

Queensborough Community College  
The City University of New York

**MINUTES**  
**of the May 12, 2009 meeting of the**  
**Academic Senate**

President Eduardo J. Martí called the eighth regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 3:05 p.m.

**I. Attendance:**

The complete Senate roster is available at  
[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Governance/AcademicSenate/academic\\_senate\\_roster.asp](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Governance/AcademicSenate/academic_senate_roster.asp)

Absent, as determined by the iclickers, were:  
Absentees 4

D. Klarberg P. Pace G. Visoni P. Svoronos

**II. Consideration of the minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting:**

A **motion was made, seconded, and approved** to accept the April minutes (*Attachment A of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*) with two corrections.

- The first was on page 11, line 519 “President Marti stated beginning in **Fall 2010** this will be enforced”.
- The second is under Old Business. Senator Weiss should be changed to Dr. Weiss and “he stated that he was not available to serve as Parliamentarian.” to the attendance: There were no negative votes and no abstentions.

**III. Communications from the Board of Trustees or any of its Committees**

- The URL for the Board of Trustees is now included in the Agenda for those wishing to view current communications of the BOT.

**IV. Communications from:**

**President Marti:** President Martí welcomed everyone to the last Senate meeting of 2008-2009. He then referred to his written report (*Attachment B of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*) noting the following items:

- The Partners for Progress was a huge success and \$310,000 was raised at the Gala, exceeding the goal of \$250,000.
- The President stated that the biggest issue facing us is the City Council budget. At Friday’s meeting, May 15, there will be a meeting with the City Council where the University will make the case to restore 25,000,000 in cuts.
- The President stated that he received a communication from Chancellor Goldstein on the term limits for the department chairs and that he would be meeting with the Academic Senate Steering Committee, the College Advisory Planning Committee and other groups to discuss this issue.

**Steering Committee:** Chair Tai referred to her written report (*Attachment C of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*) and also mentioned the following additional items:

- Chair Tai thanked the following Senators for their service:  
Helene Dunkelblau

Deborah Fitzgerald-Royce  
Joseph Goldenberg  
Julian Stark  
Matthew Trachman

- Chair Tai thanked both Candidates for Adjunct representative, Arlene Kemmerer and Georgina Albanese, for attending the May Senate meeting as guests of the Steering Committee.
- Chair Tai welcomed the new Student Government Leaders and thanked the outgoing Student President and Vice-President, Anthony Angulo and Eva Santos-Tejada, as well as Ms. Gisela Rivera for the excellent student participation on the Academic Senate standing committees.
- Chair Tai thanked the departing members of the Steering Committee: Linda Reesman and Devin McKay
- Chair Tai announced that Alex Tarasko will be representing the Faculty Executive Committee on the committee to review coordination between the College mission statement and Queensborough’s Institutional goals.
- Chair Tai reported that on the Committee on Online Education will be meeting and she thanked Dr. Volchok for his work.
- Chair Tai presented three resolutions:

***The first was on the required number of contact minutes:***

Whereas, the Academic Senate has previously set college policy designating the final week of the Fall and Spring semesters for final examinations, and

Whereas, current practice has resulted in the college’s noncompliance with New York State Department of Education guidelines regarding required contact minutes per class hours;

be it resolved that beginning in the Spring 2010 semester the final (15th) week of the Fall and Spring semesters will be scheduled as the previous weeks, i.e., as a full week of class, and not designated exclusively for the scheduling of final examinations.

Explanation: In order to bring the college into compliance with the New York State guidelines the college must add the requisite number of missing minutes for every class, and the above resolution will satisfy that mandate in the least disruptive manner of all the current options. Departments and faculty may use the scheduled class time in the final week of the Fall and Spring semesters to provide instruction, to administer examinations, to perform other assessments, and/or to conduct other academic activities with their classes, as is done in the Summer and January Intersession semesters.

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- A motion was **made, seconded, and approved** for the change. It passed with 40 yes, 11 no votes and 4 abstentions.

It has also come to the attention of the City University Faculty Senate leadership that the following resolution has been forwarded to the CUNY Board of Trustees for consideration, offering the following proposed amendment to Article IX of the Bylaws of the City University of New York Board of Trustees:

**The second resolution is as follows:**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees be amended as follows (additions indicated by underscoring):

Section 9.1 Department Organization

[No revisions to subsection a]

b. The executive officer of the department shall be the department chairperson who shall be the department chairperson who shall be a professor, associate professor or assistant professor elected by secret ballot for a term of three years, except as provided below, by a majority vote of all the members of the instructional staff of the department who have faculty rank. Proxy or mail voting shall not be permitted. The department chairperson must be tenured or have been approved by the board for tenure at the time of his/her election, except in departments less than seven years old. Such elections shall be subject to the subsequent approval of the president and the board. Department chairpersons may serve for no more than two consecutive terms, unless a waiver of this limitation is granted by the president because of unusual circumstances and in the best interests of the department and the college. Service as a department chairperson for more than one-half of a three-year term will be considered service for a full term for purposes of determining eligibility of additional service. The present system of staggered departmental elections shall be continued. The successor of department chairpersons shall be elected during the first full week in May at the expiration of the respective terms of office to take office as of July first of the year in which they are elected and at the three year intervals thereafter. Vacancies shall be filled by election for the unexpired term. Notwithstanding anything in the

179 foregoing to the contrary, in the library department, the president of the  
180 college shall  
181 from time to time recommend a member of the department to the board  
182 for  
183 designation as chairperson. Department chairpersons who are not  
184 tenured professors,  
185 associate professors, or assistant professors on January 1, 1976 may fill  
186 out their  
187 unexpired terms as chairpersons, subject to the provisions of section  
188 9.1.(c) and  
189 9.6.(a) of these bylaws.

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191 [No revisions to subsections c, d, e. f. ge]

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193 BE IT RESOLVED, That the above-mentioned amendment take effect at  
194 the end of the term  
195 of department chairpersons starting in the 2009-2010 academic year.

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198 EXPLANATION: The proposed amendment revises Article IX of the  
199 Bylaws to  
200 limit the service of department chairpersons to two consecutive terms.  
201 Limiting a  
202 department chairperson's service to two (three-year) terms will give more  
203 faculty the  
204 opportunity to serve as chairpersons, performing an important service to  
205 the  
206 department and to the college. As different faculty members have  
207 diverse viewpoints  
208 and leadership styles, the department will benefit by having new  
209 department  
210 chairpersons who will bring fresh ideas and approaches to managing  
211 their  
212 departments. The college president may waive this term limit because of  
213 unusual  
214 circumstances and in the best interests of the department and the  
215 college (e.g., a very  
216 small department where there is literally no one else who could serve as  
217 chairperson).  
218 In order to avoid disturbing the elections that have just taken place or  
219 having special  
220 elections for department chairpersons who have served longer than this  
221 term limit  
222 allows, this amendment will take effect at the end of their terms starting  
223 in the 2009-  
224 10 academic year.

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227 On May 1, 2009, the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance leaders  
228 voted  
229 unanimously to reject this proposal. The Steering Committee of the  
230 Academic Senate  
231 is now urging members of the Academic Senate of Queensborough  
232 Community  
233 College to pass the following resolution:

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235 Whereas, the CUNY Board of Trustees will be asked to vote in June on a  
236 Bylaws

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change that would impose a two-term limit on elected department chairs (text from OGC on obverse, undated), and

Whereas, the Queensborough Community College Chairpersons Committee is unanimously opposed to the proposal by Chancellor Goldstein to limit chairs' terms to two consecutive three-year terms;

Whereas, the Council of Faculty Governance Leaders voted unanimously on May 1 to reject the proposal for the reasons cited below:

1) Faculty members' right to elect a chair of their departments to represent them is an important power. Any Board action to limit or truncate this power can only be viewed as an attack on faculty governance and faculty voice.

2) Mechanisms already exist to remove chairs at any time who are not performing adequately, especially presidential action.

3) The Bylaws already require that elections take place by secret ballot every 3 years, which ensures that all eligible faculty have an opportunity to be elected if the faculty of the department deems it in the best interest of the department and the college.

4) The job of chair is complex: acquiring the expertise to do it well takes time, making continuity valuable.

5) The proposed maximum 6-year term for chairs is not consistent with the current 7-year tenure clock. An important function of chairs is to mentor younger faculty from their hiring to their getting tenure. Shortening the term of chairs would significantly disrupt this process.

6) Lack of proper consultation: the proposal surfaced two weeks ago, just before the end of the semester and after the point at which many college senates have already had their final meeting of the year.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate joins the Council of Faculty Governance Leaders in urging the Board of Trustees to reject this proposal.

- A motion was **made, seconded, and approved** for the change. It passed with 54 yes, 0 no votes and 3 abstentions.

Finally, President Marti and the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate would like to propose the following **resolution** of thanks to Dr. Dan King:

Whereas, Dan L. King has served Queensborough Community College for the last 2 1/2 years as the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Whereas, during his tenure Dr. King demonstrated leadership in guiding the faculty of the College in pursuing excellence in the teaching and learning process, and Whereas, during his tenure the concept of the Freshman Academies for all FT/FT students was refined, and Whereas the Academic Senate of Queensborough celebrates the many accomplishment of this fine educator, Be it Therefore Resolved that the Academic Senate of Queensborough extends its appreciation and felicitations to Dan L. King and wishes him unparalleled success in his future endeavors.

**UFS Representative:** The report on the CUNY UFS Meeting May 5, 2009 was received. (Attachment D of the May 12, 2009 Agenda).

**V. Elections:**

**Steering Committee Members**

- An election was conducted for members of the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate for the coming academic year. The nominees were:

Senator Emily Tai for Chair

- > Elected: 57 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention

Senator Susan Jacobowitz for Vice-Chair

- > Elected: 51 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention

Senator Barbara Blake-Campbell for Secretary

- > Elected: 53 yes, 3 abstentions.

**Parliamentarian**

- An election was then conducted for the Parliamentarian for the coming academic year. The nominee was:

Dr. Philip Pecorino for Parliamentarian

- > Elected: 55 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention

**Senate Technology Officer**

- An election was then conducted for the Senate Technology Officer for the coming academic year. The nominee was:

Dr. Belle Birchfield for Senate Technology Officer

- > Elected 47 yes, 3 abstentions

**Committee on Committee Members**

- Dr. Jannette Urciuoli stated that three new members would be needed for the Committee on Committees to replace the outgoing members. There are nine members of the Committee on Committee members. Each member serves for three years rotating on a staggered basis whereby three members are replaced each year

The following individuals were then nominated for the Committee on Committees:

- Professor Diane Carey (Speech and Theatre)
- Professor Joanne Chang (Music)
- Professor Tina Iakovou (Nursing)
- Professor Jun Shin (Chemistry)
- Professor Isabelle Lizzul (Health and Phys Ed)
- The nominations for the 2009 – 2012 Committee on Committees were unanimously approved, with no negative votes and no abstentions.  
Elected: Professor Tina Iakovou (34 votes)  
Professor Diane Carey (28 votes)  
Professor Joanne Chang (28 votes)

**VI. List of Potential Graduates – June 2009**

- Report received. This list of potential graduates is information only. (*Attachment E of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*).

**VII. Reports of Academic Senate Standing Committees**

**Committee on Committees:**

- Report received. (*Attachment F of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*).

**Committee on Curriculum:**

- Dr. Pecorino presented the following for consideration by the Senate (*Attachment G of the May 12, 2009 Agenda*):
- A motion was **made, seconded, and approved** for the new course in the Department of Social Sciences along with the related pre-requisite changes in the College Catalog. There were no negative votes and no abstentions.

**NEW COURSE**

**SS-665 American Philosophy** 3 class hours 3 credits  
Prerequisites: BE122 OR BE226

A survey of major American thinkers from colonial times to the present. Figures such as Emerson, Thoreau, Peirce, James, Royce, C.I. Lewis and Dewey will be considered.

**VIII. Old Business**  
(none)

**IX. New Business**

- President Martí concluded the meeting by stating that even with the expected over enrollment that the quality of service to the students will be maintained through extra funding from the Central Office. The percentage of students

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accepted for QCC is 53% higher than last year. He also reported that whenever possible, class size will not be increased.

- The President expressed that open admissions will remain in effect and that students will be admitted on a first come, first serve basis with a cut off date of August 4.
- The President reported that the Program to Eliminate the Gap funds were released and Dean Sherry Newcomb and Dean Paul Marchese met with the department chairs to find out what they needed for their departments. The President thanked the P and B Budget Committee for taking action so quickly in determining what should be funded.
- Vice President Hartigan asked that continuing students be encouraged to get advised and register now. There is a fall immersion program for remediation with no tuition and no credit.
- President Marti stated that was honored to be the President of such a quality institution and that after eight years, the Senate had the confidence in him to continue as Chair of the Senate meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4.22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin McKay  
Secretary