

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

As per the report included in this agenda, the Committee on Committees has been conducting elections to fill the seats of the following senators whose terms are due to expire in May:

Paul Azrak
Peter Bales
Jean Darcy
Lorena Ellis
Elyn Feldman
Eugene Harris
Linda Reesman
Regina Rochford
Roland Scal
Emily Tai
Alexandra Tarasko
Craig Weber
Reuvain Zahavy
Lana Zinger

Elections are also being conducted to fill the expected vacancy for one representative of the Computer Laboratory Technicians and for the Adjunct representative. The Committee on Committees will be considering the results of these elections and presenting them to the members of the Academic Senate in May, 2010.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

As of this writing, the Committee on Committees has assembled a slate for each of the current standing committees of the Academic Senate, and will be conducting a vote on the acceptance of the slate it has assembled over the course of the April meeting. The Steering Committee would like to thank the members of the Committee on Committees for their hard work. We urge all members of the Academic Senate to review the Committee slates that will be distributed by members of the Committee on Committees at the forthcoming April meeting. A great deal of care was taken in the assembly of this committee slate to take faculty preference, and distribution of department representation, into consideration. The Steering Committee would also like to indicate that if some of the matters currently brought for the consideration of the April Senate are resolved, there may be new opportunities for committee service available to faculty who are not now serving on the Standing Committees of the Academic Senate, either as members or Designees of the Steering Committee, but might wish to. The Steering Committee would also like to remind Senators and members of the College Community that while Steering Committee Designees serve on Committees without vote, their work is considered service to the college.

Once again, the Steering Committee would like to remind all members of standing committees that it is customary for the election of a committee chairperson and secretary to occur at its first meeting as a newly constituted committee—which means that old and new members meet together at final May meetings. The Steering committee will be requesting final reports from those individuals who have served as committee chairs during the 2009-2010 academic year. It is the Steering Committee's current plan to hold a meeting of all committee chairs to review these procedures, and discuss any other matters that may be important for the support of the committees of the Academic Senate, on **Wednesday, April 21, 2010, during Free Hour, in Medical Arts Basement MC33**. Invitations to this meeting have already been extended, and the Steering Committee has met with two chairs who indicated that scheduling conflicts would prevent their attendance.

3. Committee Matters: Activities

In addition to the Committee on Committees, from whose chair Senators will hear at the forthcoming meeting, a number of committees were hard at work through the week before our Spring recess began considering various matters of importance:

- As the current agenda will show, the Committee on Bylaws will be presenting several resolutions regarding modification of the existing Senate by-laws. The Steering Committee would like to extend its special thanks to the chair of the Committee on Bylaws, Dr. David Sarno, its secretary, Drs. Christine Mooney, as well as its members, Drs. Caf Dowlah, Joseph Goldenberg; Janice Molloy; Jonathan Cornick, Chiung Chang, and President's Designee Liza Larios. The Steering Committee would also like to indicate—as has Dr. Sarno in his report—that the attached resolutions are the result of extensive collaboration with the Committee on Gallery and Performing Arts, chaired by Dr. Zivah Perel; the Committee on Distance Education, chaired by Dr. Edward Volchok; and the members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would like to thank the members of all these committees, and our senate Parliamentarian, Dr. Philip Pecorino, for their work on these proposed bylaws changes.
- The Steering Committee has also been in frequent communication with the chair on the Committee on Distance Education and the Special Committee to Develop On-Line Education at Queensborough which was authorized by this body exactly a year ago. This Special Committee has been working extremely hard on the preparation of a report and resolutions which they plan to have ready for the Senate's consideration in May.
- Also anticipated in May will be the presentation of the Handbooks authored, respectively, by the Administrative and Faculty Task Forces on Assessment. At that

time, members of the Academic Senate will be invited to evaluate whether these Handbooks should be deemed guidelines or accepted for information only. The Steering Committee is currently preparing a resolution to this effect, but would like to advise members of the Academic Senate and the campus community that these Handbooks are nearing completion and will be included in the Academic Senate agenda for May, 2010. The Steering Committee realizes that reviewing these Handbooks, alongside the Special Committee on Distance Education report, will represent a considerable investment of time and energy. We wish to express our gratitude in advance to all members of the Academic Senate for the attention we will ask them to bestow upon these important documents.

- The Steering Committee has also been in communication with the Vendor Services Committee, and its Presidential Designee, William Faulkner, Assistant Dean for Financial and Business Services. Over the past several months, the Steering Committee has been in close communication with Assistant Dean Faulkner and the members of the Vendor Service Committee regarding the Committee's request for a list of College Vendors, and the Committee's receipt of a copy of the Student Satisfaction Survey. The Steering Committee is happy to report that both of these items either have been or are about to be presented to members of the Vendor Services Committee. The Steering Committee would like to thank Assistant Dean Faulkner and Ms. Anna May Jagoda for all of the trouble and effort that went into assembling these items for the committee's review. We are extremely grateful for the support being given to shared governance in this matter.
- The Steering Committee would also like to draw the attention of Senators to a current report submitted for information, from the subcommittee of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues, tasked with preparing our campus community for the partial smoking ban due to be implemented in August, 2010. If there are members of the Senate or the campus community at large who have ideas for this committee, we urge them to share these with the Steering Committee.

4. University and College Wide Matters with Direct Bearing on the Senate

- As the Budget continues to be a matter of concern for our college, both as it relates to the allocation the City University of New York may expect from the State legislature and the City Council, the City University of New York is once again appealing to faculty, staff and students to visit the website www.supportcuny.org, to voice the plea to our elective representatives to consider the higher education offered at CUNY a priority even in these times of fiscal austerity. Once again, the Steering Committee would like to remind everyone that any communications should be sent from non-CUNY computers, and private e-mail addresses.

- The Steering Committee would also like to announce that Dr. Corradetti and the Steering Committee chair are in receipt of an invitation from the chair of the University Faculty Senate, Dr. Manfred Phillip, to participate in the forthcoming University Faculty Senate spring Conference, “Middle States Review: Opportunities and Pitfalls,” on Friday, April 30, 2010 at John Jay College. Interested faculty are certainly welcome to attend, but the Steering Committee would also like to invite any members of the campus community who might not be able to attend to let the Steering Committee know if there are particular aspects of the Middle States process they believe the Steering Committee should mention in our presentation as having been of particular concern to faculty or staff—the Steering Committee views its role at this conference as representative, and so we would like to be able to reflect as wide a perspective as possible.