

**STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY
MONTHLY REPORT
March 11, 2014**

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

All positions in the Academic Senate are filled. Elections underway for 14 faculty at large positions.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

All positions on the Academic Senate Committees are filled. Student attendance is less than desired. Remedies are being put into place with the restructuring of the terms of office and fixing of meeting tiems.

3. Committee Matters:

A. Structures

The Committee on Committees and the Steering Committee have now completed the first phase of a proposal to restructure the Standing Committees of the Academic Senate to relate the committees to the new MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION Standards for Excellence. More to come in 2014-2015 year.

Objectives include:

- To facilitate the operation of a comprehensive institutional approach to assessment via shared governance and institutional structures
- To accommodate the Middle States Association Review Process with least disruption.
- To provide more opportunities for faculty service to the College by increasing the size of committees
- Providing Staggered terms to insure continuity (faculty members are in multiples of three with 3 year terms)
- Each year most of the committees would involve itself in the annual assessment of those areas under its purview. They would make recommendations as to what they think would improve the assessment process.

Timeline:

PHASE I : Increase the number of positions

Draft of the Proposal December 2013

Approval by the Senate February 2014

PHASE II : Realignment of Committees with Middle States Criteria for Excellence

Draft of Proposal June 2014

PHASE III: Restructuring: Removal of committees, creation of new Committees

Draft of the Proposal December 2014

Approval by the Senate February 2015

B. Nominations to the Committee on Ceremonial Occasions

As a result of the actions at the Academic Senate on February 11, 2014 the Committee on Ceremonial Occasions remains a committee of the Senate but as there are still no ceremonies of the college for which the committee can consult the committee will have no ceremonies concerning which it can consult. This being the case we do not want to cause harm to faculty who might be assigned to this committee in its current condition denying them the opportunity to have some actual college service. So, the Steering Committee directed the Committee on Committees to leave the committee positions vacant until such time as the Senate designates any official College ceremonies.

Any member of the Academic Senate may introduce a resolution to create at least one ceremony of the College which, if adopted, would provide something for the Committee on Ceremonial Occasions to do. E.g.,

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, Graduation is a ceremony that has a long tradition at Queensborough Community College, and
whereas, Graduation is a ceremony that offers value to numerous constituencies of the College,
therefore, be it resolved that graduation be a ceremony of the College.

EXPLANATION: Whereas there is a graduation ceremony each year at the College, it is offered by the authority of the administration and there is no requirement for it to be offered. The adoption of this resolution makes it a Policy of the College and mandatory to offer the ceremony. It would be offered according to what the administration determines to be within the means of the College Budget to provide.

There are other ceremonies with status similar to graduation as being annual events of some importance, including; honors convocation, twenty year service, welcome of new faculty, etc... There are also less frequent but significant events such as the inauguration of a new president.

If there is no reason to make even graduation an official ceremony of the college, then why is there a need for the governing body to have a standing committee to consult on something the governing body deems of so little importance so as not to recognize it as a college ceremony?

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

A. The University Faculty Senate

The University Faculty Senate of The City University Of New York met in February . There were no actions taken.

B. The CUNY BOT met on January 15 and 27, 2014 and took several actions. Available here:
http://policy.cuny.edu/board_meeting_summaries/2014/01-27/pdf/#Navigation_Location

Of particular possible interest are these:

RESOLVED, That James B. Milliken be appointed Chancellor of The City University of New York, effective on a date mutually agreed upon, prior to June 1, 2014, at a salary to be determined by the Chairperson, subject to financial ability, and that he be appointed Distinguished Professor, with tenure, at the CUNY School of Law. **Resolution unanimously adopted.**

NO. 6. THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHANCELLOR FOR BUDGET AND FINANCE:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approves the appointment of Matthew Sapienza as Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, at a salary to be approved by the Interim Chancellor.

5. Actions of the Steering Committee

A. Revision and reconstruction of the Academic Senate website

- An area (blog) has been created to report on activities of the Committees of the Academic Senate and the Senate itself. <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/as-blogs/news-and-views.html>
- An area has been created to allow candidates for election to seats in the Senate to state their principles and positions for the electorate.
<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/CandidatesforSenateMembership.html>
- A page has been created for descriptions of the Standing Committees and what potential faculty and staff members should know about them.
http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/What_Faculty_need_to_know.html
- A page has been created for descriptions of the Standing Committees and what potential student members should know about them.
http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/What_Students_need_to_know.html

6. Shared Governance Discussions and the Academic Senate

In our readiness to entertain discussion of 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.