

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

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

The Steering Committee would like to welcome the following new or reelected Senators to the Academic Senate:

Peter Bales: Social Sciences
Aithne Bialo-Padin: History
Aranzazu Borrachero: Foreign Languages
Michael Cesarano: Speech Communication and Theatre Arts
Lorena Ellis: Foreign Languages
Susan Jacobowitz: English
Shannon E. Kincaid: Social Sciences
Joel Kuszai: English
Charles Neuman: Physics
Julian Stark: Biology
Emily Tai: History
Alexandra Tarasko: Nursing
Lana Zinger: Health Phys Ed. & Dance
John Luby, Reelected from the Department of Business as CLT representative.

The following members of faculty are currently listed as Alternate Senators, who may be asked to serve in the event that the representation of their departments in the Academic Senate should fall below its current maximum:

Antonella Ansani: Foreign Languages
Indra Avens: Foreign Languages
Glenn Burdi: Business
James Cutrone: Health Phys Ed. & Dance
George Fragapoulos: English
Vartan Messier: English
Hamid Namdar: Engineering Technology
Jane Poulsen: Social Sciences
Tian Ren: Mathematics & Computer Science
Ted Rosen: Business
Maurizio Santoro: Foreign Languages
Alicia Sinclair: Health Phys Ed. & Dance

Julia Carroll (Academic Literacy) and Matthew Lau (English) have received an equal number of votes. A vote on the floor of the May Academic Senate will establish which of them will serve as a current Senator, and which of them will serve as an Alternate Senator.

Finally, the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate wishes to thank the following outgoing Senators:

Helene Dunkelblau: Academic Literacy
Margot Edlin: Academic Literacy
Todd Holden: Physics
Craig Weber: Engineering Technology
Haishen Yao: Math & Computer Science

We hope they will all accept our deepest gratitude and best wishes.

The Steering Committee would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding service of Academic Senate Technology Officer Dr. Belle Birchfield. Dr. Birchfield has not merely served as Senate Technology Officer. Working with our retired colleague, Tom Gerson, she has essentially created this position. Dr. Birchfield also worked with the Steering Committee, and Committee on Committees chair Dr. Edward Volchok, to elaborate a detailed set of guidelines for future faculty who may serve in this role for the Committee on Committees handbook. As Senate Elections Officer, Dr. Birchfield also provided guidance to the Steering Committee, the Faculty Executive Committee, and the Committee on Committees to establish a protocol for faculty elections. Her vision, expertise, and gracious collegiality has been a beacon for the Steering Committee and we hope she will accept our most grateful thanks.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

- As of this writing, several committees of the Academic Senate have either scheduled meetings or already met as committees composed of both current (2012-2013) and forthcoming (2013-2014) members. The Steering Committee is also in the process of preparing a list of Steering Committee designees, and will be anticipating the election of new chairs and annual reports by next September. Once again, the Steering Committee would like to thank Dr. Edward Volchok and his fellow members of the Committee on Committees, who did extraordinary work assembling next year's committee rosters. We would like to thank those members of faculty who will be rotating off the Committee on Committees this year: Maurizio Santoro; Jun H. Shin, and Reuvain Zahavy. We would also like to renew our thanks to the many members of faculty who expressed a willingness to serve on committees of the Academic Senate, and the outstanding faculty who served on committees of the Academic Senate over the past Academic year.

2. Committee Matters: Activities

- The Steering Committee wishes to thank Professor Linda Meltzer for her leadership of this year's Committee on Bylaws, which has considered changes to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate compelled by the recently approved changes in Queensborough's

Governance plan. These changes are submitted for the review and approval of members of the faculty in attachment F of this agenda.

- Senators will note a proposal, introduced under new business (Attachment I), regarding the identification of Ceremonies of the college which the Steering Committees believes might facilitate the functioning of the Committee on Ceremonial Occasions.
- Senators will note a proposal, introduced by the Committee on Computer Resources, relative to Retiree email. The Steering Committee would like to thank Dr. Wendy Ford, Chair of the Committee on Computer Resources, for her efforts in this matter.
- The Steering Committee has been in communication both with the Committee on the Library, and the Committee on Student Activities, regarding a request, advanced by the Student Government, for an extension of library hours. Given the funding challenges this might engender, the Committee on the Library may be recommending the initiation of a survey that could inquire what extra hours might be of greatest use to students, and what services they might require at that time. The Steering Committee would like to thank Professor Elizabeth DiGiorgio, Chair of the Committee on the Library, who has also been working on a revision of the Library Committee Guide; as well as Professor Peter Novick, Chair of the Committee on Student Activities, and Professor Jeannie Galvin, Chief Librarian of Schmeller Library and Administrative Liaison to the Committee on the Library.
- At the January, 2013, Winter convocation of Queensborough Community College, questions were raised about the role that assessment of Queensborough's shared governance system for the purposes of the forthcoming periodic review. Although it is our understanding that this task may be complicated by the revision, now underway, of the Middle States Commission's Fourteen Standards of Excellence, the Steering Committee began this academic year by requesting each of the eighteen standing committees of the Academic Senate to consider those standards relevant to their charge. The Steering Committee is hoping that this year's annual reports will include some input this regard. The Steering Committee is also recommending, as a project for the coming academic year, that the Steering Committee constituted for the 2013-2014 Academic year, together with the Faculty Executive Committee, consider the conduct of an assessment based upon the criteria outlined by the AAUP questionnaire at <http://www.aaup.org/NR/rdonlyres/CEB97E71-9F75-4EBD-BE95-940B7D7D6883/0/evaluation.pdf>.

A preliminary review of the standards enumerated in this questionnaire suggests that Queensborough's governance structure remains effective in many respects; on a few points, it may provide an opportunity for consideration of strategies for improvement.

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

- On the evening of April 9, 2013, the City University Faculty Senate passed the following resolution by a hand vote with all in favor except one nay, and no abstentions. This resolution is now offered for the consideration of the Queensborough Academic Senate:

Resolution Objecting to the Extension of Pathways Common Core Course Review Committees

Whereas, the CUNY Bylaws give the University Faculty Senate and college senates jurisdiction over curriculum, and

Whereas, the central Pathways committees have wrongly usurped the role of these legitimate senates, and

Whereas, although these committees had expired, the Office of Academic Affairs is now extending the life of these committees until the end of June 2013, and

Whereas, if the pattern holds OAA is likely to make these committees permanent,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate objects to OAA's further extension of these extra-governance curriculum committees and calls for a permanent end to them.

Rationale:

Over the past two Academic years, the Academic Senate has acted

- To oppose the linking of transfer to General Education Reform (Academic Senate Resolution of May, 2011, recorded at http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_1B4D3C5E4E548ED6DA19BD527B27C437D8490400/filename/Attachment-A-Minutes-of-May-10-2011-for-September-2011.pdf)
- To oppose Pathways (Academic Senate Resolution of October, 2012, recorded at: http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_5B5A001175E36BB9442B06C70F9271D910DD0200/filename/ATTACH-A-MinutesOct%209%202012-Edited-and-Final.pdf)

On the same date of October 9, 2012, the Queensborough Academic Senate moreover, received, entered into the official record, and endorsed by resolution, a statement of the Academic Department Chairpersons opposing Pathways, recorded at

http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_5B5A001175E36BB9442B06C70F9271D910DD0200/filename/ATTACH-A-MinutesOct%209%202012-Edited-and-Final.pdf

The Steering Committee regards this resolution as consistent with earlier resolutions opposing the implementation of the Pathways Curriculum previously endorsed by 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.