

**Queensborough Community College, CUNY**

**Academic Senate**

**To: John Talbird, Secretary, Steering Committee of the Academic Senate**

**From: Emily S. Tai, Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity**

**Subject: Monthly Report of the Committee on Food Insecurity**

**Date: Thursday, February 01, 2018**

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- The Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry was on hiatus during the Christmas Break and Winter, January, 2018 session, but nevertheless received donations from many generous donors who were kind enough to donate food at the annual 2017 Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 21, 2017, and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, which collected food as part of their holiday celebration on Friday, December 22. There were also donations, over the January break, from the ASAP Office, and from faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Dance. Professor Tai collected these donations, with the help of Lambda Sigma Chapter President Ms. Latesha Dayes; Lambda Sigma Member-at-large, Ms. Virginia Villadiego; Mr. Carlos Herrera, Assistant Director, Services for Students with Disabilities; and Mrs. Sandra Williams Strauss (Career Advisement) who was kind enough to lend us her cart for transporting food. These donations made it possible for Professor Tai to serve several students by appointment during the winter session.
- The following hours have now been established for the Spring, 2018 semester:

**Mondays, 11-Noon**

**Mondays, 5-6 P.M.**

**Wednesdays, 3-4 P.M.**

**Wednesdays, 4-5 P.M.**

**Thursdays, 9-10 A.M.**

**Thursdays, 4-5 P.M.**

- *Appointments may be scheduled at other times by emailing Emily S. Tai, Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity, [etai@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:etai@qcc.cuny.edu)*

**Committee Activities**

- Last semester, the FEC created a “Faculty Association” bank account, which has been holding money from faculty who prefer to donate by check to the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry. As of this writing, this money has been used to reimburse Amazon/Cosco orders to the pantry, upon the presentation of receipts approved and recorded in meeting minutes

by the Committee on Food Insecurity. FEC Treasurer Margot Edlin has both received checks from generous donors, and disbursed reimbursement funds to Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, and to herself, as the Food Pantry was stocked, in December and January, by two separate trips to Cosco. The Committee on Food Insecurity has been informed that there remains \$578.01 in the FEC account earmarked for the food pantry. Dr. Edlin has received a reimbursement check of \$414.93; Dr. Jacobowitz received a reimbursement of \$427.70.

- In a recent presentation from the Faculty Executive Committee Chair, Dr. Pecorino to the Committee on Food Insecurity, has indicated that, while the FEC is happy to have been able to assist fiscal (rather than in-kind) Food Pantry donors by providing a bank account, it is the fervent hope of the FEC that this arrangement could transition into a the establishment of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry as a separate, non-profit entity, as soon as possible, as members of the FEC have expressed reservation regarding possible liabilities to the FEC. Members of the Committee are hoping to schedule a meeting with members of the FEC to initiate actions to meet the legal and fiscal requirements of this process.
- We also note the recent remarks by Chancellor Miliken before the New York State Legislature in Albany on January 23, contained the following remarks, relevant to Food Insecurity on CUNY Campuses:

*Another welcome element of the Executive Budget is the Governor's No Student Goes Hungry Initiative. Our own research demonstrates that food insecurity makes it more difficult for CUNY students to remain in school. Researchers at the CUNY School of Public Health have demonstrated that even when controlling for race/ethnicity and household income, food insecurity is associated with lower GPAs and more frequent leaves of absence among CUNY undergraduates.*

*About half of CUNY campuses now have food pantries in place, but demand exceeds capacity and the addition of the remaining colleges will make a difference in the health and academic success of our lowest income students. New York would be the first state to require every public campus to have a food pantry—another important demonstration of commitment to access and student success on the broadest levels.*

- Ms. Mabely Salvador and Mr. Michael Fishbach of Queensborough's Student Government have been meeting with Metropolitan Foods and NYPIRG about possible additional support that might be offered to students with Food Insecurity issues on campus.
- Professor Tai, who chairs the Committee on Food Insecurity, was also in attendance at a "Summit" of Faculty and Staff involved in Food Pantry initiatives across CUNY at

CUNY’s School of Public Health on January 18, 2018. Some links shared at that meeting are appended to this report.

- Two members of the Food Insecurity Committee have resigned: Dr. Sharon Ellerton, and Professor John Gilleadeau. The Committee welcomes two new members: Professor Ashley Klepper (Speech and Theatre) and Nataliya Khomyak, and would like to thank them for their energy and effort at our first meeting of the new semester, as well as members of the Committee on Committees, which expended tremendous effort to launch the Committee on Food Insecurity this academic year.

In closing, the members of the Committee on Food Insecurity would like to thank \*every\* member of Queensborough’s faculty and staff who may have contributed or helped manage the Food Pantry and whose name may inadvertently have been omitted from this list. We thank everyone for their time and trouble, and invite any donors who wish to be recognized to contact the committee chair at [etai@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:etai@qcc.cuny.edu):

President Diane Call

Vice-President Michel Hodge

Vice-President Rosemary Zins

Vice-President Stephen Di Dio

Vice-President Timothy Lynch

Dean Sandra Palmer

Chair Joseph Culkin

Mr. Carlos Herrera, Assistant Director, Services for Students with Disabilities

Members of the Services for Students with Disabilities Staff

Mrs. Sandra Williams Strauss, Career Advisement

Mr. Tony Gamino

Ms. Christina Kofron

Ms. Veronica Lukas

Ms. Gisela Rivera

Mr. Raymond Volel

Faculty of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Dance:

The Faculty and Staff of the Health-Related Sciences Academy

The Faculty and Staff of the STEM Academy

Dr. Lana Zinger

Dr. Alicia Sinclair

Dr. Rezan Akpinar

Dr. Antony Monohan

Professor Aviva Geismar

Chair Nidhi Gadura, Dr. Sharon Ellerton and the faculty and staff of the Biology Club (Biology Department)

Chair Kathleen Villani and the faculty and staff of the Business Department

Chair David Humphries, Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, Dr. Margot Edlin, and the faculty of the Department of English

Director Jeannie Galvin and the Faculty of Schmeller Library

Chair Mercedes Franco and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

The Faculty and Staff of the Department of Foreign Languages

Dr. Maan Lin, Faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages, and members of the Foreign Language Club

Dr. Mangala Tawde and the members of the Environmental Sustainability Club

Ms. Marie-Francesca Berrouet (who, working with the members of the Haitian Club, and the College Discovery Club, provided donation boxes, as well as student volunteers on October 25, 2017, and then brought another donation from the Haitian Club on 11/1)

The Single Stop Office:

Ms. Amawati P. Gonesh

Ms. Emily December

Ms. Michele McLoughlin

Dr. Paris Svoronos and the members of the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (Science 448A)

The Korean Student Association

Dr. Romel Robertson and the Members of the Psychology Club

Dr. Annisa Moody

Dr. Mark Van Ells

Dr. Maan Lin and students of the Asian Club, the ASAP Club, and the Liberal Arts Academy

Professor Sebastian Murolo

Professor Ted Rosen

The Ally LGBTQ club

Father Anthony Rosario and the members of the Newman Club

Mr. Colin Hughes, Director of NYPIRG, and the NYPIRG student volunteers

Ms. Isabel Huguet and the members of the Health Club

Chair Mercedes Franco, Dr. Monica Trujillo and the SACNAS QCC Chapter

The Chemistry Club

The STEM Research Club

The Stock Market Club

Ms. Victoria O'Shea and the members of the ASAP Club

Dr. Trikartikaningsih Byas and the members of the Muslim Student Association

Professor Susan Wengler, Schmeller Library

Ms. Arthurine DeSola, Ms. Cynthia Puca, and the members of the College Discovery Club

Dr. Wilma Fletcher-Anthony; Dr. Dorith Brodbar, and the Members of the Counseling Faculty.

Dr. Edward J. Gottlieb and the staff of the Mid-Nassau Dental Group

..And our amazing student volunteers:

Ms. Latesha Dayes (President, Lambda Sigma Chapter)

Ms. Amanda Joy-Wright (President, Psychology Club)

Ms. Sylvia Perez (Foreign Language Club)

And, from NYPIRG:

Anthony Vancol

Katherine Palma

Anny Mariano

Steven Stern

Winita Peters

Edward Guevara

Mr. Daniel Blount

Ms. Amanda Reis

Ms. Amanda Singh

Ms. Maria Virginia Villadiego

Ms. Suilyee Aung

- The Subcommittee on Food Insecurity, acting in concert with the Queensborough Student Association, will also be sponsoring donations to ShareMeals, and will be participating in *Love Through Food*, an event to pack and distribute food for food pantries at New York University. This event, originally scheduled for November 16, 2017, has now been rescheduled for Spring, 2018. The donation website is also under re-construction, and will be available soon. Students, Faculty and Clubs that which to be involved in the Love through Food event when it is rescheduled should contact Emily S. Tai at [etai@gcc.cuny.edu](mailto:etai@gcc.cuny.edu).
- On November 1, 2017, the Committee on Food Insecurity met to discuss various concerns raised concerning the possible solicitation of donations from students by professors. Although no members of the Committee were aware that this was taking place, members of the Committee agreed that any donations to the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry solicited from students by the Queensborough Student Association should be

prefaced with a reminder that the Food Pantry *is also a resource for students*, and that students who did not have the means to donate should be aware that they are welcome to stop by.

A special thanks, as always, to the members of the Food Insecurity Committee: Dr. Susan Jacobowitz (Secretary); Professor Sebastian Murolo; Dr. Sharon Ellerton; Dr. Chukwudi Ikwueze; Dr. Peter Bales; Professor Elizabeth Di Giorgio; Professor John Gilleaudeau; Dr. Lana Zinger; SGA President Mabely Salvador and Outgoing SGA Vice-President Michael Fischbach.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Tai

Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity

#### **Appendix: Links and articles of Interest**

[New Research at Houston Community College Addresses Student Hunger](#)

[Governor Cuomo's mandate regarding Food Insecurity at CUNY and SUNY](#)

[Ending Food Insecurity at CUNY: What will it take?](#) Slide presentation by Nick Freudenberg, Distinguished Professor, CUNY School of Public Health

[Call for student testimonials on hunger and food insecurity.](#) Confidential testimonials help tell the story of hunger at CUNY and make the case for resources. Please share the announcement as you see fit.

[#GiveHealthy](#) Food Pantry Best practices and *tips for food drives and healthy donations.*

<http://www.feednyc.org/> Policy Committee on New York City Hunger Resources. Helpful food pantry management tools and other support.

[Feeding America](#) is a national resource for food banks and food pantries including a [mobile food pantry program.](#)

The [College and University Food Bank Alliance](#) is dedicated to providing support, training and resources to campus-based food banks/pantries and other food insecurity initiatives that primarily serve students.

[It's Hard to Study if You're Hungry.](#) NYT Op Ed by Sara Goldrick-Rab