

**QUEENSOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013-2014

To: Dr. Philip Pecorino, Chairperson, Steering Committee, Academic Senate
Dr. Emily Tai, Vice Chairperson, Steering Committee, Academic Senate
From: Dr. Peter A. Novick, Chairperson of the Committee on Student Activities
Date: May 21, 2014
Subject: Annual Report of the Committee on Student Activities for 2013-2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr. Peter A. Novick (Chairperson), Prof. Susan Garcia (Secretary), Prof. Ted M. Rosen (Member), Prof. Reuvain Zahavy (Steering Committee Designee), Ngawang Yangki (Student Member), Sandy Enriquez (Student Member), Latiffa Facey (Student Member), Dean Paul Jean-Pierre (President's Designee), Professor Eugene Harris (Committee on Committees Liaison), Ms. Gisela Rivera (Director, Student Activities & President's Designee) & Mr. Raymond Volel (Student Life Specialist).

DATES COMMITTEE MET:

The Committee on Student Activities met eight times in the course of the academic year on the following dates and times: September 24th, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., October 29th, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., November 20th, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., December 11th, 2013 at 1:45 p.m., January 23rd, 2014 at 12:30 p.m., February 25th, 2014 at 3:40 p.m., March 25th, 2014 at 3:40 p.m. and May 6th, 2014 at 3:20 p.m.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

September

Chair, Dr. Novick updated the faculty members on what he had learned at the Fall Chair meeting hosted by the Steering Committee. 43% of the QCC faculty are currently untenured so it is imperative that faculty are specific in their contributions to the committee for their annual reviews. There is also a push for all shared governance committees to have a set day and time of meeting. Finally, Dr. Novick shared the opportunity for subcommittees to be constructed in order to help our committee. All three faculty members took on a goal for the semester.

Although we still were not assigned student members, we questioned whether we were able to have students get involved that were not necessarily in the senate or student government.

As always, Mr. Volel was available to update us on the exciting events that were just around the corner including: the QCC Club Fair, Pep Rally, Leadership Weekend and Halloween party.

- Professor Susan Garcia: Contact faculty and staff to get an update on the distribution of the weekly TigerBLAST emails.
- Professor Rosen: Find new scholarly competitions to promote to untenured faculty.
- Dr. Novick: Find ways to better promote awards and scholarships, both won and available to students, faculty and staff. Dr. Novick will also keep the SAC website updated with minutes, agenda and other materials.

October

We have received our three new student members for the 2013-2014 academic year including Ngawang Yangki, Sandy Enriquez and Latiffa Facey. Ms. Facey was in attendance and we were all very happy to have active student members.

After updating Ms. Facey on the protocol of the committee, Prof. Susan Garcia reported that she had been in touch with Mr. Reynold Pierre-Charles whom would be more than happy to send the TigerBLAST emails to all of faculty and staff once he was given permission. Dr. Novick's colleagues have not been receiving them, but once he showed them what the students received weekly, not only did they want to receive them, but they also wanted to advertise their events through this outlet. Dean Jean-Pierre said he would speak with VP Hartigan and report his findings at the next meeting.

Prof. Rosen updated us on the event to advertise the opportunity for new faculty to get involved with academic competitions. He was in touch with Leslie Francis, Chair of the Academic Development Committee who was interested in co-sponsoring the event. We have set a preliminary date for January 29th, where Prof. Rosen would invite the current faculty advisors for the different academic competitions offered by our college.

Dr. Novick is heading the charge to better highlight student achievements, awards and scholarships. Though we have had contact before, we are going to again try and meet with the Awards committee and develop a direct link on the QCC homepage for students so that all of the information is on one central page. Once we meet with the Awards committee, we will attempt to talk to Dean Coradetti and Dr. Kerr.

Ray and Latiffa discussed the latest student activities. They had just finished their leadership weekend and hope that some students who participated will get involved in clubs or run for student government. There was also a Halloween party approaching where the lower level of the SU would be a haunted house. Other events included a debate by the mock trial club, a Halloween themed dance and a multicultural festival in November. Walk to Aspire raffled off tickets to the Knicks and Gisela had been working very hard on a new leadership program for our campus.

November

As a committee, we are still struggling with having the weekly Tigerblast emails that are sent to students, sent to faculty and staff. Dean Jean-Pierre will speak with VP Hartigan. Prof. Rosen has spoken more with Prof. Francis about co-coordinating the event advertising the importance of academic competitions. Everyone is very excited, and our tentative date is still January 29th, right as we all get back for the Spring semester, hoping that there are no major conflicts for most on campus.

Dr. Novick has been working on ways of advertising awards and scholarships. He spoke with the student members on our committee to determine how they become aware of such opportunities. The students all agreed that word of mouth through PTK and ASAP were the major ways that they learned of awards and scholarships. They all said they rarely checked their emails which was quite a disappointment to the faculty members of the committee. They all frequently check their personal emails, but do not check their QCC emails more than once a week! For this reason, we came up with a great idea for an event, to have students link their cell phones to their QCC email or have their QCC email forwarded to their personal email. We decided to try and hold an event where we distribute flyers, and have computers set up to show students how to do both. Prof. Rosen called it “Get Linked” so we can keep students up to date with their email and any important information they may be missing out on.

Ray Volel and our student members reported on the prior and upcoming events as the semester winds down. They would be holding a formal winter gala with a fire and ice theme, constructing a disaster relief project for the Philippines, a billiards tournament, and a judge will be coming to speak with students. The emerging leaders program had come out but unfortunately, Hope, the Student Government Secretary has left for another position.

December

We held only a quick meeting in December to wrap up the semester and discuss what we were going to tackle in the Spring. We were going to meet in January before the semester begun to discuss Tigerblast, the “Get Linked” program (which we hoped to hold during the QCC Club Fair), and the presentation on the Value of Academic Competitions. Dr. Novick would be in touch with Stephen DiDio to see if there were flyers already available to hand out to show students how to connect their phones to access Tigermail. If not, he would make flyers to show step-by-step instructions to link their phone to Tigermail. Finally, Prof. Rosen would finalize the date for the presentation on the Value of Academic Competitions.

January

For our presentation on the “Value of Academic Competitions,” Prof. Rosen will look into reserving a room. The event will be held on the week after club fair (Feb.5th). Dr. Novick, Prof Garcia and Prof. Rosen will be presenting. Additionally, Prof. Rosen is going to contact faculty who are currently running academic competitions to see if they will participate in the event. Dr. Novick will approve of emails written by Prof. Rosen and invite faculty to join us. We are all very excited.

For our “Get Linked” Club Fair event, Dr. Novick constructed two flyers. One flyer shows students how to get their QCC Tigermail sent to their smart phone, the other shows them how to have their QCC Tigermail forwarded to their personal email. Dr. Novick needs to get approval for the flyers. He will send them to Stephen DiDio. Latiffa will look into approval for flyers too from Ray Volel. We are still planning on attending the Spring Club fair to hand out the flyers and escort students to nearby computers in assistance.

Update: Before our February meeting we ran into a few snags.

- 1.) Stephen DiDio notified us that they were developing a new QCC app that would make our “Get Linked” flyers and event obsolete. Additionally, he discouraged us from having students forward their QCC email to their personal email. If students do not check and delete their QCC email frequently, it will become full and no longer forward any new emails.
- 2.) Our February 5th event “The Value of Academic Competitions was postponed due to severely inclement weather. All three lead presenters did not have to teach on that date and felt that it was safer if we stayed home. Additionally, we were unsure which presenters would be able to make it so we postponed it for the next month.

February

At our February meeting, we were all happy to learn that Ms. Gisela Rivera would be the new President’s Designee for our committee. Additionally, Prof Rosen rescheduled our presentation on the value of academic competitions for April 2nd. Additionally, Dr. Novick informed the committee that there have been some changes. We now will have six committee members instead of 3. Furthermore, he reminded everyone to sign back up for the committee if they were still interested in serving. Dr. Reynald Pierre-Charles was going to talk to Ellen Hartigan. We discussed again the importance of Faculty involvement. Gisela said that she will look into this matter. However, the new smart phone app may make the email obsolete. Ray Volel updated us on the events. There were 3 new clubs added this year which brings the total to 42 clubs. He was also still searching for SGA secretary. The club fair was a success and student activity is very high.

March

In March, Gisela spoke to Stephen DiDio about having a centralized link for Faculty to access information on upcoming college events. She will speak to Stephen again, however, the new app in the fall which will resolve this situation (hopefully). We still want to help promote it and make sure it is accessible by faculty and staff. The event: “The Vale of Academic Competitions” is all set for Wed., April 2nd from 12:30-1:30pm in S420. Have confirmations from many amazing presenters.

- Paris Svoronos- Competitions in the Sciences
- Shele Bannon & Kelly Ford- Accounting Competition

- Howard Sporn- Math Challenge
- Linda Meltzer - The David A Garfinkel Essay Contest
- Ben Murolo- Fed Challenge
- Christine Mooney, Elaine Thompson and Julita Haber - New York State Business Plan Competition
- Leslie Francis and Elaine Thompson - AMTA Mock Trial Competition
- Christine Mooney, Shele Bannon and Kelly Ford - QCC Entrepreneurship Business Bowl Challenge
- Gisela Rivera – Student Clubs, Government and Leadership

Finally, Ray updated us on some events: They hired a new secretary. This month is Women's month and Thursday the 27th was the Women's Forum which are very own Latiffa helped put together!! Other upcoming events included: Student Government candidate Forum, a Self Defense class, a comedy show and a Leadership conference.

May

Our last meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year brought great news as our committee has now doubled in size. The three current members were pleasantly introduced to our three new members, Prof. Adam Luedtke, Prof. Carolyn King and Prof. Linda Ostrowe. Additionally, we have already received a list of our new student members and two of the three were in attendance and active participants (Nicole Fajardo and Rondel Jackson were present and Landen Kwan was absent). We look forward to meeting Mr. Kwan in the Fall.

All members of the committee were very happy to hear that the new QCC Connect smart phone app was up and running. This may solve our problem with advertising student events to faculty and staff. Next year we will try and create an event to promote the downloading and usage of the new app by students, faculty and staff.

Our April 2nd event on the Importance of Academic Competitions was such a success. We had a great turn out of over a dozen faculty mentors whom all shared their experiences, successes and stories. Dr. Novick, Prof. Rosen and Prof Francis all presented and chaired the meeting; however, Prof. Ted Rosen was the head organizer of this even. Dr. Call loved the event and recommended that we have a similar, scaled down presentation for the Fall 2014 new faculty orientation at the end of August. We all gladly offered to help in any way possible.

Wrapping up the last meeting was our election for the next academic year. Dr. Peter Novick and Dr. Carolyn King were elected as co-chairs and Prof. Adam Luedtke was elected the secretary. Lastly, we had to say goodbye to our three, hard working, dedicated and diligent student members that were so helpful this year. We wish them all the best as the journey on to a 4 year college.

The Committee’s Recommendations for the 2013-2014 Committee on Student Activities

The Committee recommends the following for the 2013-2014 academic year:

- 1.) The 2013-2014 CSA should, as per a personal request from President Call, work with Stephen DiDio to “create a digital listing of Academic Competitions to include: the purpose, activities (nature of event and schedule of the competition), time commitment for preparation/participation, potential benefits for the students, and the interests/skills preferred for successful participation. The list would also include the faculty advisor name(s)/contact info.”
- 2.) The 2013-2014 CSA should promote the download and usage of the new QCC Connect smart phone app to both students and faculty.
- 3.) The 2013-2014 CSA should find additional methods to increase faculty and staff participation in student events.
- 4.) The 2013-2014 CSA should review the CSA’s charges, assign specific responsibilities to committee members with respect to specific charges and consider making recommendations to the Academic Senate on possible revisions and amendments of such charges.

Acknowledgements

The Committee on Student Activities would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Raymond Volel and Ms. Gisela Rivera for attending our meetings and keeping us updated on all of the incredible events designed by the various clubs and by student government. Furthermore, we would like to thank Mr. Stephen Di Dio for all of the help regarding the new QCC mobile app. We would also like to thank Prof. Leslie Francis for helping us to organize our April event as well as all of the presenters who did an amazing job describing the benefits of academic competitions. Finally, we would like to thank Drs. Philip Pecorino and Emily Tai for taking time out of their busy schedule to answer questions and guide our committee for success.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter A. Novick, Chair