

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Report of the President
to the Academic Senate

November 13, 2007

Strategic Plan:

As you know, we have a pretty sophisticated strategic planning process. It is a continuous improvement process. We just submitted our completion report, and now we are beginning the cycle anew with a SWAT analysis.

The first meeting of the College Advisory Planning Committee took place on October 23rd. At this meeting we addressed three issues:

1. Academies: Vice President King and Vice President Hartigan met with the Faculty Executive Committee and the Academic Senate Steering Committee to discuss our plans to institute six Academies for full-time, first time students as of fall 2009. Also, a faculty retreat, hosted by Vice President King, has been scheduled.
2. Compact funding mechanism: The Chancellor requested revisions to the 2008/09 Compact by November 9th. We discussed the parameters of the Compact Request and provided a copy of the proposal to the members of the Committee via email.
3. A SWOT analysis was presented to the Committee by Anna May Jagoda. Using the findings of this analysis, we will prepare a preliminary draft of the 2008-09 Strategic Plan. By the end of the semester, we will publish our first draft and conduct focus group meetings with the students, the Chairs of Academic Departments and with the HEOs. Armed with the input of these groups, we will refine the first draft during the months of January and February. At the same time, we will incorporate the goals and targets as prescribed by the Chancellor into our existing plan and we will conduct a public hearing. We will use the input from the College community to prepare the final draft that is submitted to the Chancellor for his approval by the end of June.

The 2007-08 Strategic Plan approved by the Chancellor is used to determine budget priorities as well as allocate the monies provided by the Central Office.

CUNY FIRST:

Queensborough Community College is a vanguard College. As such, we are in the process of meeting with the staff of the Central Office and PeopleSoft and Oracle to minimize the impact of this conversion. There is no question that this is causing a strain on the administration. Some people are not only doing their job here, but are having to go to the Central Office to handle the conversion. It is my hope that, in the end, we will have a system in place that will facilitate all of our

processes, from Human Resources to Registration. Please be kind to those members of the administration who may have frayed nerves. We are asking quite a bit from our colleagues.

As part of this conversion, we will be migrating from the current academic advisement system to Degree Works. This conversion will take place sometime in the spring. All other units of the University are using Degree Works. There is a probability that Degree Works will be the ultimate winner in a bid to address the needs of the University. If that is the case, we will not have to conduct another migration. If the University selects advisement software, we will have to migrate along with everyone else.

CUNY's Task Force on Sustainability.

By the end of this month, I will be appointing Queensborough Community College representatives to this task force. While I am sensitive to the concerns of our already busy schedules, I find this initiative intriguing.

In its charge, it is stated that CUNY “is committed to investing the necessary resources to construct, retrofit and maintain more sustainable and green facilities.” The initiative calls for the integration sustainability into the curriculum, supporting research and partnering with civic and business leaders to achieve a more Sustainable CUNY/Sustainable NY.” This can be a great opportunity for those of us who are conscious of environmental matters to step forward and take a leadership role. I believe that the Committee on the Environment of the Senate should be intimately involved in this process. I believe that through our service-learning initiatives, we will involve our students in this exciting initiative.

Middle States:

We are in the throws of compiling information for our Middle States Report. I know that the task is burdensome, but is worthwhile. By next spring, we should have a preliminary draft of the report and by next fall, we will have completed the Self-Study Report. The Chair of the Evaluation Team will be conducting a preliminary visit next fall and the full team will be coming during the spring 09.

Please support the work of your colleagues. This is time consuming work and it is important that our colleagues know how much we appreciate their work.

Memorial For Our Late Colleague, Tracy Gaines-Jeffries:

We are planning a memorial gathering for our friend and colleague Tracy Gaines-Jeffries on November 14th. At this time, we will plant a tree in her memory. I hope that you can join the members of the Biology and Geological Sciences Department at this service.

Presidential Lecture:

On November 28th, Dr. Selma Botman will lecture on “Citizenship and Higher Education: How 20th Century Egyptian and American Societies Empower or Enfeeble its Citizens.” This Open Lecture will take place in room M-136. Please consider attending and invite your students as well.

Commission on Higher Education:

The Governor appointed a group of Presidents, Chancellors, Politicians, Faculty and Students to this important Commission. For additional information go to: www.hecommission.state.ny.us The next meeting is on November 15, 2007 at Nassau Community College. Prior to the meeting, there will be a public hearing (11:00 – 1:00). Please consult the website for additional information.

QCC Art Gallery:

A Cameroon World: Art and Artifacts from the Marshall and Caroline Mount Collection is on display at Queensborough's Art Gallery from October 19, 2007 through February 28, 2008. It is the most extensive exhibit of African Art since 1984 with more than 200 pieces of art and artifacts from all regions of Cameroon. Called "Africa in miniature" for its geological and cultural diversity, the country of Cameroon possesses a rich legacy of its age-old traditions that have been maintained through its music, dance and art. Most African art, like that of Cameroon, stems from functionality. The Gallery will be hosting a booksigning event on December 7, celebrating the first time one of our exhibit catalogues has been registered with the Library of Congress.

Showcasing the Sciences:

Queensborough will showcase its sciences on November 29th from 4-6 pm to our external friends and supporters as well as our internal faculty and staff. Four (4) concurrent sessions will be presented as follows:

- The unveiling of the new Chemistry Research Lab featuring interactive chemistry experiments
- Laser and Fiber Optics Demonstration
- Interactive Biology Lab Experiments
- And Technology Academy Demonstrations

Note that the Sciences will be the "first" showcase that we host. Vice President King will be working with the Department Chairs and Faculty to determine a schedule for featuring our other Academies. Immediately following the *Showcasing the Sciences* open house, the College's Foundation will be hosting its annual **Donor Recognition** event in the Art Gallery.