

**STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY
MONTHLY REPORT**

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

It has come to our attention that, due to the urgency of last fall's debates over the Pathways Curriculum, a formal vote to ratify the appointment of Dr. Paul Weiss as Interim Parliamentarian was never taken. The Steering Committee therefore will be opening our remarks with a formal call for this vote. Once again, we thank Dr. Kincaid for his prior service, and thank Dr. Weiss for his dedication to the Academic Senate.

We also wish to welcome the newly-elected Chair of Foreign Languages and Literature, Dr. Sharon Reeves, to the Academic Senate, and to thank her predecessor, Dr. Antonella Ansani, for her representation of the Foreign Language Department in that capacity over the past several years.

Finally, we note the appointment of our interim President, Dr. Diane B. Call, to a permanent capacity as our campus president. We would like to extend our warmest and most sincere congratulations to the President on this appointment.

As of this writing, all members of faculty should be in receipt of a notice from the Committee on Committees, inviting them to stand for election to the Academic Senate. We sincerely hope that many of our colleagues will seriously consider standing for election as Senators-at-Large, and supporting, by petition signature, the nomination of all faculty who may wish to do so. We also invite College Laboratory Technicians to consider nominating themselves, or a colleague, to stand for election to the second of two CLT representative appointments.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

- As per the report of Dr. Edward Volchok, Chair of Committee on Committees, the election of Dr. Sharon Reeves as Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, and the resignation of Professor Patricia Burke from Queensborough Community College has necessitated the election of new committee members on two committees: Professor Barbara Rome will be joining the Committee on Assessment; and Professor Wei Lai on the Committee on Awards and Scholarships. We are grateful to both of these faculty members for offering their service on these committees. We also wish to renew our congratulations to Dr. Reeves on her election as chair, and to wish Professor Burke the very best of luck in her new appointment.
- As of this writing, all members of faculty should be in receipt of a notice from the Committee on Committees, inviting them to apply for service on committees of the Academic Senate. Once again, we hope that members of our Faculty and eligible HEOs will consider committee service.

2. Committee Matters: Activities

- The Steering Committee is grateful to the Committee on Computer Resources for reviewing information related to the new arrangements to support the contractually-guaranteed right of retired faculty to email addresses, which the CUNY Central Office has been working to guarantee without compromising the transmission of state-protected information. The Steering Committee would also like to thank UFS Representative and Queensborough Faculty Executive Committee secretary Dr. Philip Pecorino for his work in this regard.
- As per a meeting of the Committee of the Library in which Steering Committee participated on December 12, 2012, the Steering Committee is pleased to report that the home page of Kurt R. Schmeller Library now includes a link to an “Academic Freedom Bookshelf” at <http://qcc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=201192&sid=3376324>. As of this writing, the Committee on Academic Freedom will be deliberating concerning what additional titles and links might be made available as resources to the faculty.
- Last year, the Committee on Writing In the Disciplines and Across the Curriculum noted discrepancies between their committee’s charges, and the charges in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate. These discrepancies were troubling, but productive, as they occasioned substantive discussion of the WID/WAC Committee’s charge, which has been modified as Writing Intensive courses have become a widely accepted “high impact” activity for students on our campus, as well as a two-course requirement. As of this writing, members of the WID/WAC and Bylaws Committee are meeting to review bylaws language concerning the Committee’s charge, with the intention of offering modifications for the review of the Academic Senate later this spring.
- At the recent winter convocation of the college on Thursday, January 24, questions were raised concerning the Assessment of Queensborough’s Shared Governance system for the purposes of the periodic review. Although it is our position that the Steering Committee’s eight monthly reports, together with the annual reports authored by our standing committees, constitute an archive that demonstrates the effectiveness of shared governance at Queensborough in many respects, the Steering Committee has been in communication with the American Association of University Professors, and received some guidance concerning some of the standards and rubrics that might be applied in order to assess shared governance, derived from the AAUP’s 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities: (available at <http://www.aaup.org/report/1966-statement-government-colleges-and-universities>); a paper, published in 1998 by Keetje Ramo entitled *Assessing the Faculty’s Role in Shared Governance: Implications of AAUP Standards* (1998). (Note Professor Ramo’s discussion of how the criteria she specifies might be evaluated at <http://www.aaup.org/issues/governance-ucolleges-universities/indicators-sound-governance>; and her questionnaire regarding shared governance at <http://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/CEB97E71-9F75-4EBD-BE95-940B7D7D6883/0/evaluation.pdf>), and, finally, an assessment instrument,

developed in 2001, at <http://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/8074D67D-36D7-467C-97D8-0542A542DFC3/0/tsurvey.pdf>.

Among the criteria that might be included in an evaluation of shared governance, based upon this literature, would be:

- **Acknowledgement** of, and support for, shared governance;
- **Communication** between the various college stakeholders—administration, faculty, students, members of the Board of Trustees, community partners, and so on (AAUP standards also stress that faculty and administrative ranks should be representative and inclusive);
- The observance of **appropriate boundaries** where “gate keeping” responsibilities are best left to faculty---AAUP standards, for example, recommend the practice upheld in Queensborough’s Governance Plan, as well as its Faculty and Academic Senate by-laws, whereby administrators serve on committees of the Academic Senate *without* vote
- **Safety** for those faculty who disagree;
- **Faculty Influence** in joint-decision making in those areas that concern the college.

We welcome discussion of these criteria and suggestions concerning other criteria that might also be incorporated for the evaluation of our institution and the design of its shared governance system.

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

As of President Call’s announcement at a meeting of Thursday, February 7, 2013, we are informed that the following courses will be sent for submission from Queensborough to be considered for Queensborough’s Flexible Core Curriculum:

Category	Course (Approved by Academic Senate)	
1A	EN 101 , 102, 103	
1B	MA 315,321	
1C	BI-110,130,170, CH 101, 110,120, ET 841 GE 100,102,105,125, PH 110,111	
2A	ARAB 101, 102 CHIN 101,102 CHIN 113,114 FREN 101,102	

	<p>GERM 101, 102</p> <p>HEBR 101,102</p> <p>ITAL 101, 102</p> <p>SPAN 101,102</p>	
2B	<p>EN 216,217,219</p> <p>ECON 150, 160</p> <p>HE 114</p> <p>PLSC 180</p> <p>SP 211, 471,472</p>	
2C		
2D	<p>CHIN 311, 312</p> <p>FREN 401</p> <p>GERM 401</p> <p>SPAN 312, 315, 402</p> <p>CRIM 102</p> <p>ET 821,830,843</p> <p>HE 111</p> <p>HI 185</p> <p>INTE 212</p> <p>PHIL 101, 130,135,</p>	
2E	<p>BI 356,357,421,453,455,510</p> <p>CH 103,</p> <p>CS100</p>	

	ET 570, 575, 580 PE 825 PH 123,124,125,126,127,128,129,130,131 PSYC 225	

We are informed, however, that President Call will advise the Board of Trustees that some of these courses may not be scheduled for fall, 2013.

While the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate continues to be deeply distressed over the limitations the “Pathways Curriculum” has imposed upon the time-honored design of Queensborough’s courses and degree programs, we are very grateful that President Call has chosen to uphold the procedure outlined in Article 1, Section D of the Queensborough Governance Plan for the processing of matters when the Academic Senate and the President are not in agreement:

The President shall inform and discuss with the Academic Senate or with the Steering Committee when the Senate is not in session, prior to his [i.e. the President’s] recommendation to the Board of Trustees on all college-wide matters which fall within the purview of the Academic Senate where his [i.e. the President’s] recommendations will be in disagreement with the vote of the Academic Senate...”

In our readiness to entertain discussion of this, and all other college-related matters, we wish to remind all members of Queensborough’s faculty that all meetings of the Academic Senate are open to the public as per the 2006 Perez decision on Open Meetings Law, as noted in Article I, Section 3, b of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate:

Meetings of the Academic Senate shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law and the Freedom of Information Law. Under the Open Meetings Law, the public has the right to attend any meeting of a public body. Any time a quorum of a public body gathers to discuss business, the meeting must be held in public, subject to the right to convene an executive session under certain limited circumstances. Non-members must conform to the usual requirements of parliamentary procedure; the Parliamentarian will interpret and enforce the rules which include that no non-member of the body may speak without the permission of the body.

As always, we pledge to recognize any member of faculty who wishes to contribute to our dialogue.