

QCC DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

An Academic Senate Standing Committee

Minutes

Meeting of April 2, 2008 in M127 at 2:00PM

Attending: Jean Darcy, Lorena Ellis, Lisa Mertz, Bruce Naples, and Patrick Wallach,

Absentees: McKay, Devin

1. The minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting, were approved with minor revisions.

2. Chairperson's Report

An increase in the number of online courses is part of the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan. The committee should consider additional recommendations that will support this effort.

3. Discussion at the meeting:

In order to increase the number of FTE of online courses various possibilities were discussed. Following Jean Darcy's suggestion the members believe that the college should ensure that Distance Education is included in some way in the upcoming Student Learning Academies. The college should appoint a Distance Education Coordinator to serve as a resource for faculty and students, and to oversee inter-department scheduling, publicizing to students, faculty partnerships, and faculty development to ensure the success of Academies, Learning Communities and Distance Education courses. This person would also assist faculty in the development of new online courses and advise and represent students interested in taking online courses.

Most members, aware of the five "High Impact" initiatives established for the Academies to choose from, wondered if Distance Education, specifically a Partly Online (Hybrid) experience, could be added as a sixth choice. With proper support for both faculty and student this has the potential of increasing Queensborough's online program.

It was strongly felt that Fully Online (Asynchronous) would **not** be appropriate given that a major reason for the Academies approach is to carefully guide students through the complexities of beginning a college life.

4. **New business**

The items discussed in “New business” in the October 17 meeting will be followed-up in the next meeting. *“The DE Committee needs to prepare a new recommendation to the Senate with various arguments to support it. Some of the items to be included are national studies in favor of online courses; the CUNY mandate as stated in the 5-Year plan, incentives to faculty, review of assessment standards (NACOL), experience of faculty members involved with DE , etc.”*

5. **Next meeting:** TBA

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lorena B. Ellis
Secretary of the Distance Education Committee