

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

The Steering Committee would like to welcome our new alumni representative, Professor Diane Carey, of the Department of Speech and Theatre.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

As of this writing, the Steering Committee has contacted the members of Student government to secure the name of Student Representatives who can serve on all committees of the Academic Senate where student representation is mandated by the Senate By-Laws. As of this writing, we are aware that student representatives have been assigned to all committees on which their membership is required by our by-laws, including the Committee on Vendor Services, and the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues. As of this writing, the Steering Committee has also met with several of the chairs of the standing committees of the Academic Senate to review procedures and charges; there are just a few chairs left with whom we are yet to meet. We will be meeting with Steering Committee designees in the next few weeks, as well.

Committee Matters: Activities

- As of this writing, the Steering Committee has assisted the Committee on the Gallery and Performing Arts in crafting language to reflect the addition of the Harriet and Kenneth Kuferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives into its purview; it has meet with the President's Designee to the Library committee, concerning the possible role for the Committee on the Library in discovering e-texts that might be helpful to students and which could be purchased by the library, as well as securing feedback from faculty regarding the needs they may recognize for the cultivation of student "information literacy;" and it has been archiving the myriad e-mails on the subject of smoking on campus, together with other relevant materials generously provided by our campus administration, for the review of members of the Committee on Environment, Disability Issues, and Quality of Life. These are only some of the many matters committee chairs will be (were) advised to review in the Steering Committee's annual activities sheet for each committee, which, as for this writing, has been distributed at the annual fall meeting for chairs of committees of the Academic Senate. We've also invited members of particular committees to consider the matters mentioned by President Marti in his September communication to the Academic Senate, and invited all committee members to inform us of any concerns or matters that come to your committee's attention that arise from the unprecedented surge in enrollment noted for this academic year. Once again, we urge senators who

may have concerns relevant to the work of these committees to bring them to the attention of the Steering Committee, so that these matters may be addressed, wherever appropriate, through our governance structure.

- The Special Committee to Develop On-Line Education at Queensborough met during the month of September, and identified several areas where there may be work for our college to do in order to implement on line programs: training and resources for faculty interested in course development; training and resources for students, interested in pursuing on-line education; and resources our institution will need to answer these demands. The Steering committee wishes to particularly compliment the outstanding work of Dr. Edward Volchok, chair of this special committee, and the committee secretary, Dr. Sara Rofofsky-Marcus, who are particularly pursuing the possibility of creating an on-line program for students who started at Queensborough but were not able to finish, and who are proceeding with tremendous sensitivity to the needs of different disciplines and pedagogies.

3. University and College Wide Matters with Direct Bearing on the Senate

- Once again, the Steering Committee is also in receipt of the transactions of Assessment Rubrics workshops developed by faculty who met under the direction of Dr. Derek V. Price, director of DVD-PRAXIS LTD, an educational consulting firm, and his colleague, Dr. Michelle Kalina, a specialist in Classroom Assessment Techniques, or CATS, during the month of September. The Steering Committee wishes to thank Drs. Price and Kalina for their continuing accomodation to the Steering Committee in forwarding these documents, which we would like to indicate are available to any faculty who could not attend these workshops. As of this writing, several rubrics have been developed for faculty use. If faculty are willing to identify one or two assignments in which they are applicable, we are hoping to collect data that will document the improvement so many of our students are able to make in the course of a semester!
- As a follow-up to the discussion of committee activites for the coming year cited in this report, above, the Steering Committee would like to draw the attention of Senators and other faculty, staff, and students at Queensborough Community College to two points that were made at the Plenary of the University Faculty Senate on September 22, 2009, as well as the meeting of the Faculty Governance leaders on September 11, 2009. First, both Chancellor Goldstein and Vice-Chancellor Logue are extremely concerned about the implications the enrollment surge may have for the quality of instruction across CUNY campuses. This is not to say that there is any evidence that this quality has been compromised, but only to say that CUNY Administration wishes to be zealous in maintaining quality, and will be looking at a spectrum of institutional data—including the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty—as “quality indicators” that could aid them in evaluating the possible impact of higher enrollments. Second, in the course of a presentation to the Plenary Session of the University Faculty Senate, Vice-Chancellor Logue mentioned that current research

- suggested that students seem to learn the most in “hybrid” courses—that is, courses that are neither fully on-line nor fully in the classroom. The Steering Committee would like to suggest that such research may point in an interesting direction for those departments that have expressed reservations concerning the impact of asynchronous learning upon teaching in their discipline, but which might wish to take some advantage of the innovations in pedagogy offered by on-line learning.
- While the Committee on Academic Freedom is not a committee of the Academic Senate, the Steering Committee would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Committee Chair, Dr. Julian Stark, and the Steering Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, who will be serving as Committee representatives in a matter pending before the Student Appeals Committee.
 - On September 29, 2009, Vice-President Zins circulated the American Association of Community Colleges position statement on the American Graduation Initiative that has passed the United States House of Representatives and is now headed toward the Senate. The Steering Committee would like to urge Senators and colleagues to review this document, which clarifies positions and modifications the AACC would propose in order to hone the current proposals into legislation in the best interests of our institution and our students.
 - Finally, the Steering Committee wishes to offer the following correction to a few errors noted in information contained in last month’s report:
While Drs. Maureen Wallace and Christine Mooney will be serving as Associates at Queensborough’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, the remaining faculty will be serving our college under another title, as **Faculty Development Leaders:**

Distance Education

Lorena Ellis: facilitator and OAA Faculty Fellow with support from ACC staff
Karen Steele and Paul Marchese: OAA liaisons

Service Learning Program

Jo Pantaleo
Sharon Ellerton

Writing Intensive Coordinators

Linda Stanley
David Humphries
John Talbird
Megan Elias
Jeffrey Jankowski

e Portfolio

Ed Hassen, facilitator with Support from ACC

Learning Outcomes Developers/Assessors

Margot Edlin
Peter Bales

Basic Skills and Math Liaisons to Academies

David Rothman (BES)

Sylvia Svitak (Math)

Faculty Coordinators

STEM—Moni Chauhan and Bob Kueper

Liberal Arts—Anne Marie Bourbon, Linda Stanley, Megan Elias

Education—Rene Rhodd

VAPA –Georgia McGill

Health –Alex Tarasko

Business—Shelley Bannon and Kelly Ford

Campus Learning Center Academic Facilitators

Business—Glenn Burdi

Science—Peter Campbell

Arts and Humanities—Jenny Lin

Social Sciences/History