

Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York

Steering Committee Report

**For the September 12, 2006 meeting of the
Academic Senate**

1. Senate Matters

Agenda

Copies of the agenda are now made available by WORD documents circulated to all members by email and by website locations of the separate elements of the agenda for the printing of only that which is desired by senators. There are also 15 copies of the entire agenda in print form available in the Senate meeting room.

Clicker Demo

It is our understanding that several faculty are involved with the use of audience response systems. If there is an interest on the part of Senate members in having one such system demonstrated at a Senate meeting for possible consideration for Senate use, please communicate this to any member of the Steering Committee.

2. Senate Bylaws

An accurate set of the bylaws is now available in the College Archives and on the website at:

http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Governance/AcademicSenate/academic_senate_bylaws.asp

Thanks to the work of the Committees on Bylaws, Publications and the College Webmaster.

3. Standing Committees

There were 114 volunteers (an increase) for service on 17 committees with 81 positions (a decrease of 4). The Steering Committee for 2006-2007 will place 17 of those on the waiting list onto committees as their designees. This will leave 16 people who will remain on the waiting list and may be placed onto committees by the Committee on Committees in the event of a vacancy. The Steering Committee will also forward those names to the Faculty Executive Committee for their information.

Work in Progress:

The Committee on Bylaws will be presenting to the Senate during this academic year a number of proposals for revisions in the bylaws required by the court decision in the Perez v CUNY case and on the matter of the possible formation of a Committee on Academic Freedom.

The Committee on Ceremonial Occasions may also have a policy proposal for Senate consideration concerning formally establishing a number of ceremonies, most of which have already become traditional at the College.

The Committee on Continuing Education reports that in response to recommendations and requests that it will be entering into a new posture with respect to its charges.

The Committee on Computer Resources has been working well with IT and with the complete and cordial cooperation of the IT Director and has been reporting on a number of measures taken by IT to improve services in the committee newsletter to the community and in its annual report.

The Committee on Distance Education may have some recommendations or policies for consideration of the Senate.

4. Faculty Survey

The Steering Committee will be working on a survey of the faculty on matters related to the work of the Standing Committees. Work on this commenced in 2003-2004 and then halted while waiting for the results of the UFS Faculty survey. In an effort to avoid burdening the faculty with too many surveys every effort will be made to work with the Middle States Self Study Group to combine questions with any survey they might be sending to faculty.

5. Steering Committee Award for Recognition of College Service and Contributions to Governance

Nominations have been received and a request has been made to the President and the FEC to name representatives to a committee to review the nominations.

6. Committee on Academic Freedom

QCC has not standing body related to Issues of Academic Freedom. During this academic year there may be a forum to discuss what such a committee would be charged to do here at the college and how it might be constituted and placed within the college governance structure. Many CUNY units have such a committee and others are working towards having one. At QCC there is no mention of Academic Freedom in either the Bylaws of the Faculty or the Academic Senate. There is also no mechanism for filing complaints or for review thereof or for monitoring the status of the college on this matter. Academic Freedom is a concept that extends in different ways to faculty and students individually and to the faculty as a collective and to the College as a whole.

7. Library Task Force and Report

We are in receipt of the Task Force Report on the Library now to be renamed the Learning Center. The Steering Committee will refer it to the appropriate Standing Committees for their review and possible comments or recommendations.

8. Middle States Self Study Process

The Steering Committee will be continuing discussions with the President and Office of Academic Affairs concerning how the Senate and its Committees might support the project. In the past Standing Committees have reviewed the text during the drafting of the report and after the visit they have been given the recommendations of the visiting team to consider.

9. The CCLA at QCC

President Marti reported to the Academic Senate in April of 2006 on his intention to use the CLA at QCC. During the summer all members of the Steering Committee were engaged for some time in extensive research and discussions both within the College and the University on the matter of the use of the CCLA at QCC. There is a resolution related to this matter on the Agenda of today's meeting.