

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

To: Emily Tai, Chairperson, Academic Senate Steering Committee

From: Nadine Donahue and Scott Sherman, Co-Chairpersons, Academic Senate Standing Committee on Student Activities

Date: June 25, 2009

Annual Report of the Academic Senate Standing Committee on Student Activities for Academic Year 2008-2009

Committee Members for Academic Year 2008-2009: Manette Berlinger (Steering Committee Designee), Nadine Donahue (Co-Chairperson), Dean Paul Jean-Pierre (President's Designee), Scott Sherman (Co-Chairperson), Howard Sporn, Simon Ulubabov (Student Representative), Craig Weber (Committee on Committees Liaison)

Guests: Kate Montero (Student Government Administrative Vice President), Gisela Rivera (Director of Student Activities), Ziomara Zamora (Assistant Director of Student Activities)

Committee Meetings: The Standing Committee on Student Activities met six times during the 2008-2009 academic year. The dates of the meetings were Thursday September 18, 2008; Thursday October 16, 2008; Thursday November 20, 2008; Wednesday February 25, 2009; Wednesday April 1, 2009; and Wednesday May 13, 2009. The fall semester meetings were held in Professor Donahue's office, Medical Arts Building room 308, at 3:00 p.m. The meetings of February 25th and April 1st were held in Professor Sherman's office, Medical Arts Building room 204, at 3:10 p.m. The May 13th meeting was originally scheduled for 3:15 p.m. in Dean Paul Jean-Pierre's office (Library Building room 418) but needed to be relocated to the Conference Room in the Student Union Building and the meeting started at 3:35 p.m.

Summary of Committee Work: During academic year 2008-2009 the Standing Committee on Student Activities addressed a variety of issues concerning student life at Queensborough Community College and, more broadly, issues of importance to the entire college community. These issues included, but were not limited to, the recommendations in the committee's Annual Report for 2007-2008.

Committee member Professor Howard Sporn has actively worked for several years on behalf of the Standing Committee on Student Activities collecting and compiling important information on QCC student awards and accomplishments. He solicited information through email requests to

the college's faculty and CLTs, and compiled informative lists of QCC student achievements. These lists were forwarded to Ms. Ruth Griggs Fontana, Director of Marketing in the QCC Office of Marketing and Communication. Professor Sporn has done a superb job and we thank him for all of his dedicated hard work on this important project that helps to publicize the achievements of QCC students.

The committee greatly benefited from the many valuable contributions made by Ms. Gisela Rivera (Director of Student Activities) and Ms. Ziomara Zamora (Assistant Director of Student Activities). They reported to the committee on QCC student events and functions, on the planning of future activities, and on topics under discussion by the QCC Student Government. We thank Ms. Rivera and Ms. Zamora for their participation and their work.

Many successful and well attended student events took place on campus during academic year 2008-2009, including the Annual Multicultural Festival and Parade of Flags, Asian Festival, Black History Month activities, Campus Job Fair, Latino Heritage Festival, Student Club Fairs, Valentine's Day Party, and Women's History Month activities. Many of the student events on campus celebrate the wonderful ethnic and cultural diversity of our college community.

"The Dig In" event on May 1, 2009 planted many new trees on the campus and attracted a large number of student volunteers. This event was conducted with the cooperation of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

"The Dream Act" rally on May 6, 2009 attracted many concerned students who obtained signatures to support the passing of legislation on immigration.

A successful voter registration drive ("Get Out The Vote") was conducted on campus to register students to vote in national, state, and local elections. Over 600 individuals were newly registered to vote through this QCC voter registration drive.

A Student Leadership Weekend workshop was held in Briarcliff Manor in Westchester County. It was a productive workshop for the students that attended.

Mr. Simon Ulubabov, the committee's serving Student Representative, brought to the attention of the committee the issues of appropriate student dress, student classroom behavior, and the use of inappropriate language on campus. Several events were held on campus to help acquaint students with proper professional attire and etiquette for job interviews and their future careers.

There are currently many active student clubs on campus and the start of new clubs is likely in the future. There is a pamphlet that lists all of the QCC student clubs. Information about student clubs and student activities is posted on the college's website.

Students are supposed to be matriculated to have access to the Student Union Building and to Student Activities functions. The use of coded swipe cards to obtain access is a future possibility that has been discussed at the college.

QCC Student Government elections were held in April 2009. The elections were deemed a success with good student participation. New Student Government officers are in place for the fall 2009 semester.

The committee increased membership participation in the committee's work in two primary ways. (1) By contacting and inviting Professor Manette Berlinger, the Steering Committee Designee, to be an active participant in the committee's discussions and activities. (2) By encouraging and valuing the participation of Mr. Ulubabov, the committee's one serving Student Representative. Professor Berlinger and Mr. Ulubabov both made valuable contributions to the committee and we thank them for their participation and their work.

According to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate (Article VII, Section 23), the Standing Committee on Student Activities can have three Student Representatives as committee members. During academic year 2008-2009 we had only one Student Representative, Mr. Ulubabov, serving on the committee. The committee tried to encourage more student involvement in the committee's work and to fill the two vacant Student Representative seats on the committee. Several emails were sent by the committee to Student Government in an attempt to increase student participation but unfortunately these emails went unanswered.

The committee assembled a useful "Email List for the Academic Senate Standing Committee on Student Activities" that lists the people, and their titles, that should receive the committee's minutes of meetings, announcements of upcoming meetings, and other committee correspondence. This list was updated several times during the academic year and can be used as a template by future committee members.

The use of innovative technologies is increasing on campus. This includes E-Portfolio, Blackboard, and Tigermail. Many academic departments have demonstrated their commitment to using these technologies, including the Nursing Department which received a grant to incorporate E-Portfolio into their program.

The college saw the completion of the renovations on the student cafeteria in the basement of the Science Building. Student Government allocated funds to help pay for new furniture in the cafeteria.

The committee was represented by Professor Scott Sherman at the March 16, 2009 Middle States Evaluation Team Interview Meeting with the Academic Senate Standing Committee Chairpersons (Professor Nadine Donahue was unable to attend because of a conflicting prior scheduled meeting).

The Career Learning Information Panel (CLIP) event in December 2008 was well attended and provided a successful orientation for the students. Professor Donahue represented the Nursing Department at the event.

Many prospective students and their families visited campus for the College Fall 2008 Open House held on Sunday November 9, 2008. Students, faculty, and staff volunteered their time to work at the Open House. It was an educational and enjoyable day for those that attended.

Professor Donahue represented the Nursing Department and enjoyed the day meeting the many prospective students and their families, and having the opportunity to tell them about the wonderful program here at Queensborough Community College.

New Recommendations:

- Continue the collecting and compiling of information on QCC student awards and accomplishments. This information should be compiled into lists that are then sent to Ms. Ruth Griggs Fontana (Director of Marketing in the Office of Marketing and Communication), Vice President Ellen Hartigan (Department for Student Affairs), and Dr. Paul Jean-Pierre (Dean for Student Affairs).
- Continue to support E-Portfolio, Blackboard, iPASS, Tigermail, and other innovative technological advances to enhance student achievement.
- Continue to support the outstanding work of the Campus Learning Center.
- Continue to support the college's counseling services and services for students who are speakers of English as a second language.
- Continue to encourage greater student involvement in the committee's work and to try to fill, if possible, all three Student Representative seats on the committee.
- Continue to encourage the participation of all committee members, including Steering Committee Designees and Student Representatives, in the work of the committee.
- Schedule the committee meetings on a day other than Wednesday to accommodate the Office of Student Activities. Ms. Gisela Rivera (Director of Student Activities) reported to the committee that Wednesdays have become increasingly busy for her and the staff of the Office of Student Activities because college Club Hours are held on that day of the week. As a result, it is difficult for her and Ms. Ziomara Zamora (Assistant Director of Student Activities) to attend the committee meetings when they are held on Wednesdays. Their presence and valuable contributions at the committee meetings greatly benefit the work of the committee.

New Committee Members: Professors Chong Jue, Regina Cardaci-Polizzotto, and Martin Jacobs.

New Committee Chairperson for Academic Year 2009-2010: Dr. Chong Jue (elected at the May 13, 2009 meeting of the Academic Senate Standing Committee on Student Activities).

New Committee Secretary for Academic Year 2009-2010: Post Currently Vacant.

Acknowledgments: The outgoing Co-Chairpersons, Professors Donahue and Sherman, want to thank Professor Howard Sporn for his dedicated hard work and long service on this committee; Professor Manette Berlinger and Mr. Simon Ulubabov for their valuable work on the committee;

and Ms. Gisela Rivera and Ms. Ziomara Zamora for their dedicated work as Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the Office of Student Activities and for their many valuable contributions to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Donahue
Scott Sherman