Queensborough Community College
City University of New York

The Committee on Committees
of the Academic Senate

February 8, 2005

R e p o r t

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1. Senate Replacement

Robert Kueper, of the Department of Electrical and Computer Technology, next in order of votes cast, has been **appointed to serve as an At-Large-Member replacing Karin Gaper,** of the Department of Nursing, for the balance of the unexpired term. Prof. Gaper resigned her seat due to a conflict between her doctoral studies and Senate meetings.

2. Online Voting

At the November 9, 2004 meeting of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Committees was charged with the responsibility of developing a secure system of electronic voting for Academic Senate related elections. The Committee has begun this process and will, from time to time, report to the Senate on its findings and recommendations in this regard.

Practical Demonstration

Following the November 9th meeting, a sample ballot, provided courtesy of Campus-Vote.com, was posted. Invitations to participate in the balloting were sent to all Members of the Senate via e-mail. The message contained a clickable link containing a unique, randomly generated password. Clicking on the link opened the demonstration ballot access page and automatically logged-in the participant.

- The election was open from 5 PM, November 9, 2004 to 5 PM, November 28, 2004. Invitations to participate were sent to all 77 Senators. A total of 36 ballots were cast during the election period, most of which were received in the days following the Senate meeting.

> Tuesday, Nov. 9th 6
> Wednesday, Nov. 10th 9
> Thursday, Nov. 11th 5

On Monday, Nov. 15th, a reminder notice was sent to the electorate prompting another spike in the number of votes cast.

> Monday, Nov. 15th 9
> Wednesday, Nov. 16th 3
> Wednesday, Nov. 17th 1
> Thursday, Nov. 18th 1
> Monday, Nov. 22nd 2

Following the issuance of the reminder message on the 15th, three requests to reissue the e-mail invitation were received. In addition, at least one request for assistance was made to IT as well as one to the Administrator of the election, Dr. Gerson.

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- The results of the demonstration election are displayed in the accompanying figure.

SGA President (36 total voters this ballot; vote for 1):

Votes	Name	%	
13	Mary Smith	41.9%	
13	Sue Winston	41.9%	
5	John Wilson	16.1%	

Student Senate (35 total voters this ballot; vote for 3):

Votes	Name	%	
16	Bill Apple	45.7%	
15	Cheryl Grape	42.9%	
12	Susan Lime	34.3%	
12	Sam Pear	34.3%	
9	Joe Cherry	25.7%	

Do you agree with the Senate bylaw law change? (35 total voters this ballot; vote for 1):

Votes	Name	%	
19	Yes	54.3%	
8	No	22.9%	
8	Abstain	22.9%	

With some degree on humor, five participants cast write in votes for SGA President as follows:

1. Don Manus
2. GUS HALL
3. john kerry
4. TOM G
5. Tom Smith

Some participants also posted comments when casting their vote. The majority of the comments were favorable, noting that the process was fast and easy to use. Some others raised questions on security matters.

- It is clear that some issues need to be addressed before the Senate can move forward with online elections. As fewer than half of those eligible cast votes in this online voting demonstration, it is possible that some of those attempting to vote were not able to do so. This may require the implementation of a dual online/paper voting procedure and a readily available help system to assure that all members of the electorate are fully enfranchised.