

Steering Committee Report to Academic Senate –October 18, 2005

1. Meetings of the Academic Senate

The agenda and its attachments have been distributed via email as a single WORD file for easier printing to all members of the Senate along with a small note within the email drawing attention to some of the more significant items on the agenda and in that email we have informed the entire community about the website location of the agenda and all attachments where the agenda and each attachment may be obtained and printed out individually. There are in addition a few copies in print form available in the room.

2. Vacancy on the Steering Committee

As was reported last month, Kathy Villani has resigned her position as the Vice-Chairperson of the Academic Senate. There being no candidate for this position at the September meeting of the Academic Senate the election of a replacement to serve out the remainder of her term was postponed until this meeting. We invite members of the Senate to consider accepting nomination for the position now vacant. The election should be held at this meeting (10-18-05)

Vacancies in the Steering Committee or the office of Parliamentarian shall be filled by election of a person normally eligible for such office to fill the unexpired term. Nomination and election shall be conducted from the floor at the Senate meeting next following the occurrence of the vacancy. QCC Academic Senate Bylaws I.4.b.

3. Shared Governance

“The Governance Plan of our College is the concern of all of the members of its members. All constituencies- Students, faculty, alumni and administration contribute to the maintenance and development of the College. Each has its own particular and mutual areas of concern.

Because each constituency has the right to concern itself in areas that are its responsibility, this document sets forth the organization of the various bodies within the College, and guarantees their autonomy on matters within their jurisdiction. Because the constituencies are interrelated, and because all must participate in the well-being of the College as a whole, this governance document also provides for the organization of an Academic Senate which shall include students, faculty, alumni and administrators, which shall be the voice of the academic community of Queensborough Community College in all matters affect the welfare of the institution.”

– QCC Governance Plan, Preamble

The Academic Senate has been created as a mechanism for the exercise of shared governance at this college. The Senate is the body where the constituencies come together and share in governance and this would include its standing and special committees that have always involved the inclusion of the principle constituencies. The Steering Committee has been making attempts to reach out to the constituencies and inform them of matters related to their areas and has sought out advice on how advice from the major constituents concerning the management of issues brought to the attention of the Senate.

4. Strategic Planning

As the Steering Committee has been invited to participate in the strategic planning process of the College Advisory Planning Committee it did recommend one item for consideration as part of the Strategic Planning process. It arose from reports of the Committee on the Library.

5. Changes in Bylaws

The bylaws charges for several committees are under review and most likely there will be changes proposed during the next academic year, including the possible removal of a committee. Here are some of the present items on the agenda for the Committee on Bylaws for 2005-2006.

- Consider change in Bylaws to the effect that student senate members are excluded from voting on awarding of certificates and degrees (Article VI., Section 1, item g)

- look at the changes in Bylaws for the following committees:

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT: remove item (d.) reference to cultural coordinator

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP: combine or improve on items e and f.

CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS: consider revising charge item (b) from “plan and implement” to

- shall serve as an advisory body for official college ceremonies
- reconsider the size of the committee and
- the need for the committee if charge (a) is not acceptable to the administration of the college

GALLERY AND PERFORMING ARTS: remove item (f.) reference to cultural coordinator

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: add a charge related to the dissemination of information on student competitions and achievements

6. College Service

We thank the President for his repeated statements on the importance of College service. Once again the Steering Committee offers to work with the Faculty Executive Committee and some senior faculty on a program to encourage even further faculty participation in governance. We thank all those who have already made themselves available for college service.