

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

Our roster for the Academic Senate remains stable.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

Our roster for Committees of the Academic Senate remains stable.

3. Committee Matters: Activities

- We are informed by the Chairs of the Committee on Bylaws, and the Committee on the Gallery and Performing Arts that a proposal regarding a Bylaws change to reflect the addition of the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives to the purview of the Committee on the Gallery and Performing Arts has now been received. The Committee on Bylaws expects to deliberate concerning this matter shortly. The Steering Committee would also like to congratulate the staff of the Holocaust Resource Center for the coverage they received in the October 24, 2009 edition of the *New York Times*.
- Members of the Academic Senate will be in receipt of a progress report submitted by the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues. After a lengthy review of relevant policies on other campuses (in a file that exceeded fifty pages), the Committee is proposing to institute a campus smoking policy survey in order to add, to the wide and weighty expression of e-mail opinions we've had from learned faculty, staff, and students on campus, the hard data of where the majority of our campus community stand on this issue. Once more, the Steering Committee would like to thank Mr. Dion Pincus, Professor Hayes Mauro, and all the members of their committee for their outstanding work on this difficult issue. We would like to urge members of our Queensborough Community to participate in this survey, so that we can arrive at a resolution to this matter as soon as possible, as we are aware that this matter has also been brought to the attention of Chancellor Goldstein and the Board of Trustees.

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

- The Steering Committee would like to congratulate award recipients Mr. Bruce Naples, Director of the Academic Computing Center; Mr. George Sherman, Director of Information Technology, and Dr. Linda Stanley, Coordinator of Queensborough's Writing Intensive Program, all of whom were presented with plaques for their extraordinary contributions to teaching and learning at Queensborough at the Seventh

Annual Conference on the College on October 30, 2009. We would also like to thank Vice-President Call for numbering active involvement in the shared governance of our college among the activities that she discussed in her address at this gathering on the subject of faculty engagement.

- On Wednesday, October 14, the Steering Committee met with President Marti, Vice-President Call, and Dr. Sheena Gillespie, in her capacity as Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, to review the college's plan for enrollment management in the face of the current surge in enrollment as per a request from Vice-Chancellor Alexandra Logue. The Steering Committee wishes to thank members of the Administration for their willingness to keep members of faculty and the Academic Senate aware of developments in this area.
- The Steering Committee has also consulted with the Administration with regard to the two Administrative "task forces" that President Marti has asked Dean Arthur Corradetti to convene in order to address the question of Institutional and Learning Assessment at Queensborough. The Faculty Task Force will be composed of representatives from each of the Department's Personnel and Budget Committees, and the Administrative Task Force will have representation from each major Administrative Division. These Task Forces will be charged with producing two assessment handbooks (one, respectively, for faculty and one for administrators) which will be presented to the Academic Senate at the April 2010 meeting. Because each of these task forces will be producing documents that will ultimately be read by members of the Academic Senate, the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate and the Administration have agreed that there should be senate representation on each of these two task forces. Since the Committee on Curriculum already is charged with evaluating the appropriate contribution of each proposed course and program to Queensborough's overall mission, it has been agreed that a representative from the Committee on Curriculum should join the Faculty Task Force; since the Publications Committee already began to develop several initiatives to support institutional assessment with Dean Corradetti during Dr. Eugene Harris's tenure as Chair of the Committee on Publications, it was agreed that a representative from the Committee on Publications should join the Administrative Task Force. As of this writing, the Steering Committee has been advised that Dr. Philip Pecorino, chair of the Curriculum Committee, will serve as representative to the Faculty Task Force. We await an advise from the Publications Committee.
- The Steering Committee would also like to take this opportunity to invite members of the Academic Senate to consider the ways in which our governance body might constructively contribute to the Assessment effort on campus, and in particular, whether our body wishes to include any matters related to assessment among those it might consider for a vote. This is, admittedly, a difficult issue, but the Steering

Committee believes that it is one that merits consideration and debate in light of current developments on our campus.

- Faculty Governance Leaders are being asked by Dr. Manfred Philip, Chair of the City University Faculty Senate, to ask both full and part-time faculty to participate in the UFS's *On Line Faculty Experience Survey*. You may have received a post-card in the mail, with a user id and password, and instructions concerning how to log on to the survey at <https://eballot.votenet.com/faculty>. If you have lost, or didn't receive, such a postcard, faculty are being asked to call 866-975-7133. The Steering Committee would like to strongly urge faculty who have not done so to participate in this survey—especially members of our adjunct faculty. Once again, hard data can support constructive action, and we believe that, when it comes to the conditions of our faculty, as many voices should be heard as possible.
- At the most recent plenary meeting of the City University Faculty Senate on October 27, 2009, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs John Mogulescu addressed Senators to discuss the New Community College initiative. This, too, is an issue of some importance, raising various questions with regard to the institution's projected curriculum, funding, staffing, and governance plan, as well as the implications its creation might have for existing two-year institutions within the City University of New York. Our Senate Parliamentarian, Dr. Philip Pecorino, and Faculty Executive Committee member Dr. Nathan Chao have been appointed by President Marti as delegates to the Steering Committee that has been consulting with Dean Mogulescu. The Steering Committee would, however, like to invite members of the Senate and our college community to review documents related to this initiative on the CUNY website at <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/oa/initiatives/ncc.html>, so that we may share your concerns and ideas with the City University Faculty Senate body, as well as the UFS Community College caucus.