

**STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CUNY
MONTHLY REPORT**

1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

The Steering Committee of the Academic Senate would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all representatives—Faculty-at-large, HEOs, and CLTs,—who may be new—or are returning, to the Academic Senate:

Professor Shele Bannon (Business)
Dr. Joanne Chang (Music)
Dr. Edmund Clingan (History)
Dr. Maan Lin (Foreign Languages)
Professor Isabella Lizzul (Health, Physical Education, and Dance)
Dr. Jennifer Maloy (Basic Educational Skills)
Ms. Audrey Maroney (Senior Laboratory Technical Representative)
Mr. Dion Pincus (Higher Education Officer Representative)
Professor Margaret Reilly (Nursing)
Professor Kathleen Rowe (Adjunct Faculty Representative, Basic Educational Skills)
Dr. Philip Pecorino (Social Sciences)
Professor Cheryl Spencer (Nursing)
Dr. Mangala Tawde (Biological Science and Geology)
Dr. Edward Volchok (Business)
Dr. Paul Weiss (Health, Physical Education, and Dance)
Professor Richard Yuster (Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology)

We also wish to tender our renewed thanks to outgoing members, with the hope that they will consider standing for re-election to the Academic Senate for the 2013-2014 Academic year:

Professor Georganne Albanese, (Adjunct Faculty Representative, Basic Skills)
Dr. Barbara Blake-Campbell (Nursing)
Dr. Anne Marie Bourbon (Foreign Languages)
Professor Michael Cesarano (Speech and Theatre)
Mr. Pedro Irigoyen, (Computer Laboratory Technician Representative, Chemistry)
Dr. Chong Jue (Biology)
Ms. Josephine Pantaleo (Higher Education Officer Representative)
Professor Regina Polizzotto Cardaci (Nursing)
Dr. Jane Poulsen (Social Sciences)
Dr. Patrick Wallach (Mathematics and Computer Science)

The contribution all these senators have made and are making to shared governance at Queensborough Community College is greatly appreciated.

Finally, in a development that occurred shortly before the promulgation of this agenda, Professor Regina Rochford was elected chair of the Committee of Basic Educational Skills. We congratulate Professor Rochford and welcome her to the Academic Senate in her new role; we thank Senator Jiliani Warsi for his leadership as prior Chair of the department; and we welcome Professor Aithne Bialo-Padin as a new Senator to the Academic Senate, who joins Professor Edmund Clingan, as Faculty-at-Large Senator from the Department of History.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

- The Steering Committee has worked with the Committee on Committees, and its new chair, Dr. Edward Volchok, to finalize the current roster of Committee members and Steering Committee designees, which has been somewhat modified due to various resignations and re-appointments. We are happy to report that, in the process of appointing replacements to various vacancies, we have been able to appoint several members of faculty left without appointment last spring.

2. Committee Matters: Activities

- Two committees, the Committee on Curriculum, and the Special Committee on General Education Learning Outcomes, spent much of last year (as per the attached report of the Committee on Curriculum) and some portion of the past summer, deliberating regarding the matter of courses submitted by Academic Departments to meet the specifications of the “Common Core” curriculum established in the wake of the “Pathways” resolution of the CUNY Board of Trustees of June 27, 2011. Members of these committees, and the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate, also heard from members of our faculty who attended meetings of the Common Core Review Committees. We are extremely grateful to everyone who was kind enough to contribute their insights at these meetings.

As this writing, the courses proposed by our academic departments to meet the learning outcomes of the Common Core are available for review by our college community at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/pathways/ccst.html>. We invite all members of faculty to submit their comments concerning these courses to the members of the Steering Committee and the Curriculum Committee (if they are sent to etai@qcc.cuny.edu and ppecorino@qcc.cuny.edu we will forward them to our colleagues). Although we do not wish to prejudice our colleagues in making their own judgments, the Steering Committee would like to express its profound concern about the additional hurdles the required and flexible core curricula of the new “Pathways” initiative may place before members of the Queensborough faculty in their efforts to realize the goals of Queensborough’s mission statement “to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for success...[and provide]...a rich general education core...” as well as the aims of Queensborough’s General Education Learning Outcomes. We continued to harbor grave reservations about the reduction of disciplinary requirements; we are also concerned about the imposition of

requirements that all required and flexible core courses correspond to a three hour and three credit format, when additional contact hours have often been critical to faculty requiring time to help students master complex curricula.

- Over the summer, the Steering Committee, in concert with the Senate Elections Officer and the Committee on Committees, completed an up-to-date guide for Committee on Committee members that we are sincerely hoping will streamline future Academic Senate elections and Committee selections processes. We also wish to thank Dr. Belle Birchfield, whose extraordinary work as Senate Elections Officer and Technology Officer has begun to bring clarity to a complicated process. The Steering Committee also wishes to acknowledge the support of Queensborough's IT Department, whose members gave generously of their time and expertise during the last academic year.
- Over the summer, the Steering Committee also reviewed the charges of the various committees of the Academic Senate. This year, we are requesting that each committee contribute to the collection of evidence and documentation related to preparation for the Middle States Accreditation review our institution will be scheduled to undergo during the Academic year 2014-2015. Our goal in requesting this of committees of the Academic Senate is not to burden our colleagues, so much as to ensure that the work of their committees is fully documented for the purpose of Middle States Accreditation so as to avoid any confusion or oversight of tasks and charges completed. It should be noted that, as leaders of our campus governance body, we too, are subject to this requirement, and will also be providing a report on "Leadership and Governance," on our campus.
- The Steering Committee's charges to the individual committees have been shaped by the receipt of several annual reports, appended to this agenda for the review of the college community. Although several annual reports are still pending, the Steering Committee wishes to note that some of the most important contributions made by committees to campus projects are currently in progress: Queensborough is, for example, in the process of implementing CUNY's "Tobacco-Free" policy, to which the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Matters made critical contributions; and the Committee on Curriculum, as of this writings, is continuing to meet with representatives from various academic departments regarding the submission of courses for the Pathways curriculum.
- The Steering Committee will be meeting with the chairs of the Committees of the Academic Senate to discuss these and other matters on September 12, 2012. In the meantime, we would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of all chairs of our committees of the Academic Senate, and to renew our thanks to those chairs whose thoughtful reports are appended to this agenda for common review.

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

The Steering Committee has been advised that that members of the World Cultures and Global Issues Subcommittee of Pathways, one of eight committees established by the

CUNY Office of Academic Affairs to review courses submitted for the Required and Flexible Core, have addressed the difficulties created by the “preliminary” submission of courses to the Sharepoint Evaluation website by adopting the following resolution:

Whereas it is our understanding that our subcommittee's vote is the final faculty vote in the Pathways review process; and

Whereas it is clear to us that many courses submitted to the SharePoint system did not go through faculty governance at the campus level; therefore:

We will not vote to approve any course unless and until the submitting campus provides assurance of approval through the full faculty governance process.

The Steering Committee is grateful to the members of this committee for taking the time to review these course submissions in a collegial manner. As the Steering Committee understands it, members of this review committee apparently drafted “feedback” language to indicate when course designs met learning outcomes, (thus acknowledging the work of colleagues who prepared the course submissions, and alerting them to any possible difficulties in a timely manner), but requested assurance that submitted courses enjoyed the approval of faculty governance bodies as a condition of final approval. We would like to thank the members of this committee for their shared commitment to faculty governance; the academic freedom of faculty members to teach; and the academic freedom of students to learn.