

Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York
Steering Committee Report

For the October 9, 2007 meeting of the Academic Senate

I. Senate Matters

A. QUORUM:

MAJORITY VOTE: In order for a policy to be approved by the Academic Senate an absolute majority is recorded to vote in favor of it. That would be 40 votes. This is so regardless of the number in attendance.

B. RECORDING VOTES: AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM:

After the successful use of the audience response system to take attendance and to record votes in September of 2007 this method will be continued as long as it proves to be reliable and accurate.

C. Senate Positions and Elections

As there have been retirements and resignations and leaves involving elected members of the Senate and now that there are changes in the Senate Bylaws to fill VACANCIES that can not otherwise be filled because there are no alternates available through a direct vote of the Senate , there will be an election to fill the vacancies during the October meeting.

Nominations thus far made in response to the Steering Committee call:

Faculty member at large positions - 3 vacancies

Laura Freedgood, Assistant Professor, Basic Education Skills
Eugene Harris, Assistant Professor ,Biology and Geology
Hamid Namdar, Associate Professor, ECET
Julian Stark, Assistant Professor, Biology and Geology
Eileen White, Assistant Professor, Speech Communication and Theatre Arts

Adjunct Member at large- 1 vacancy

Arlene Kemmerer, Basic Skills Dept

D. Committees

We have a full compliment of faculty members on all committees. We await receiving a list of student members to all committees. There has been the first meeting of the committee chairpersons on 9-19-07.

III. Resolutions requiring Senate Action on the current Agenda

In the report from the Committees on Bylaws there are needed changes in the bylaws to accommodate a change in start of the Fall semester from the first day of September to some date earlier in the month of August.

There is the list of August Graduates for approval as well.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If we lose quorum no voting can take place and it is possible that the meeting will be adjourned

IV. College Matters

A. On Friday September 7th President Marti informed the faculty that starting in Fall of 2009 all full time, first entering, day time students would be admitted and enrolled through one of several Learning Academies. The expected outcomes would include higher retention and graduation rates.

It is the position of the Steering Committee that a change in the manner in which students enter the college so large and so significant as the Academies deserves that the community be fully informed and given opportunities to consider the ramifications of this approach and that the governing body have an opportunity to discuss faculty concerns with members of the administration. The Steering Committee is now in the process of promoting the community wide conversation on this matter, working with the Offices of Student and Academic Affairs and the Faculty Executive Committee.

It is expected that after sufficient discussion the matter would be formally presented to the Academic Senate for its approval of what is a new policy concerning admissions.

Bylaws of the Academic Senate

Article III. POWERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Section 1.

Through its Steering and Standing Committees, the Academic Senate shall have the power to request and receive information appropriate to or necessary for the performance of its duties, from the President and members of the administration, from students and student organizations and from such other sources as may be appropriate. It may address communications to the Board of Trustees by the President in some document whether it be a Chancellor's Report or some other report in which the vote must be recorded. The Academic Senate shall be the voice of the academic community of Queensborough Community College of The City University of New York in all matters which shall appropriately be brought before it, including:

5. The formulation of the policy relating to the admission and retention of students, subject to the guidelines of the Board of Trustees, and curriculum, awarding of College credits, and granting of degrees. In granting of degrees, student members of the Senate shall not vote.