

Academic Senate Steering Committee
Queensborough Community College
Joel Kuszai, Chair
Steven Dahlke, Vice Chair
Jannette Urciuoli, Secretary

December 11, 2018

Revision of Academic Senate Bylaws, Article II, Sections 1 and 3

Whereas, since its inception, the Academic Senate has been chaired by the President of the College, and

Whereas, having the College President chair Academic Senate meetings is not consistent with best practices in academic governance, is not the norm at any other unit of CUNY, sanctioned by CUNY policy, nor is it consistent with Middle States Standard 7, Requirement of Affiliation 13, which states that “The institution’s district/system or other chief executive officer shall not serve as the chair of the governing body,” and

Whereas, the practice of who chairs is set forth in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate and in the QCC Governance Plan, which takes precedence over the senate’s bylaws, therefore

Be it Resolved that effective upon the requisite corresponding change in the Governance Plan and the election of the next Steering Committee of the Academic Senate, the Bylaws of the Queensborough Community College Academic Senate shall be changed as follows to reflect that Academic Senate meetings at Queensborough Community College shall be chaired by the chair of the Steering Committee.

Bylaws of the Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College

Article II. Meetings

Section 1.

From:

The President shall preside over regular meetings of the Academic Senate, or, in the President's absence, the chairperson of the Steering Committee shall preside. The President shall open the special meetings. The first item on the agenda shall be the election of the chairperson for that meeting by the members of the Academic Senate.

To:

The **Chairperson of the Steering Committee** shall preside over regular meetings of the Academic Senate, or, in **the Chairperson’s** absence, the **vice**-chairperson

of the Steering Committee shall preside. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall open special meetings of the Academic Senate. The first item on the agenda of a special meeting shall be the election of the chairperson for that meeting by the members of the Academic Senate.

Section 3. Special Meetings and Executive Sessions

From:

1. Special Meetings shall be called by the President, the Chairperson of the Academic Senate, on the written request of any eight (8) senators, or by written petition from one hundred (100) faculty members who are eligible to vote for the academic senators. The agenda of the special meeting shall be fixed five (5) days before the meeting. Additional business may be considered only by two-thirds (2/3) consent of those present.

To:

1. Special Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson of the Academic Senate, on the written request of any eight (8) senators, or by written petition from one hundred (100) faculty members who are eligible to vote for the academic senators. The agenda of the special meeting shall be fixed five (5) days before the meeting. Additional business may be considered only by two-thirds (2/3) consent of those present.

Rationale:

The matter of who chairs Academic Senate meetings has been the subject of discussion for many years. There is agreement that this change will be an improvement to governance at QCC. Although it may have been acceptable in the past, a variety of factors make plain the need to make College practices consistent with best practices in governance, with other CUNY units and with Middle States' Standard 7, Requirement of Affiliation 13. The change is scheduled to take effect after the corresponding requisite change in the QCC Governance Plan is enacted and after the election of the next Steering Committee in May 2019.