

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
AY 2009–2010

To: Steering Committee, Academic Senate
From: Virginia Cowen, Chairperson
Date: June 1, 2010
Subject: Annual Report of the Committee on the Library

Committee Members: Virginia Cowen (chairperson), Liisa Yonker (secretary), Laura Freedgood, Amalia Rechtman (Steering Committee designee), Jeanne Galvin (ex officio).

Dates committee met: September 23rd, February 17th, May 12th.

Narrative summary of committee work:

The primary work of the committee involved discussions in three areas involving: space, materials, and the role of the library in the QCC community.

The renovations (began in December 2008) continued during this academic year. Responses to the collaborative study areas and the addition of Starbucks have been extremely positive. The enrollment increase at QCC this year and retention of students have been problematic for the library in terms of space. However, the acquisition of space to CETL has decreased the space available for students. The library did add more furniture to help address the space issues. CUNY is also looking into university-wide storage for library resources that are important but infrequently used.

Annually the library receives \$15,000 worth of textbooks donated by the bookstore. The books are held as reserve copies. For some heavily-used reserve textbooks, or when a book is damaged a single copy is not adequate. To address this problem, Professor Galvin reported that the library is collecting anecdotal information from students about how they use print textbooks. That may help the library faculty in acquisition/allocation of resources in future semesters. CUNY has purchased an electronic library package (Ebrary Academic) that offers 44,000 titles. If recommended or required textbooks are available electronically, that is helpful to preserve the resources and for students who need book access when the library is closed. As part of a university-wide textbook initiative, CUNY gave the library over \$100,000 for textbooks and other books to support the curriculum. The library used the money to buy extra copies of heavily used textbooks, Ebrary (a collection of 46,000 ebooks), more Gale literature ebooks, and Ovid Nursing ebooks. To support the Textbook Initiative, the Office of Library Services requested that the library collect anecdotal data on how students use textbooks. The library staff collected information and also got data on heavily-used books by checking circulation history on the reserve collection. They also checked the number of course sections that used expensive textbooks.

The emphasis on information literacy and the current/future role of emerging technologies are important topics that affect the QCC community. The library has hired an information literacy specialist on a replacement line. An additional faculty line has been created that will focus on emerging technologies.

The CUNY Faculty Experience survey indicated the most (60%) of the respondents found that the electronic resources at QCC were good/excellent. Only 38% found printed books and journals good/excellent. The library faculty is aware of the perception of inadequate resources in some disciplines, but funding for all resources is limited.

Overall, the library has undergone significant changes in the last few years. The library faculty and staff continue to adjust to reduced space. They have looked at best practices and trends in library services and design to create an environment that is conducive to collaborative learning and new technologies, while still providing books and resources for students and faculty.

New Committee Members for 2010-2011: Steven Frishman, Regina Polizzotto, Jane Poulson,

New Chairperson for 2010-2011: Regina Polizzotto