

**Report of the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate  
Queensborough Community College, CUNY  
May 10, 2011**

**1. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership**

As of this writing, the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate is awaiting the Committee on Committee's advise concerning the results of elections for the following members of faculty running for election as Senators-at-Large;

Dr.	Joseph	Bertorelli	Professor
Ms.	Aithne	Bialo-Padin	Lecturer
Dr.	Belle	Birchfield	Associate Prof.
Professor	Regina	Cardaci	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Edmund	Clingan	Associate Prof.
Professor	Georgina	Colalillo	Associate Prof.
Professor	Elyn P.	Feldman	Professor
Dr.	Wilma	Fletcher-Anthony	Assistant Prof.
Professor	Kelly	Ford	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Peter	Gray	Associate Prof.
Dr.	Eugene	Harris	Associate Prof.
Dr.	Chong	Jue	Associate Prof.
Professor	Anthony	Kolios	Associate Prof.
Dr.	Isabella	Lizzul	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Helmut	Loeffler	Assistant Prof.
Professor	Devin	McKay	Associate Prof.
Professor	Hamid	Namdar	Associate Prof.
Dr.	Andrew	Nguyen	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Julie	Pigza	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Andrea	Salis	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Maurizio	Santoro	Associate Prof.
Dr.	Mangala	Tawde	Assistant Prof.
Dr.	Jannette	Urciuoli	Assistant Prof.
Professor	Eileen	White	Assistant Prof.
Professor	Richard	Yuster	Professor
Mr.	Reuvain	Zahavy	Lecturer

These results will be announced at the Academic Senate, where we will also thank members of faculty who are leaving the Senate for the forthcoming academic year, such as Senators Borrachero and Lin, who are both going on sabbatical leave in 2011-2012.

## **2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership**

The Steering Committee is delighted to announce that we have been in communication with student government, and have received a list of student representatives to meet with committees of the Academic Senate. We wish to thank the members of student government for furnishing this list, and look forward to productive cooperation between students, staff, and faculty in our shared governance system.

The Steering Committee has conferred and will be receiving nominations for the coming academic year.

The Steering Committee has also been in consultation with the Committee on Committees regarding possible successors for the following members of the Committee on Committees whose terms expire this spring:

Regina Rochford  
Sheila Beck  
Phyllis Pace

In addition, Dr. Lin's sabbatical imposes a fourth anticipated vacancy, which will require her replacement to serve a two-year term.

We are pleased to report that there were a large number of faculty interested in service in this capacity—more than we anticipated! Whatever may develop on the floor of the May Academic Senate, the Steering Committee wishes to offer its most sincere thanks to every member of faculty who was willing to consider serving on this important committee. We feel truly fortunate to work with such dedicated colleagues.

The Steering Committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing COC members Professors Beck and Rochford for their respective stewardship of the Committee on Committees; and Professor Pace for her tireless service to the committee and the Academic Senate in so many capacities.

## **3. Committee Matters: Activities**

- The Special Committee on General Education Learning Outcomes will have met twice, as of this writing. We are currently discussing the possibility of meeting with faculty governance leaders Queens College, who have indicated their disposition to support the successful transfer of our students to their campus. In addition, members of this committee attended the Spring Conference on General Education and Transfer, organized by the University Faculty Senate on April 29, 2011.

- On Wednesday, April 14, 2011, the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate met with the chairs of the Committees of the Academic Senate. Some of the matters discussed at the meeting were fairly technical issues, such as chair elections, and preparations of the Annual Reports; some of the matters addressed at this meeting constitute action items for the Steering Committee, which will be revising the Chairs' Committee guides to create more specific guidelines regarding the welcoming of our student government members, and interaction with the Committee on Committees. The Steering Committee is particularly looking forward to seeing how each committee will interact with the Administrative offices the Committee on Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness has identified as useful sources of information to them—we see this kind of communication as a useful way to streamline the process of institutional self-study which we undertake for Middle States Accreditation.
- As of this writing, the Steering Committee has been grateful for the cooperation the Committee on Curriculum has received from President Call and the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the CUNYStart curriculum. Documents related to this curriculum have now been shared with members of the Steering Committee and the Committee on Curriculum, as well as the members of the department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Basic Educational Skills.
- As of this writing, the Special Budget Advisory Committee has met once with Vice-President Newcomb. We expect to have a second meeting in early May. It is currently the intention of the Steering Committee to invite report on the transactions of this committee on the floor of the Academic Senate on May 10, 2011. However, the intersection between scheduled committee meetings and the schedule of the Academic Senate may compel us to await the September Academic Senate before offering any written report.

#### **4. University and College Wide Matters with Direct Bearing on the Senate**

- **Draft Resolutions on General Education and Transfer at CUNY**

As discussed in last month's Steering Committee Report, the University Faculty Senate has been presiding over a CUNY-wide debate concerning the proposal advanced by the office of Executive Vice-Chancellor Logue concerning the creation of a 36-credit general education curriculum that would be portable from community colleges to senior colleges, as per materials available on

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ue/degreepathways.html>.

Members of the Academic Senate may have been in attendance at the Faculty Meeting of Friday, March 25, 2011, when Executive Vice-Chancellor Logue was kind enough to visit our campus to make a case for these proposals.

As of this writing, a variety of perspectives on these proposals have been voiced by various members of faculty across the CUNY campuses, ranging from strong condemnation of a proposal that is viewed as potential destructive to academic rigor (the view taken by the faculty of Baruch College, Hunter College, Brooklyn College, City

College, and the College of Staten Island, all of whom have offered governance body resolutions urging that the Pathways initiative be substantially slowed pending further consideration—these are available at the University Faculty Senate website at <http://cunyufs.org/A/> --to support for the Chancellor's proposal from faculty representatives at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, and Kingsborough Community College, who argue that students are often unnecessarily required to repeat courses on senior college campuses that they have already taken on community college campuses. Student government leaders have also joined in the fray; some supporting the faculty position, while others remain more supportive of the central administration's position.

Below, please find the resolution that the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate is willing to offer for the consideration and possible adoption of the body at our forthcoming meeting. It questions the conflation of General Education and Transfer; affirms the importance of facilitating transfer for our students; but affirms, equally, the importance of maintaining the high academic standards that have always been embedded in our General Education curriculum.

## **RESOLUTION ON GENERAL EDUCATION AND TRANSFER**

**Whereas** the “Pathways” proposal has proposed reconfigurations of General Education requirements to the possible diminution of richness of General Education curricula

and

**Whereas** the rationale for the revision that is offered is the facilitation of student transfer from Associates degree programs to Baccalaureate programs:

and

**Whereas** the City University Faculty Senate has, by contrast, argued that transfer difficulties would best be addressed by:

- First, for externally accredited programs (e.g., nursing, engineering) and other high-credit majors, clear cut University-wide course requirements be developed to ensure student success in the transfer process.
- Second, the creation of an appeals committee by the CUNY University Faculty Senate, in collaboration with the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs, to review and render decisions regarding any requests from colleges for waivers related to General Education requirements or curricula;

- Third, the extensive improvement of Curricular counseling for students, which would require:
  - Improved technologies
  - Linkage of college catalogs
  - TIPPS for program to program
  - Transcripts made electronically available to advising faculty
  - Clear advice to students enrolled in AAS programs that their general education credits will not be comprehensive enough to fully satisfy General Education requirements for a baccalaureate degree;
  - Discipline Councils, with funding to support periodic meetings of Discipline Councils which would work to create a mutual understanding of course content and outcomes in their areas.
- Fourth, the inclusion at least one faculty representative from each CUNY unit elected by each college's faculty governance body or by the college's faculty in any University-wide curriculum committees or task forces created to evaluate transfer;
- Fifth, the elaboration of Articulation agreements for as many majors as possible, particularly between any two colleges where there are considerable numbers of students (e.g., BCC and Lehman; Queensborough and Queens College);

**Be It Resolved that the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College opposes the linkage of transfer with any reevaluation of General Education curricula and requirements across the City University of New York.**

**Rationale:** While the two current UFS resolutions present opposition to the “Pathways” Draft Resolution by uncoupling General Education and Transfer issues *implicitly*, by addressing them in discrete separate resolutions, this resolution addresses the question of conflation of the two issues *in itself*, while sidestepping the question of the number of credits devoted to General Education, as this is a somewhat more complicated issue across two-year campuses, where a wide variety of programs vary in their General Education requirements.