

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

TO: Academic Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Peter Bales, Chairperson, Special Committee on the Use of External Instruments
for Evaluations and Assessments
SUBJECT: Report of the Special Committee on the Use of External Instruments for
Evaluations and Assessments
DATE: November 22, 2006

The Special Committee for the Use of External Instruments for Evaluations and Assessments accepts the use of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) at QCC and recommends that the following considerations be taken into account with regard to the administration of the CCSSE at Queensborough Community College (QCC):

- . The desirability that administration of the CCSSE be preceded by student “focus groups” and/or “cognitive interviews” “to determine and verify how students...are interpreting survey items,” as per research presented by Judith A. Ouimet, JoAnne C. Bunnage, Robert M. Carini, George D. Kuh, and John Kennedy, “Using Focus Groups, Expert Advice, and Cognitive Interviews to Establish the Validity of a College Student Survey,” *Research in Higher Education* 45, no. 3 (2004): 247;
- . The desirability that adequate measures be taken to anticipate the possibility that “social desirability” factors could skew student response sets, and therefore survey results.

Members of the Committee wish the CCSSE to reflect conditions at QCC as accurately as possible, and are concerned that without adequate attention to these issues, it will not do so.

Anna May Jagoda, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, has offered to share with interested faculty results and analyses of the CCSSE when they become available (in approximately July of 2007).

As there is no longer any external instrument currently being considered for use by the College, the Special Committee on the Use of External Instruments for Evaluations and Assessments reports that it has no further scheduled meetings.