

**Academic Senate
Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York
Committee on Bylaws Meeting
Wednesday, May 2, 2007, 9:15 a.m., H-428**

Minutes

Present

Members: Belle Birchfield, Robert Holt, Susan Jacobowitz, David Sarno

Absent

Members: Vincent Defazio, student representative
Designees: Caf Dowlah (Steering Committee), Liza Larios (Administration),
Jan Ramjerdi (Committee on Committees)

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Perez Decision

The Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to approve the submitted draft to amend the Bylaws in the wake of the Perez Decision.

III. Academic Freedom Committee

The committee continued the discussion of the creation of a Committee on Academic Freedom, and was in favor of its creation. However, the Bylaws Committee, which usually defines the charge of new Committees, feels that legal advice is required in this case, and the Bylaws Committee does not have the required legal expertise. The charges of the Committee on Academic Freedom must be worded to be appropriate; of immediate concern is that we not interfere with processes and protections already established through the union (collective bargaining, our grievance procedures) and AAUP. Another concern is that members of an academic freedom committee, if given charges involving investigating, monitoring, making judgments or receiving confidential testimony, might be sued as individuals and would not have any protection. The Bylaws Committee suggests that a special task force be created to identify and explore the legal issues involved in creating a committee of the Academic Senate that would focus on issues of academic freedom.

IV. Adjournment

The chair will contact the new members for the Committee in the academic year 2007-2008 to determine when they can attend. The next meeting will probably be held on May 21, 22, or 23, in H-428. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Holt, Secretary