

### **1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership**

Subsequent to our last Senate meeting, it was brought to our attention that Brenda Hersh (Business) would be retiring, and, thus, resigning from the Academic Senate; and that Margaret Reilly (Nursing) would also be resigning from the Academic Senate while on sabbatical. As of this writing, Shele Bannon (Business) will be replacing Dr. Hersh. As per a correction, offered by our Academic Senate Technology Officer, it has been brought to the Steering Committee's attention that Maurizio Santoro has already begun to serve in the Academic Senate. Professor Reilly will be replaced by Regina Polizzotto, also a professor in the Nursing Department.

### **2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership**

As of this writing, membership on the new Special Budget Advisory Committee of the Academic Senate is still under discussion. Representation from the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate will be supplied either by me or Dr. Bales; Dr. Stuart Asser will represent the Budget Committee of the College Personnel and Budget Committee and the Committee of Chairs. The Faculty Executive Committee will be represented by Dr. Anthony Kolios; our representative from Student Government is still pending at this time.

### **3. Committee Matters: Activities**

- As members of the Academic Senate may be aware, on 24 January, 2011, the City University of New York Board of Trustees passed a new policy which prohibits the use of tobacco on all grounds and facilities under CUNY's jurisdiction — indoor and outdoor— as well as tobacco industry promotions and marketing on campus properties, and tobacco industry sponsorship of athletic events and athletes. (A full press release on the policy is available at the CUNY website, at <http://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2011/01/24/cuny-trustees-expand-policy-prohibiting-use-of-tobacco-making-cuny-the-largest-smoke-free-public-university-system-in-the-united-states/>). Many members of the Queensborough Community College community will hail the smoking ban, which our own Academic Senate anticipated in a fall, 2010 vote to ban smoking on our own campus; but the next challenge lying before us is Chancellor Goldstein's mandate that each campus craft an implementation policy by June, 2011 that would go into full effect no later than 2012. Those members of our community who follow our own college's Community Dialogue and other CUNY-wide listserves will be aware that several of our senators and campus colleagues have advanced suggestions concerning implementation, while the Professional Staff Congress has queried issues regarding implementation of the new policy, as well. The Steering Committee is inviting all members of the campus community to join their colleagues in considering these matters, and forwarding all suggestions to the chair and members of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues. We are asking this committee to incorporate these suggestions into a document of recommendations to be forwarded to Queensborough's administration by our April meeting, if possible, so that any matters suitable for resolution might be considered by the Academic Senate for a

vote. As of this writing, it is our information that work on this implementation plan proceeds apace. The members of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Matters are also at work on a plan to address some of the issues those on our campus have raised with regard to parking.

- The Steering Committee of the Academic Senate is in receipt of advises from the Committee on Curriculum that the Committee will be considering a course in Arabic, and a revision of the AAS curriculum in Music Electronic Technology.
- The Steering Committee is in receipt of an advise from the chair of the Senate Committee on Computer Resources, that a report from the Technology Fee Committee is in the final stages of draft preparation. While our understanding is that the time table for sharing this report is a tight one, the Committee on Computer Resources has indicated it will share whatever can be relayed as soon as possible, tentatively at the April Senate meeting.

#### **4. University and College Wide Matters with Direct Bearing on the Senate**

As per our February meeting of the Academic Senate, and continuing action from City University Central Office of Academic Affairs with regard to the transfer issue and concerns about the portability of General Education credits, the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate wishes to build upon the productive discussion at the last meeting of our body to offer the following resolution:

Whereas, the CUNY Central Office convened a Working Group on Transfer and Articulation which issued a report last October, entitled "Improving Student Transfer at CUNY,"

and

Whereas, one recommendation of this report is that "General education requirements should be standardized in terms of numbers of credits and division into broad curricular areas,"

and

Whereas, Executive Vice-Chancellor Logue's current proposal to implement this recommendation would allocate 36 credits for a general education curriculum, designating three broad curricular areas as Science and Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities;

and

Whereas this report also recommends that Academic disciplinary groups should identify the "five most common courses taken as pathways" to particularly common majors, and "should insure that students who take these courses receive full credit for them as entry-level major courses or as prerequisites for such courses,"

and

Whereas the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College is empowered to create special committees as per Article VII, Section II of the By-laws of the Academic Senate:

*The Academic Senate may establish such standing and ad hoc committees as it determines. Each committee shall elect a chairperson, secretary, and such other officers as may be appropriate.*

*1. Special Committees:*

*Special committees may be created by action of the Academic Senate for specific purposes. Special committees shall be elected by the Senate...*

BE IT RESOLVED that,

A Special Committee on General Education Learning Outcomes be formed with the following membership:

A representative of Queensborough's Office of Academic Affairs (ex-officio)  
One representative of the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate  
One representative of the Faculty Executive Committee  
The chair of the Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate  
The chair of the Assessment Committee of the Academic Senate  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for Business  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for Education  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for Health-Related Science  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for Liberal Arts  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for STEM  
One faculty representative from the Freshman Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

And a charge as follows:

- To evaluate Queensborough's current General Education Learning Outcomes within the framework of these three broad curricular areas;
- To evaluate Queensborough's current General Education Learning Outcomes within the framework of learning outcomes articulated by general education programs at other CUNY campuses to which our students transfer;
- To evaluate current general education frameworks within current degree-granting programs within the context of CUNY Central Office concerns;
- To evaluate and identify courses that might be considered part of the "pathway" to common upper-division majors;
- To advance any recommendations for modification of the General Education framework at Queensborough Community College that may emerge as a result of developments and recommendations generated by the CUNY Central Office as they occur;

- To cooperate with any centrally-constituted Curriculum Committee as may be established by the University Faculty Senate in response to Executive Vice-Chancellor Logue's initiative;
- To make a report of all actions taken and conclusions arrived at in a final report to be submitted by May, 2012.

RATIONALE: Following from the recommendations of the conclusions of the Working Group on Transfer and Articulation cited above, Executive Vice-Chancellor Logue has called for a task force that would formulate ways to implement the recommendations included in *Improving Student Transfer at CUNY* as follows:

*Standardize general education requirements in terms of number of credits and division into broad curricular areas.*

*Establish disciplinary groups that identify the five or so most common courses taken as*

*pathways into the major and insure that students who take these courses receive full credit for them as entry-level major courses or as prerequisites for such courses.*

*Evaluate AAS degrees where AA or AS degrees exist in related fields.*

*Foster dual-admission programs in fields where they are appropriate.*

*Create mechanisms for accepting legitimate academic courses for credit even when a receiving college does not have a match for the course.*

*Improve CUNY's TIPPS on-line information system on course equivalencies and articulation agreements.*

*Create an appeals process for students who wish to contest denial of transfer credits or the receipt of fewer than they think are deserved.*

The formulation of a special committee would allow Queensborough Community College faculty to shape this process on our own campus, and, possibly, communicate with other campuses across CUNY in order to maintain the integrity of Queensborough's general education program and ensure that any and all modifications of existing programs maintain levels of academic rigor required for student success at transfer.