

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

For the November 13, 2007 meeting of the **Academic Senate**

**I. Senate Matters**

**A. QUORUM:**

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

**B. RECORDING VOTES: AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM:**

After the successful use of the audience response system to take attendance and to record votes in September of 2007 this method will be continued as long as it proves to be reliable and accurate.

**C. SENATE POSITIONS**

Welcome to new Senators:

**Faculty member at large positions - 3 vacancies**

- Eugene Harris, Biology - Term Ends 4/1/2010
- Carol Soto, Nursing - Term Ends 4/1/2009
- Eileen White, Speech & Theatre - Term Ends 4/1/2008

**Adjunct Member at large:**

Arlene Kemmerer, Basic Skills Dept

**D. Committees**

We have a full compliment of faculty members on all committees. We await receiving a list of student members to all committees.

Committee Activity

**III. Resolutions requiring Senate Action on the current Agenda**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If we lose quorum no voting can take place and it is possible that the meeting will be adjourned

**IV. College Matters**

**A. Admissions**

The matter of students who are admitted or who appear for their first class after the first week of class has been referred to the Committee on Admissions.

B. The Central Administration has required that each college have an admission committee to review any admission applications that

C. The University's Central Administration has proposed changes in the admission standards for CUNY Colleges.

The UFS plenary on September 25, 2007 took the following action:

Proposed: September 25, 2007

Adopted: As proposed, with 1 opposed, 1 abstention

### Resolution on Faculty Power to Set Admissions Standards

Whereas, the CUNY Bylaws in §8.6 clearly grant to the faculty of the University the right to set admissions standards (see below for text for this Bylaw), and

Whereas, CUNY has prospectively announced system-wide changes in SAT and Compass cut-off scores that would affect admissions/placement,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate affirms the right of college senates and faculty councils to set admission standards in accordance with each college's governance plan.

#### Section 8.6. DUTIES OF FACULTY.

The faculty shall meet at least once in each semester, or oftener, upon call by the president, or by petition of ten per cent of its members. The faculty shall be responsible, subject to guidelines, if any, as established by the board, for the formulation of policy relating to the admission and retention of students including health and scholarship standards therefor, student attendance including leaves of absence, curriculum, awarding of college credit, granting of degrees. It shall make its own bylaws, consistent with these bylaws, and conduct the educational affairs customarily cared for by a college faculty. The president shall preside at its meetings, or in his/her absence, the dean of faculty or a dean designated by the president.

At QCC the Governance Plan approved by the CUNY BOT has assigned the authority over admission standards to the governing body, the Academic Senate.

#### **C. POWERS**

Through its Steering and Standing Committees, the Academic Senate shall have the power to request and receive information appropriate to or necessary for the performance of its duties, from the President and members of the administration, from students and student organizations, and such other sources as may be appropriate. It may address communications to the Board of Trustees by the President in some document whether it be a Chancellor's Report or some other report in which the vote must be recorded. The Academic Senate shall be the voice of the academic community of Queensborough Community College of The City University of New York in all matters which shall appropriately be brought before it, including:

1. Intercollegiate athletics and cultural, fine and performing arts programs.
2. Educational objectives of the College.
3. The establishment and location of new units of the College.

4. The formulation of the policy relating to the admission and retention of students, subject to the guidelines of the Board of Trustees, and curriculum, awarding of college credits, and granting of degrees. In granting of degrees student members of the Senate shall not vote.
5. The recommendation of search and evaluation procedures.
6. Such other areas as affect the welfare of the institution.

The Steering Committee of the Academic Senate has requested that the QCC administration present whatever changes in admissions standards as are being now recommended or proposed to the Admissions Committee of the Academic Senate for its review and for possible adoption by the Academic Senate.

#### B. Learning Academies

Under the leadership of Vice Presidents King and Hartigan discussions about the Learning Academies have begun with members of the Administration, the Steering Committee, and the FEC. There was also the retreat on November 5 and 6 that expanded the range of those involved. Such conversations will continue to expand and more information will become available in the near future. Where it is needed the Academic Senate will consider the proposal and the establishments of new policies related to the Learning Academies. It is expected that after sufficient discussion the matter would be formally presented to the Academic Senate for its approval of what is in part a new policy concerning admissions.