

**Steering Committee Report
Academic Senate Steering Committee
Queensborough Community College
May 8, 2018**

At this, the final meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Academic Senate has a number of agenda items of note, including reports from the Committee on Food Insecurity and the Committee on Committees, action items from Bylaws and Curriculum, and a newsletter from the Committee on E-Learning.

First, the Steering Committee would like to welcome the new members of the Senate, most of whom are beginning three-year terms:

Full-Time Faculty

- 1. Arthur Adair**
- 2. Leslie Francis**
- 3. Todd Holden**

CLTs

- 1. John Luby**
- 2. Laura Rachiele** (replacement for resigned CLT senator; term ends in 2019)

HEOs

- 1. David Moretti**
- 2. Renee Rhodd**

The new senators have been added to the Academic Senate email list by Senate Technology Officer Jeffrey Schwartz.

As we noted last month, Senator Lorena Ellis has resigned from her position on the Academic Senate. Because we have no eligible alternates from the regular 2018 senate elections conducted earlier this semester, we must elect a replacement. In addition, no adjunct members of the faculty submitted nominations for the regular election of the adjunct representative. So today we must hold elections to fill those open seats. As a reminder, STO Schwartz reports the following:

“According to Article I, Section 2 of the Senate Bylaws:

“In the event that there are vacancies in Faculty Member-At-Large positions or with the Adjunct members or CLT's or HEO's that cannot be filled by available Alternates, these positions are to be filled by a direct vote by the entire Senate at the next regular meeting of the Academic Senate following the occurrence of the vacancy. The elected replacement Senator will then serve for the length of the remaining term of that Senator who has left the college, or for the period that Senator is on leave”

STO Schwartz also points out that “This means that we will have to elect a new Adjunct to a three-year term (ending 2021) and we will also need to elect Lorena Ellis's replacement (term ending 2019). Lorena Ellis's replacement cannot be from any of the following departments:

1. Biological Science & Geology

2. Business
3. Engineering Technology
4. English
5. Nursing
6. Social Sciences”

The reason for this, of course, is that the six departments listed here have reached the maximum number of members allowed under the bylaws. Therefore, at this meeting we have to elect an at-large faculty member to complete Dr. Ellis's term. This should motivate us to encourage more people to run in the regular election. At the same time, we should consider the reasons why people would rather not participate in governance at QCC.

In addition to the election of a replacement senator to complete the term of Dr. Ellis, and an adjunct member of the faculty to serve a three-year term as the adjunct representative, today we have the election of the Steering Committee, the Parliamentarian and the Senate Technology Officer for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The May meeting of the Academic Senate is also when we elect three new members to the Committee on Committees for three-year terms. Nominations and an election will be held, but please note that there are some restrictions, since the protocol to be observed limits membership on the committee to one member per department. Departments with no current members on the CoC are eligible, as are those departments whose members serving on the CoC have terms expiring this month. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Helmut Loeffler, chair of the Committee on Committees, or Joel Kuszai, chair of the Academic Senate Steering Committee.

Today, as per our responsibility under the Bylaws, we have to approve the list of potential graduates for June and August 2018. Thanks to College Registrar Pat Canale and the entire staff in the Registrar's Office who prepare the lists in time for us to fulfill our duty.

As we discussed months ago, the Committee on the Bylaws, under the leadership of chair Susan Jacobowitz, undertook to consider the policy and procedure implications of how we record minutes and how we comply with sunshine provisions of good governance measures, such as the Open Meetings Law and the Perez v. CUNY decision. We asked Bylaws to look into the concerns raised by SGA President Salvador with respect to student privacy. They did, taking in the guidance received from Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Loretta Martinez, as well as faculty, students, staff and administrators at QCC. Today, the resolution (Attachment F) comes before us and given that the proposal as written addresses many if not all of the concerns, especially those raised by chair of the FEC Phil Pecorino and others, we hope this proposal passes, even if it adds another task to the work of the Secretary of the Academic Senate Steering Committee.

By the time of the May senate meeting, the Steering Committee will have circulated to the senate the revised guidelines for posting flyers and posters on campus. The revisions are the result of meetings with Vice President Sherri Newcomb, Senator and chair of the Academic Freedom Committee Julian Stark and Joel Kuszai, chair of the Steering Committee. Chairs Stark and Kuszai thank VP Newcomb for her adherence to the commitment to consult with the Steering Committee and the Academic Freedom

Committee, a commitment she made in a Fall meeting of the FEC. The meetings were cordial and several of the issues raised by faculty were attended to quickly, while other issues may remain for future dialogue. Nothing is ever perfect, but in this instance the good practice of shared governance was on display, even if it took a little longer than some would have liked. If there are concerns going forward about this or any policy we will address them.

As we enter the final phase of the semester, the work for the Steering Committee remains: we will be attending to several issues, not the least of which is making sure the SC designees have been placed, that committee chairs are comfortable and ready for the submission of annual reports, and more. Obviously, for some ongoing issues too numerous to be raised here, some which have been raised only in the last few weeks, look for more detail in the Steering Committee Annual Report which will be completed by the start of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Academic Senate Steering Committee
(AcademicSenateSteeringCommittee@qcc.cuny.edu)

Dr. Joel Kuszai, Chair (jkuszai@qcc.cuny.edu)
Dr. Emily Tai, Vice-Chair (etai@qcc.cuny.edu)
Dr. John Talbird Secretary (italbird@qcc.cuny.edu)