

Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Academic Senate

To: John Talbird, Secretary, Steering Committee of the Academic Senate

From: Emily S. Tai, Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity

Subject: Monthly Report of the Committee on Food Insecurity

Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018

- The Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry has been operating since February 1, 2018, with the following hours:

Mondays, 11-Noon

Mondays, 5-6 P.M.

Wednesdays, 3-4 P.M.

Wednesdays, 4-5 P.M.

Thursdays, 9-10 A.M.

Thursdays, 4-5 P.M.

- *Appointments may be scheduled at other times by emailing Emily S. Tai, Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity, etai@qcc.cuny.edu*
- **The last day of pantry hours for the spring, 2018 semester will be Tuesday, May 15, 2018; Professor Tai will be available for scheduled appointments until May 25, 2018. The pantry will determine hours for the Fall, 2018 semester at its first meeting of the fall semester.**

Committee Activities

- Last semester, the FEC created a “Faculty Association” bank account, which has been holding money from faculty who prefer to donate by check to the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry. As of this writing, this money has been used to reimburse Amazon/Cosco orders to the pantry, upon the presentation of receipts approved and recorded in meeting minutes by the Committee on Food Insecurity. FEC Treasurer Margot Edlin has both received checks from generous donors, and disbursed reimbursement funds to Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, and to herself, as the Food Pantry was stocked, in December, January, and, most recently in March, by three separate trips to Cosco. Currently, we are informed that there is approximately \$250.00 available to reimburse food purchases for the pantry.
- While the FEC has indicated that they plan to terminate financial bank account support for the Lucille A Bova Food Pantry at the close of the calendar year 2018, the FEC was

kind enough to encourage donations to the Pantry at the rescheduled FEC Faculty Meeting on **Wednesday, April 18th 2018**. Leading the way on this effort was FEC Chair Dr. Philip Pecorino, who donated 600 cans of “Hungry Man” soup (see photograph below). These donations were then moved to the Lucille A Bova Food Pantry with the kind assistance of Dr. Rommel Robertson and several Lambda Sigma Chapter and NYPIRG volunteer students.

- Also, on April 18, 2018, the Committee on Food Insecurity partnered with Father Edward Doran, Director of the Newman Center, Ms. Maria Casey, and Ms. Virginia Villadiego, President of the Newman Club, together with several co-sponsoring clubs and the Committee on Food Insecurity to sponsor a “Fruit and Study” Event at the Newman Center, featuring fresh fruit and granola bar snacks for hungry students. This event was apparently very successful and well-attended.
- As per the notice above, the FEC and members of the Food Insecurity Committee have called for the establishment of the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry as a separate, non-profit entity, as soon as possible, as members of the FEC have expressed reservation regarding possible liabilities to the FEC. This process is now underway. As of this writing, the chair of the Committee on Food Insecurity, working in tandem with committee members, and members of the FEC, has drafted bylaws for the Bayside Campus Hunger Alliance that are being reviewed by Queensborough and CUNY attorneys in order to resolve a few queries regarding the way in which an independent non-profit group might (or might not) sustain a relationship with the Committee on Food Insecurity. The Chair of the Committee has also been consulting with attorneys and experienced laymen (Dr. Sharon Masrour, Director of the Nassau Community College Food Pantry; Professor Beena Ahmed, of the CUNY Law School and Books Through Bars) regarding the crafting of bylaws language. A committee delegation has met with President Call and Vice-President Newcomb to discuss progress and concerns around this project on Wednesday, April 11 at 3 P.M, with representatives from the Student Government Association and the Faculty Executive Committee in attendance as well. A draft of these bylaws is currently being reviewed by members of the Committee, as well.
- A final meeting of the Committee, to introduce new members, elect a new committee chair, and discuss next steps for the non-profit incorporation process, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.
- The Committee on Food Insecurity is happy to report that partnership with the *Love Through Food* campaign, a New York based Outreach Program dedicated to addressing Food Insecurity among college students (<https://www.classy.org/team/156671>) **raised \$452.00 from Queensborough Faculty, and resulted in the acquisition of *seven* boxes of tomato/basil pasta! Special thanks go to Mr. Jonathan Chin (*Love Through***

Food's organizer); **Dr. Lana Zinger, Dr. Jonathan Cornick; and Dr. Stephen Henriquez, and Dr. Peter Bales**, who, with family members, picked up the boxes from New York University, where they were packed and transported them to the Lucille A Bova Food Pantry during the spring break!

- Professor Tai has also been working with Queensborough's NYPIRG Chapter, which collected feminine hygiene products during the month of March and donated them to the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry (the students involved in collecting and transporting these donations are thanked, below.)
- We are delighted to report that an article about the Lucille A Bova Food Pantry has appeared on the front page of the most recent issue of Queensborough's student newspaper, *The Communiqué*. Many thanks to the writers and advisors of the *The Communiqué*, and to committee secretary Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, who was interviewed for the feature.
- We are delighted to report that involvement in the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry has produced a concrete learning and employment outcomes for our students, as well as a research opportunity for faculty:
- First, students in Dr. Zinger's Spring, 2018 Health of the Nation Class produced a 25-page cookbook for pantry users;
- Second, Ms. Shovaine Singh, Queensborough Community College graduate and Lambda Sigma Chapter member, is now a senior at Lehman College, and is responsible for administering Lehman College's Food Pantry. Her work in this regard was celebrated in a [recent Fox News segment on college food insecurity and a television studio interview](#).
- Finally, the Committee would like to congratulate Dr. Amy Traver (Sociology, Social Sciences) and Dr. Zivah Perel Katz (English), who will deliver a keynote address, ""(Re-)Considering Service-Learning as a Multi-faceted, Transformative Approach to Academic Learning for First- and Second-Year Students" at "Service-Learning Unbound: On Campus and Beyond," a conference at Onondaga Community College on Friday, May 4, 2018, where they will be particularly discussing their work with projects related to the Lucille A. Bova Food Pantry.
- In closing, the members of the Committee on Food Insecurity would like to thank *every* member of Queensborough's faculty and staff who may have contributed or helped manage the Food Pantry and whose name may inadvertently have been omitted from the list of monthly donors given below. We thank everyone for their time and

trouble, and invite any donors who wish to be recognized to contact the committee chair at etai@qcc.cuny.edu:

President Diane Call

Vice-President Michel Hodge

Vice-President Rosemary Zins

Vice-President Stephen Di Dio

Vice-President Timothy Lynch

Dean Sandra Palmer

Chair Joseph Culkin

Ms. Gisela Rivera

Mr. Raymond Volel

Dr. Philip Pecorino, Dr. Margot Edlin; Professor Ted Rosen, and the remaining members of the Faculty Executive Committee

Dr. Lorena Ellis, Professor Indra Avens, and Faculty and Staff of the Department of Foreign Languages who donated again in March in memory of Susana Alaiz Losada (died February 28, 2017)

Chair Kathleen Villani, Professor Sebastian Murolo, and the faculty and staff of the Department of Business

Dr. Maan Lin and members of the Foreign Language Club, the Asian Club, and the Liberal Arts Academy

Faculty of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Dance

Ms. Gail Patterson and the Faculty and Staff of the Health-Related Sciences Academy

The Faculty and Staff of the STEM Academy

Mrs. Sandra Williams Strauss, Career Advisement

Ms. Karen O'Sullivan and Ms. Helene Dyzenhaus, and the staff of the Financial Aid Office

Ms. Cathy Brandt and the Staff of the Office of Financial Services

Ms. Lourdes December and the Staff of the Title IX Office

Dr. Lana Zinger, and the staff of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance

Mr. Jonathan Chin and the staff of Love Through Food

Chair Nidhi Gadura, Dr. Sharon Ellerton and the faculty and staff of the Biology Club (Biology Department)

Chair David Humphries, Dr. Susan Jacobowitz, Dr. Margot Edlin, and the faculty of the Department of English

Chair Joseph Culkin and members of the faculty of the Department of Social Sciences

Director Jeannie Galvin and the Faculty of Schmeller Library

Chair Mercedes Franco and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Dr. Mangala Tawde and the members of the Environmental Sustainability Club

Ms. Marie-Francesca Berrouet and members of the Haitian Club

The Single Stop Office:

Ms. Amawati P. Gonesh

Ms. Emily December

Ms. Michele McLoughlin

Dr. Paris Svoronos, members of the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and members of the Chemistry Club

The Korean Student Association

Dr. Romel Robertson, Dr. Anissa Moody, and the Members of the Psychology Club

The Ally LGBTQ club

Father Edward Doran, Ms. Virginia Villadiego and the members of the Newman Club

Mr. Colin Hughes, Director of NYPIRG, and the NYPIRG student volunteers:

Monique Fisher

Ms. Monique Ritchie

Ms. Precious Ighide

Mr. Daniel Blount

Ms. Winita Peters

Mr. Kevin Cao

Ms. Isabel Huguet and the members of the Health Club

Chair Mercedes Franco, Dr. Monica Trujillo and the SACNAS QCC Chapter

Dr. Kimberly Riegel, Dr. Anuradha Srivastava, and Rezan Akpinar and the members of the Women in Science Club

The STEM Research Club

The Stock Market Club

Drs. Benjamin Miller, Jed Shahar, and the student members of the Creative Writing Club

Ms. Victoria O'Shea and the members of the ASAP Club

Dr. Trikartikaningsih Byas and the members of the Muslim Student Association

Professor Susan Wengler, Schmeller Library

Ms. Arthurine DeSola, Ms. Cynthia Puca, and the members of the College Discovery Club

Dr. Wilma Fletcher-Anthony; Dr. Dorith Brodbar, and the Members of the Counseling Faculty

Mr. Colin Hughes and Queensborough's NYPIRG Chapter

A special thanks, as always, to the members of the Food Insecurity Committee: Dr. Susan Jacobowitz (Secretary); Professor Sebastian Murolo; Dr. Chukwudi Ikwueze; Dr. Peter Bales; Professor Elizabeth Di Giorgio (who has shared critical documents from another non-profit on which she serves as a board member); Professor Nataliya Khomyak; Professor Ashlie Klepper; Dr. Lana Zinger; SGA President Mabely Salvador and SGA Vice-President Sara Aguirre; and Vice-President Sherri Newcomb, as well as Ms. Lois Florman. We would also like to thank the members of the Faculty Executive Committee, especially Dr. Philip Pecorino and Dr. Margot Edlin, and Professor Ted Rosen and Professor Christine Mooney.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Tai

Chair, Committee on Food Insecurity

