

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

I. Senate Matters: Composition and Membership

The Steering Committee is happy to report that there are Senators to fill all vacant seats in the Academic Senate. The Steering Committee would like to welcome as new Senators:

- **Professor Edward Volchok (Business)**
- **Professor Roland Scal (Biology)**
- **Professor Richard Yuster (Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology)**

The Steering Committee wishes to thank Dr. Jannette Urciuoli, Chair of the Committee on Committees, and all her colleagues, for their hard work in helping our governance body to maintain a quorum.

2. Committee Matters: Composition and Membership

In the next few weeks, the Committee on Committees will be reviewing the requests for committee assignments it solicited last month. We want to remind all Senators and Committee Chairs to think about any committees on which they might wish to serve, and also to encourage their colleagues—especially junior colleagues new to our college—to serve. In a week or so, Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Academic Senate will be receiving invitations to the Steering Committee's annual Spring meeting of Standing Committee Chairs, which will be held on Wednesday, April 22, during free hour. We will be reviewing a number of procedural matters at this meeting, including issues such as whether each committee has sufficient support to carry out its charge in terms of released time, clerical support, and contact with administrative committees; we will also be soliciting any suggestions that Senators and Committee members may have—arising either from Committee service and/or the current Middle States self-study—regarding the charges we should consider assigning to any committee for next year. If any Senator has ideas in this regard that they would like to forward to the Steering Committee, we invite them to contact us.

3. Committee Matters: Activities

Last month, the Steering Committee discussed with members of the Senate the proposal advanced by Senator Edward Volchok, in his capacity as Chair for the Committee on Distance Education, for a Special Committee to Develop On-Line Education at Queensborough. As of this writing, the Steering Committee has been in contact with approximately fifteen academic departments, who have advanced representatives to this potential Special Committee as follows:

Department of Art and Photography: Professor Anissa Mack

Department of Basic Educational Skills: Dr. Helene Dunkelblau

Department of Biological and Geological Sciences: Dr. Nidhi Gadura

Department of Business: Dr. Edward Volchok

Department of Chemistry: PENDING

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology: Professor John Buoncora

Department of English: Dr. Jean Darcy

Department of Foreign Languages: Professor Indra Avens
Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance: Dr. Alicia Sinclair
Department of History: Dr. Kenneth Pearl
Department of Library: Dr. Sara Rofofsky Marcus
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science: PENDING
Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology and Design Drafting:
Department of Music: Professor Melanie Sehman
Department of Nursing: Professor Patricia Burke
Department of Physics: Dr. Alex Flamholz
Department of Social Sciences: Dr. Caf Dowlah
Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts: Professor Robert Sweetnam

Given that the Steering Committee is not yet in receipt of names for nominees for the Departments of Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Science, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Design Drafting, the Steering Committee would be inclined to reserve the advance of a resolution to form this Special committee until the April Senate, when all remaining departments have had an opportunity to nominate a member of their department to serve in this capacity. We invite members of the Senate with concerns or comments regarding the formation of this committee to share them at the meeting of the Academic Senate, or to get in touch with the Steering Committee personally.

4. University and College Matters with Direct Bearing on The Senate

While the minutes of the March 3, 2009 plenary meeting of the University Faculty Senate meeting are pending, members of the Academic Senate will read the minutes of the February plenary, at which continuing plans for a new CUNY community college were discussed. As of this writing, University Dean John Mogulescu is in receipt of a \$280,000 Gates Foundation matching grant that would finance planning for this institution. The University Faculty Senate and the Council of Faculty Governance leaders is calling for the greater involvement of faculty from CUNY's existing two-year colleges to be involved in the design of curriculum for this college. The Steering Committee is aware of various proposals for soliciting this input, but would like to renew its call for Queensborough Faculty to become acquainted with the proposal and position paper, at:

http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/cmo/i/8/24/1.php

And to consider registering comments at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=w4sQ6V9YGSxDHsYhI5WnUg_3d_3d

Alternatively, members of the Senate might wish to share them privately, with members of the Academic Senate Steering Committee.