrations at the Federal level.

Reference Materials:

Periodic Review Report May 2017

MSCHE Evaluation Team Report March 2012

IPEDS Financial Data FY 14, FY 15, FY 16