

**Steering Committee Report  
Academic Senate Steering Committee  
Queensborough Community College  
September 2017**

Welcome back everyone! On the September agenda, you will find most of the annual reports of standing committees of the Academic Senate. Please review the reports and let us know any thoughts, questions or concerns you have. Senate committees are staffed and beginning to meet and we look forward to hearing from many of them in monthly reports or items they may forward for consideration by the Academic Senate. The Steering Committee will convene a meeting with the chairs of standing committees on Wednesday, October 4 from 12-1:30pm.

The Steering Committee of the Academic Senate would like to recognize the long service to the College of Registrar and Senator Ann Tullio, who retired at the end of August.

Her retirement means the Senate is short one Higher Education Officer, as the Academic Senate Bylaws calls for 2 HEO senators, much as it does 2 CLT members of the senate. Jeffrey Schwartz (Engineering Technology), who serves as Senate Technology Officer, reports that in the last election in 2015 there were only two HEO candidates, thus no alternates to take the place of a departing senator. The bylaws state that in such circumstances there must be a special election to replace the departing senator at the next scheduled senate meeting.

Therefore, on the September 2017 agenda there is an **election for the replacement HEO senator**, to be conducted by Helmut Loeffler (History), chair of the Committee on Committees. Nominations will be made by senators from the floor, but because we need assurance that nominees are willing and able to serve the remainder of Ann Tullio's term, which runs until April 2018, in August we sent a message to the HEO community asking those interested in serving to submit their names to the Steering Committee or identify a senator to nominate them at the meeting. Several HEOs replied, giving us not only a good list of candidates for today's election, but also several who may wish to run in the Spring 2018 regular HEO election. At that time, HEOs will select two HEO senators to serve until April 2021 when we will repeat the process. In the Spring of 2018, there will also be an election for one CLT position and the senate's single adjunct representative, as well as an election to select about one third of the 41 at large members of the senate, which are filled by faculty.

The Steering Committee would like to acknowledge and welcome our new Registrar, Pat Canale. We welcome Pat, and look forward to working with her for years to come.

On the agenda is the **June 2017 list of graduates**, which the Academic Senate approves as part of its responsibility, as per our bylaws, to oversee curriculum and the award of honors and degrees as an educational institution of New York State:

**QCC ACADEMIC SENATE BYLAWS Article 3 section 1**

*Item 5 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*

The Steering Committee also would like to acknowledge the retirement of Karen Steele, whose love of the College and tireless dedication to so many aspects of what happens here cannot be overstated. Over the summer, she sent us the **General Education Assessment Task Force Report to Academic Senate**, which we include here for your information. The Steering Committee looks forward to more discussion about our shared principles, goals and priorities for our teaching.

This month we receive the first monthly report from the **Committee on Food Insecurity**, now a standing committee of the Academic Senate. The Steering Committee has been really inspired by the organic activity this committee has generated, from volunteering at and contributing to the food pantry, researching financial and funding issues and inter-agency collaboration, as well as club activity, and service learning projects across the disciplines, including Health, Biology, Business and Social Sciences. Dr. Emily Tai of the Department of History and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee was recently elected as Chair the newly created Committee on Food Insecurity, which will now operate as any other. It has nine members, each with a term of three, two or one years. In Spring 2018, as part of the annual committee placements undertaken by the Committee on Committees, there will be three incoming members of the committee to replace the three members with one year terms. The next year that will repeat; the staggered three year terms are now the norm, fostering the year-to-year continuity that had been lacking previously.

At our last meeting in May, it was agreed that the Administration would undertake to contract with an outside firm to have QCC's water sampled and tested, utilizing protocols consistent with best practices and consistent with our role as an institution of public education serving the broader community, including children. We agreed that this comprehensive testing program would be reported on no later than the end of Spring 2018. As you likely already know, over the summer Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President Sherri Newcomb sent an email to the college community announcing the results of the testing program and providing a link to where the [full report](#) can be viewed on the QCC website. The Steering Committee would like to thank VP Newcomb and President Call for expediting the work and immediately reporting the results.

Late last semester and after the last meeting of the Academic Senate in May, we received word that there would be an increase in the fee paid for a parking hang-tag from \$60 to \$100, a pretty staggering increase but well below what is paid at other CUNY colleges. Student parking fees actually doubled—from \$1 per day to \$2. This increase was reported to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues by VP Bill Faulkner, who indicated that the fee increase would need to be approved by the QCC Auxiliary Board, and it was approved in June 2017. The increase covers a gap in the cost of maintaining the lot and also pays for the new hang-tags, which include an RFID chip that will automatically raise and lower the gates as well as eventually provide information on parking patterns while cutting down on abuse. A number of people have complained about the lack of parking spaces on campus. Others have wondered whether security could be tighter, or if it was possible to pave over more green space or build a ramp on one of the lots now currently at capacity during daylight hours. These are difficult questions with no easy or obvious answers. As we come together to discuss these problems related to parking, transportation, and the campus environment generally, The Steering Committee looks forward to working with the Committee on the Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues, chaired this year by

Dominc Hull (Chemistry), the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and its chairperson Philip Pecorino, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) chapter led by Edmund Clingan, as well as the Administration, led by President Diane Call, VP Faulkner and VP Newcomb. These are community problems, and so we look forward to engaging with the community directly on the Community Dialogue email list as well.

On that note, the Steering Committee joins the FEC and the Academic Freedom Committee in calling for the restoration of the old Faculty Dialogue list. But until an unfettered faculty distribution list is returned for all to use, it's time to begin to acclimate to our new communication situation. To that end, the Steering Committee respectfully requests that all members of the faculty sign up for the Faculty Dialogue list and all community members sign up for the new Community Dialogue list. The Steering Committee is considering whether to form a subcommittee of the Steering Committee to consider this issue and seek solutions. We'll be taking this up on the Community Dialogue list and elsewhere, but don't hesitate to reach out to us directly as a group or individually using the email addresses provided below.

Have a great semester!

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