

Report to the Board of Trustees  
President R. Barbara Gitenstein  
June 24, 2004

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman. I must admit that the last several weeks have been difficult ones for the campus. First, there have been the difficulties associated with the construction of the Pennington Road apartments. Just to remind everyone, as late as last December, we actually expected to have all three buildings finished and ready for occupancy by students in fall 2004. By spring, just in time for the housing lottery, it was clear that only one of the three buildings would be finished. Then in late April, we observed significant water damage in the two buildings that were partially constructed. While many of our staff have been working hard to manage the actual construction issues, many more of our staff have struggled mightily with the negative impact of this situation on our students and their families. Clearly, those who thought they were living in new apartments when they left for summer and now must choose from open (and less desirable on-campus living) are the most damaged. We are working to get all students who wish to have on-campus housing placed and we are also finishing a plan to provide some kind of remediation for all of the students who have been impacted by this housing problem. It is quite frankly a horrible situation.

Another disappointing report I must give today has to do with the state budget. As late as the beginning of this week, because of the increased state revenues, we expected to be receiving an equivalent payment to the deferral of our last year's appropriation draw, which for us would have been \$1.5 million. As you are aware, the budget bill is probably being voted on as we speak. We know that that additional appropriation is not part of the current bill being considered. There are, however, other elements of support for higher education which will benefit TCNJ's budget, but we simply have not had the time to calculate the difference between what we had expected and what will be available for the College from state funds. We are, however, confident that the total from all programs will be less than the \$1.5 million we expected. We also know that there is strong language in the bill regarding a tuition cap of 8%. So the board will act today on a tuition increase of 8% - recognizing that the administration will have some challenges to eliminate any shortfall created by this lower than expected state funding level.

Even with this difference, we believe we will be able to finance some of our planned investments in our future. These include a small increase in support for library acquisitions, maintenance projects, information technology, and the development function; additional resources for maintenance staff to improve the ratio of facilities staff to square footage; and increases to support our growth in Outstanding Scholar Recruitment Students as well as our very successful EOF Promise Award.

Now, to more positive things. First, the plans for the Sesquicentennial are simply extraordinary. I will let you hear a full report from Bob Gladstone, but I do want to comment on a couple of things. First, I want to highlight the great progress we have made in meeting the fundraising goal for the sesquicentennial. While surely David

Tiffany and his staff deserve credit for this work, I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank two trustees who have been exceptionally helpful to me in making contacts: Hazel Gluck and Bob Kaye, thanks so very much. Second, I would like to thank Bob Gladstone again and again for his leadership on the planning committee and his promise to continue his involvement throughout the sesquicentennial next year. We simply could not have done it without you, Bob.

Even with the challenges of construction and budget, this has been a wonderful year at The College of New Jersey. I will wait until the fall to give the full update on our goals attainment, but I cannot finish today without commenting on a couple of major successes and milestones of the year:

1. Again our fall admissions numbers indicate great success:
  - a. we saw an increase in SAT scores for generally admitted enrollees, from 1306 to 1308
  - b. we saw an increase in our OSRP population from 445 to 472 enrolled, which is 38% of the incoming class
  - c. we also saw significant increases in special populations: an increase of 13% in African American students and 16% in Latino/Hispanic students
  - d. I am particularly proud of the increase in our EOF population: a 38% increase from last year, and most noteworthy is that along with an increase in numbers of this population, the academic profile of the fall entering EOF population is higher than that of last year.
2. Eleven of 25 new tenure-track faculty members for 2004-2005 are from underrepresented groups and 3 of 5 administrators appointed recently are from underrepresented groups.
3. Despite our problems with the apartments project, we have made significant progress in improving our facilities planning during the year and are well on our way to appointing a new vice president for construction, facilities management, and campus safety.
4. Town/gown relations are certainly better this year than last, particularly as exemplified by town leadership and neighbor involvement in activities on campus, including Community Fest, commencement, and Sesquicentennial planning.
5. We will exceed the \$2,000,000 goal for total private giving this year. We believe that we will raise \$2.5 million by the end of this fiscal year, a high water mark for private giving at the College.
6. Alumni engagement in the life of the College has been improving impressively. More than 6,000 individuals were on campus for last fall's Homecoming; some 19 other alumni events attracted an additional 2,300 alumni to campus over the year. And the Alumni Association has pledged \$150,000 to support the Sesquicentennial, the largest single gift to the celebration.
7. And finally a couple of institutional/programmatic highpoints:
  - a. our athletic program again was recognized as one of the best NCAA Division III programs in the country: we were #4 in the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators Cup.

- b. both graduate and undergraduate programs in Nursing were accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- c. the programs in Engineering have not yet received final notification, but the exit interviews and follow up conversations suggest that all will attain separate accreditation status by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) at their August meeting
- d. TCNJ was again ranked the #1 public institution in the *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2004," Northern Universities-Master's ranking.
- e. TCNJ was named one of 77 in Princeton Review's 2004 *America's Best Value Colleges*.
- f. And TCNJ was one of 22 Public Best Buys in the *Fisk Guide to Colleges 2004*.

And these are only the highlights. I hope that you as board members are as proud and humbled to be part of this exceptional enterprise as I am to be the president of The College of New Jersey.

I would like to take a moment to thank three of our Board members for which this is their last meeting: Bob Gladstone, Tom Bracken, and Harry Reichard. We have benefited much from your wise counsel and commitment over the years. Thank you for your service to the College and the board of trustees. It is also a great pleasure to welcome a new board member today, Richard Schibell. I know that we all look forward to your involvement with TCNJ. Thank you.