

**Steering Committee Report
Academic Senate Steering Committee
Queensborough Community College
November 14, 2017**

Included on the agenda for this month are annual reports from the Committee on Awards and Scholarships and Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources. This month's report from the Committee on Curriculum features a new degree program in Psychology, as well as an accompanying methods course. There is also a monthly report from Committee on Food Insecurity.

Last month, we discussed that the Steering Committee would undertake to continue the work of various ad hoc and subcommittees that had been considering how to address the issue of bullying at Queensborough and through discussion we determined that a Subcommittee of the Steering Committee would be the best means to do that work. In the wake of the meeting, the Steering Committee began putting together a group of stakeholders in leadership positions as well as community members, some of whom have already been involved, and it's possible that one or two more members of the community will be added. Joel Kuszai and Clara Wajngurt will co-chair the committee and they are joined by the following: Ben Murolo, Joe Culkin, Frank Fanelli, Susan Jacobowitz, Jo Pantaleo, Liza Larios, Tim Lynch, Phil Pecorino, Joan Petersen, Emily Tai, and Julian Stark. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let us know—quickly.

Where we do not have adequate representation on the committee, the co-chairs will endeavor to communicate regularly with those interested, including the Senate, which will receive monthly updates. We hope to make significant process towards a resolution on this issue that can be brought before the Academic Senate early in 2018. While there has been quite a bit of work on this, we will follow a process, from defining and describing the problem, identifying best practices, developing solutions, seeking feedback from relevant offices at CUNY, the PSC, DC37 and others, *before* bringing the matter forward for further scrutiny by the community and Senate approval. We hope to solve any problems before “leaving the room,” seeking consensus about the problem and the solutions wherever possible.

Also last month, the issue was raised of how to identify students, or whether to, in the minutes of Academic Senate meetings. In the past, there have been one or two student senators who are unable to come to meetings due to schedule conflicts. As these senators cannot resign their posts like other senators might, and thus to minimize negative judgement that might arise from having been listed 8 times as absent, we have been listing their titles in the minutes but not their names. After more than a year of this practice, concerns were raised. At the October meeting, Senator Salvador, SGA President, spoke under new business, protesting the decision to begin listing student senators' names in the minutes. Note that the Steering Committee keeps a record of the voting results and is sympathetic to the view of our student colleagues in the Senate. At the October meeting we agreed to query CUNY as to the legitimacy of our practice. While we wait for a reply, it should be noted that Senator Pecorino and Vice Chair Tai discovered at a recent UFS Executive Committee meeting that practices of recording names in the minutes is not universal. So, when we hear back from CUNY as to our specific queries involving students, we will request of the Committee on the Bylaws to look at our practice and suggest how to codify our choices in our bylaws. This, of course,

must be approved by the Senate, and so if any Senators have a comment, opinion or question about this, please let us know.

At the recent meeting of the faculty it was announced that the Faculty Executive Committee was considering a fellows program to develop interest in as well as provide onramps to governance at Queensborough and CUNY more broadly. It's hard to argue against this idea. Developing new leaders should be a top concern of everyone who cares about shared governance. The question remains how to do that and how to create the kind of environment in which people want to serve.

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