

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York**

**ACADEMIC SENATE**

**COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY**

**To: Dr. Joel Kuszai, Secretary, Steering Committee, Academic Senate**

**From: Dr. Helmut Loeffler, Chairperson**

**Date: June 5, 2015**

**Subject: Annual Report of the Committee on the Library for 2014/15**

**Committee Members:** Dr. Jeffrey Jankowski (Liaison, Committee on Committees), Dr. Helmut Loeffler (Chair), Professor Jeanne Galvin (President's Designee), Professor Diane Carey (Secretary fall semester 2014), Dr. Joanne Chang (Member), Lisa Scandaliato (Member fall semester 2014; Secretary spring 2015), Dr. Sujun Wei (Member), Professor Liz Di Giorgio (Member), Dr. Mark Schiebe (Steering Committee designee), Farzanah Siddique (Student Representative)

**Dates Committee Met:** The Library Committee met five times in the course of the academic year, at the following dates and times: October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m., March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:15., May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m.

**Narrative Summary of Committee Work**

In the course of the 2014/2015 academic year, the Library Committee reviewed its charges and focused its attention on several important matters.

During the academic year the committee received several updates concerning the accessibility of the library restrooms for students with disabilities. The committee was informed that the project to

make restrooms compliant with the requirements according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) received the “green light” from CUNY and that funding has been allocated. The start date of the project has not yet been determined.

The committee selected thirty art prints to decorate different parts of the library. After determining the available budget for the art itself and the framing the committee focused on finding art that represents the diversity of our college. A majority of the selected posters have arrived and are in the process of being framed. As another form of displaying art the members discussed the possibility of using a standard TV as a monitor in order to display photographs and information concerning events in the library. The committee agreed that displaying nature imagery would create an atmosphere conducive to study and contemplation while at the same time it would also raise environmental awareness.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 the new silent study area on the second floor of the library opened. The former open balcony now provides room to 25 students to study in a quiet environment. The work places have been equipped with charging stations so students can charge their electronic devices. The committee is pleased to see students frequently use this silent study area.

The committee discussed improvement in obtaining academic resources for research projects for students. It was suggested that Kindle e-readers might be a valuable addition to the already existing ipads and laptops that are available to students on loan from the library. Kindle e-readers provide easy access to a dictionary while reading. Considering the vast numbers of students at our college who speak English as a second language the committee agreed it would be a useful device.

### **New Recommendations**

It is recommended, first and foremost, that the 2015-2016 Library Committee members continue to carry out the important work of making the Library restrooms on all floors completely accessible for disabled students.

It is also recommended that the Committee members continue to explore the possibility of creating additional desk space in the library.

It is also recommended that the Library Committee continue to review the Library's print and electronic resources, collections and website.

It is recommended that the Library Committee complete the project of framing the posters and student artwork already selected for hanging in the Library.

### **New Committee Members**

The 2015/2016 Library Committee welcomes our new member, Dr. James Timbilla.

We welcome Dr. Chang and Lisa Scandaliato who were unanimously elected as our new Chair and Secretary, respectively, for the 2015/2016 academic year at our meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Library Committee wishes to thank Director Jeanne Galvin for her invaluable expertise and advice, as well as her resourcefulness and dedication in responding to the needs of the students and faculty of Queensborough Community College. We also wish to thank Professors Susan Sciammarella and Sheila Beck for initiating the project to refurbish the Library's artwork, and for their assistance in the selection of work. We also thank Carmita Semanate for her help getting the art project ahead. The Library Committee also wishes to thank Professor Philip Pecorino, Professor Emily Tai and Professor Jeffrey Jankowski for their availability, support and guidance throughout the year. We thank Professor Constance Williams for keeping records of our activities, and David Moretti for posting all of our Committee's minutes, agenda and reports. As Chair of the 2014-2015 Library Committee, I thank Lisa Scandaliato and Diane Carey for their excellent work as Secretary for our Committee and for their ideas and enthusiasm throughout the year. The committee expresses its gratitude for Professor Diane Carey's generous gift of a Kehinde Wiley poster. The committee wants to especially thank Professor Liz DiGorgio for her tireless efforts and involvement in the art project of the library. It was a privilege and pleasure to work with each and every member of the 2014-2015 Library Committee.