

**Queensborough Community College**  
The City University of New York  
**Steering Committee Report**

**For the February 19, 2008 meeting of the Academic Senate**

**I. Senate Matters**

**Senate Positions and Elections:**

The Steering Committee wishes to welcome the following new members to the Academic Senate as replacements for members on leave:

Janice Malloy, Assistant Professor of Nursing (to fill vacancy left by Professor Tina Bayer, on leave)  
Laura Freedgood, Assistant Professor of Basic Skills (Senate Alternate, filling vacancy for Professor Deborah Fitzgerald-Royce, on leave)  
Julian Stark, Assistant Professor of Biological and Geological Sciences (filling vacancy left by Jay Appleman, on Travia Leave)

**Committee Matters:**

Staffing

Scott Sherman, Instructor in the Department of Biological and Geological Sciences, will move from his current position as Senate Designee to the Committee on Student Activities to Committee member, filling a vacancy left by Andrea Cohen, who has resigned as Committee Secretary.

Eligibility for Senate Committee Service

Faculty in all departments, including the Library and Student Affairs and including CLT's and Staff (including HEO's) on reassigned time are **not** prohibited from continuing to furnish service as College committee members by any contract provision or CUNY Bylaw or QCC Governance Plan, Faculty Bylaw or Senate Bylaw. Faculty with reassigned time who wish to continue college service are advised to consult with their colleagues and department chairs regarding possible time constraints.

Committee on WID WAC

The committee is currently faced with a large number of requests for waivers of the WI Degree requirement and the prospect of several hundred more by the end of May 2008. This situation is the result of the limited number of WI seats currently available to A.A. and A.S. degree program students, particularly evening and weekend students. This results from a number of factors that have obstructed full implementation of the previous College Policy as established by the Senate. It is hoped that there will soon be full implementation of Academic Senate policy on WID WAC and WI classes. The designation of two required courses in all technical and professional and career degree programs has not as yet been achieved. The Steering Committee has communicated with the Office of Academic Affairs and with the President and the Committee on WID WAC has entered into discussions with the administration concerning alternative resolutions.

College Policy on WI Class Size (seat limits)

The Academic Senate has set policy for QCC with the class size limit of 25 (raised from 20) for writing intensive courses and in both committee sessions and in plenary session was emphatic about that limit.

***B. Class Size***

*Size should in NO case be more than 25 students. The exact limit is to be determined by the academic department and the Office of Academic Affairs but in NO case will that limit exceed 25 students.*

Recently some department chairpersons were asked to increase the seat limit for WI sections. The Senate must note that no one other than the Senate itself has authority to raise or alter the seat limits for WI classes. These WI classes, unlike other classes, have had their maximum seat limit set as College Policy and not through negotiations with the Office of Academic Affairs. Neither administrators nor department chairs nor individual faculty can alter or waive College Policy. **Not even members of the Committee on WID WAC, who are empowered to waive the degree requirement for individual students, have the authority to waive the seat limit without the approval of the Academic Senate.**

## **II. Resolutions requiring Senate Action on the current Agenda**

There are items for approval in the Report from the Committee on Curriculum.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If we lose quorum no voting can take place and it is possible that the meeting will be adjourned.

## **IV. CUNY Matters**

A. The Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge the significant honor accorded our college in the appointment of our president, Dr. Eduardo Marti, as a member of Governor Elliot Spitzer's Commission on Higher Education.

Governor Spitzer's commitment to act on the Commission's recommendations, detailed in its preliminary December report, (available as a PDF from <http://www.hecommission.state.ny.us/>) was recently affirmed in Governor Spitzer's *State of the State* address on January 9, 2008 (available at [http://www.ny.gov/governor/keydocs/2008sos\\_speech.html](http://www.ny.gov/governor/keydocs/2008sos_speech.html)).

Both policy statements included several points of relevance to CUNY in general, and the CUNY Community Colleges in particular, including:

- A call for partnerships between New York State institutions of higher education, and a spectrum of K-12 institutions to promote college readiness among NY high school graduates;
- The establishment of a state-subsidized student loan program;
- The remission of tuition for veterans of the United States armed forces;
- The strengthening of articulation between two-year and four-year institutions across New York State.

In addition, Governor Spitzer has called for the creation of 2,000 faculty lines across SUNY and CUNY, in order to replenish the ranks of full-time faculty lost to retirements and depleted funding over the past decades.

The Steering Committee would nonetheless like to query whether such an initiative will be sufficient to restore CUNY full-time faculty/student ratios to their pre-1976 levels. Our concerns arise from the remarks made by members of the Higher Education Commission, at the December web-conference briefing, that these faculty lines are meant to be shared by SUNY and CUNY institutions, and that administrators would be urged to "think strategically" about where to locate new lines. We are concerned that full-time faculty ranks at comprehensive institutions such as CUNY's two-year campuses might be compromised by the priority members of the Higher Education Commission have assigned to securing better research funding for flagship SUNY campuses through the energetic recruitment of research-oriented faculty. This, in turn, might have implications for articulation between two- and four-year institutions.

We are, in addition, concerned by indications that the Governor’s proposed executive budget would, as per the information circulated by President Marti last week, “reduce student base operating aid for SUNY and CUNY community colleges by \$50 per student”—a reduction, as President Marti has noted in his report, that would be compounded in impact by the Mayor’s proposed reduction of \$28.9 million for the coming fiscal year.

We would be grateful if President Marti would be willing to share his thoughts on the implications of the Commission’s recommendations for community colleges, in light of these possible budgetary constraints.