

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

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

The following Senators will be reaching the end of their current terms as of April, 2013:

Peter Bales: Social Sciences
Helene Dunkelblau: Basic Skills
Margot Edlin: Basic Skills
Lorena Ellis: Foreign Languages
Todd Holden: Physics
Shannon E. Kincaid: Social Sciences
Joel Kuszai: English
Aithne Bialo-Padin: History
Julian Stark: Biology
Emily Tai: History
Alexandra Tarasko: Nursing
Craig Weber: Engineering Technology
Haishen Yao: Math & CS
Lana Zinger: Health Phys Ed. & Dance

The Committee on Committees is in receipt of a number of petitions, both from several of the Senators on this list (who the Steering Committee would like to sincerely thank for their service, especially over the past two, difficult, years); and from faculty who are contemplating standing for Senator for the first time. The Steering Committee would like to thank all the faculty who will be standing for election. We would also like to remind faculty, in advance, that even those faculty who may be elected only as alternates or wait-listed for committee appointment may have an opportunity to serve, given the membership turnover the Academic Senate and its committees often experience in any given year. We would also like to remind faculty and chairpersons that each department is entitled to be represented by a maximum of four faculty members, excluding their department chair (for a total of five per department), as per Article 2, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate:

“...No more than five (5) faculty members totally shall be permitted to be from any one department...”

In keeping with that point, it has come to our attention that Dr. Jannette Urciuoli will be resigning from the Academic Senate for the remainder of the semester. We would like to sincerely thank her for her service, and hope she and her family will accept the Steering Committee's best wishes. However, since, with this resignation, the Academic Senate will have run through all its available alternates, we are compelled to ask for a vote for one Faculty-at-large Senator in an election on the floor of the Academic Senate, as per a

subsequent passage of Article 1, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate:

“...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.”

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

- As per the report of Dr. Edward Volchok, Chair of Committee on Committees, Dr. Urciuoli has also resigned from the Committee on Admissions. As of this writing, the Committee on Committees has elected Dr. Sunil Dehipawala (Physics) to serve in her stead. The Committee on Committees is also hard at work, assembling the roster of committee members for the 2013-2014 Academic year.

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. As of this writing, the Committee on Computer Resources is considering a resolution that would address this issue. The Steering Committee would like to extend its renewed thanks to UFS Representative and Queensborough Faculty Executive Committee secretary Dr. Philip Pecorino for his work in this regard.
- Under the leadership of the previous chair of the Steering Committee, Dr. Philip Pecorino; and the committee of chairs, particularly the former chair of the Department of Nursing, Professor Maureen Wallace, the Committee on Continuing Education established an agreement that information on courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education would be shared with the Academic Departments in order that both divisions of the College might work together to better support Queensborough’s mission. Over the last few months, the Steering Committee has come to believe it would be useful to strengthen that agreement, possibly by amending the bylaws charge of the Committee on Continuing Education to offer the explicit requirement that it be the charge of the Committee on Continuing Education to review the contents of the Continuing Education catalogue, and to discuss its contents with the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development as needed, particularly when there may be overlap in course content or objectives with academic departments, so that curricular materials may be available to the chairs of those departments upon request. We are grateful to Dean Ward, who will be meeting with the Committee and members of the Steering Committee in early April.

- As of this writing, the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Matters is vetting a resolution for presentation to the April Academic Senate on Anti-Bullying. The Steering Committee will be discussing the text of this resolution with the Committee within the next week.
- 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 have met, and are formulating language to resolve this issue.
- As the term of the Special Committee on General Education Outcomes and Learning Objectives nears its close, the chair of the committee, Dr. Joseph Bertorelli, has called for a meeting to continue the important and productive conversation this committee began in the spring of 2010 with governance leaders at Queens College. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the courses that Queens College and Queensborough Community College have submitted for the Pathways required and flexible common core, so that we can continue to work together to serve the large number of students who transfer between our two institutions.
- Finally, we wish to note that the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate is planning to meet with all the chairs of committees of the Academic Senate shortly after we return from the spring break, on Wednesday, April 3, 2013. We wish to thank all the chairs of our committees in advance for all their trouble.

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