

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

For the April 17, 2007 meeting of the Academic Senate

1. Senate Matters

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 39 votes. This is so regardless of the number in attendance.

RECORDING VOTE: As the Senate has previously expressed a desire to avoid physical ballots and as there is a requirement to record all votes we ask for your cooperation. To facilitate the recording of the ballots by voice on matters where there is a considerable number of votes cast in favor and against any proposal we ask that senators participate in a roll call voting method. The roster names will be called and the secretary will record votes of YES or NO or ABSTAIN on a roster ballot tally sheet and then announce the totals. This will be done in a manner that all may observe on the front screen.

VOTING PROCESS: Being clear about what is before the body for the vote. If there is any need for clarification as to what is being placed before the Senate for a vote any Senator may ask for clarification and the matter will be displayed on the projection screen.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM: There will be a demonstration of an audience response system that might be employed by the Senate to record the voting and when not in use by the Senate might be used in a variety of ways in the classroom to support instruction.

2. Special Committees

The Special Committee on General Education remains the only Special Committee still at work. It expires in May of 2007. It invited comments and held a meeting on March 21, 2007, to receive responses of the community to its current proposals for the rewording of the General Education Objectives for all degree programs. A meeting with students is scheduled for April 18, 2007.

3. Resolutions requiring Senate Action on the current Agenda

There are additional graduates to be approved and items for approval in the Report from the Committee on Curriculum (Attachment F). The report from the Committee on Academic Development /Elective Academic Programs (Attachment H) proposes a new version of the form used by students to evaluate faculty.

4. CUNY Matters

The University Faculty Senate (UFS) members and the Faculty Governance Leaders (FGL) are asked for their views on and to report on what the campuses are thinking about matters that are before the CUNY Board of Trustees (BOT) and their committees. Such matters are placed on the agenda of other CUNY governing bodies and on the agenda of faculty councils and senates in CUNY. Often the input of the UFS and FGL to the Chancellery does produce modifications in the proposals being considered.

The Steering Committee holds that it is a responsibility of the governing body leadership to inform the community about such matters, particularly when input from the campuses is being sought by the UFS or the Chancellery. Both the Chancellor and several Vice Chancellors meet with the UFS and FGL at least once each semester and present these matters and listen to feedback. Such matters as proposed policies are often presented to the CUNY Council of Presidents for their comments and suggestions. There needs to be some means for gauging the variety of thinking on a campus so that it can be reported through the appropriate channels to those who are working on the proposed policies.

Related to this we propose that the Senate agenda page will contain the references to the sites where actions of the BOT are reported and where actions and documents of the UFS may be read.

Two policies under development that may come before the June 4 Board Committee meetings are:

- draft Research Misconduct Policy provided by VC Schaffer is posted at http://ufs.cuny.edu/co/Research_Misconduct_Policy.html
- draft Conflict of Interest Policy is posted at <http://ufs.cuny.edu/co/CoI.pdf>