



Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

535 East 80th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

212/794-5414

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Edison Jackson
FROM: Matthew Goldstein *MG*
DATE: May 10, 1991
SUBJECT: Senior College Status for Medgar Evers College

I am enclosing a complex statistical analysis justifying four-year status for Medgar Evers College. After you have had the opportunity to read it, let's chat about its contents.

OFFICE OF
THE
PRESIDENT
1991 MAY 14 PM 12:08

The City University of New York



Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

535 East 80 Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

212/794-5414

MEMORANDUM

To: Laurence F. Mucciolo

From: Matthew Goldstein *MG*

Date: May 9, 1991

Subject: Senior College Status for Medgar Evers College

As you know from previous discussions, Howard Everson and I undertook a study to compare, on the basis of a set of characteristics, Medgar Evers College with all other City University colleges. Our empirical analysis, which used Multidimensional Scaling methods to group colleges on a number of key institutional attributes, indicates that Medgar Evers appears more similar to John Jay College, the College of Staten Island, and York College than to any of the others, including all the community colleges.

Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) is a statistical technique for uncovering structure in multivariate data. It is useful here for quantifying the degree to which two or more colleges are "alike". The basic data in MDS are measures of proximity (similarity or dissimilarity) between pairs of colleges. We examined the similarities between and among all seventeen CUNY colleges in terms of the academic abilities of students, library resources, the proportion of faculty holding doctoral degrees, and the research productivity of faculty. Table 1 presents a summary of the data for each college.

Table 1. Data by College

| | HS GPA>80 | GED | PhD | Vols. | N. Awards |
|--------|-----------|------|-----|--------|-----------|
| Baruch | 55.5 | 1.8 | 92 | 33.8 | 93 |
| Bklyn | 44.9 | 5.6 | 85 | 85.5 | 187 |
| CCNY | 49.5 | 6.6 | 79 | 114.3 | 664 |
| CSI | 13.0 | 8.9 | 69 | 24.8 ✓ | 79 ✓ |
| Hunter | 45.2 | 4.9 | 83 | 51.9 | 479 |
| JJ | 11.6 | 13.0 | 88 | 36.7 ✓ | 39 ✓ |
| Lehman | 28.9 | 11.3 | 90 | 78.3 | 77 |
| Tech | 9.1 | 23.2 | 34 | 19.6 | 11 |
| Queens | 68.3 | 6.2 | 89 | 51.1 | 262 |
| York | 17.7 | 23.3 | 76 | 42.6 ✓ | 28 ✓ |
| Bronx | 3.9 | 35.9 | 44 | 21.2 | 13 |
| Hostos | 9.9 | 39.6 | 49 | 11.6 | 2 |
| KCC | 2.8 | 17.6 | 59 | 13.8 | 1 |
| LAG | 9.9 | 24.8 | 50 | 7.5 | 14 |
| BMCC | 5.4 | 20.1 | 50 | 7.7 | 2 |
| M.E. | 5.3 | 33.7 | 76 | 47.9 ✓ | 15 ✓ |
| QCC | 7.9 | 16.7 | 55 | 17.1 | 16 |

The end result is a pictorial representation of clusters of colleges with the property that colleges within a cluster are more similar to each other than to colleges in other clusters. Our analysis produced three distinct groupings of colleges. The first included Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Queens, Lehman, and Hunter College. The second was comprised of John Jay, Staten Island, York and Medgar Evers College. The third group included all the remaining community colleges and New York City Technical College. See Figure 1 attached.

It should be noted that the procedures employed to generate the college clusters assumed that all characteristics have equal weight and importance. As such, one can comfortably conclude--all other things remaining equal--that Medgar Evers College should be treated budgetarily, and in the manner in which it receives funding, more in line with colleges like John Jay, Staten Island, and York. Further, I would recommend that this argument be placed in a larger advocacy for four year status.

encl.

Figure 1. Two Dimensional Plot of MDS Analysis

| Legend: | College Name | Label |
|---------|---------------|-------|
| | Baruch | A |
| | Brooklyn | B |
| | CCNY | C |
| | Staten Island | D |
| | Hunter | E |
| | John Jay | F |
| | Lehman | G |
| | City Tech | H |
| | Queens | I |
| | York | J |
| | Bronx | K |
| | Hostos | L |
| | Kingsborough | M |
| | LaGuardia | N |
| | BMCC | O |
| | Medgar Evers | P |
| | Queensborough | Q |

