

## **PROPOSAL for the QCC Academic Senate Consideration Fall, 2019 On Faculty Access to College email Lists**

1. Whereas, faculty need to communicate with other faculty in many ways (see partial list below) that relate to their teaching and to their scholarly and creative work and to their service to the college and university, and
2. Whereas, it is understood that the CUNY Computer Use Policy does not nor was ever intended to prohibit faculty communicating with faculty singly or in groups about university or college matters or academic matters, and
3. Whereas, the QCC Self Study 2019 for Middle States Commission on Higher Education contains this suggestion: “Reinstitute “community dialogue” and “faculty dialogue” with an opt-out option “, and
4. Whereas, the Middle States Visiting Team included the suggestion in its preliminary report that the College should “Reinstitute “community dialogue” and “faculty dialogue” with an opt-out option “,

Therefore, be it resolved that it shall be the policy of Queensborough Community College to acknowledge the rights and privileges for faculty with regard to their direct access to email distribution lists and to provide for the following provisions for a trial period from November 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. The continuation of this service or its being made permanent will be by action of the Academic Senate:

1. The elected Faculty Governance Leaders should have direct email access to their electorate- to those they represent
2. All faculty should have direct access to an “all faculty list” that permit members to opt out.
3. All faculty should have direct access to department email lists that shall be kept current by the College

### **RATIONALE:**

Faculty need to communicate directly with other faculty in many ways that relate to their teaching and to their scholarly and creative work and to their service to the college and university. Such needs include the following CUNY business but are not limited to:

#### **Intradepartmental:**

- To announce meetings of departmental level committees
- To solicit membership in departmental committees
- To solicit participants in department events
- To announce opportunities for departmental colleagues in programs and events and projects and grants
- To solicit partners in collaborative projects, grants and programs
- To communicate events of significance in the lives of faculty members in the department

#### **College Wide and Interdepartmental:**

- To announce meetings of governing body committees
- To announce events or call for information of governing body committees
- To announce meetings of College level committees
- To announce events of interest to more than one department
- To announce opportunities for colleagues in programs and events and projects and grants of interest to more than one department
- To solicit membership in committees
- To solicit participants in department events

- To announce opportunities for colleagues in programs and events and projects and grants
- To solicit partners in collaborative projects, grants and programs
- To communicate events of significance both professional and personal in the lives of faculty members

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NOTE: [CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of Computer Resources](#) does not permit the sending of email for commercial purposes, political purposes and matters that are not CUNY business and it also has these passages

*Users may not employ a false identity, mask the identity of an account or computer, or use CUNY Computer Resources to engage in abuse of others, such as sending harassing, obscene, threatening, abusive, deceptive, or anonymous messages within or outside CUNY.*

*CUNY Computer Resources must not be used in a manner that could reasonably be expected to cause or does cause, directly or indirectly, unwarranted or unsolicited interference with the activity of other users, including:*

- chain letters, virus hoaxes or other e-mail transmissions that potentially disrupt normal e-mail service;*
- spamming, junk mail or other unsolicited mail that is not related to CUNY business and is sent without a reasonable expectation that the recipient would welcome receiving it;*
- the inclusion on e-mail lists of individuals who have not requested membership on the lists, other than the inclusion of members of the CUNY community on lists related to CUNY business; and*
- downloading of large videos, films or similar media files for personal use*

NOTE:

1. The AAUP statement [Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications](#) recommends that, *Policies and practices regarding information technology should be within the purview of a representative faculty committee. Any new policy or major revision of an existing policy should be subject to approval by a broader faculty body such as a faculty senate.* and
2. The AAUP report concludes with a declaration that “*electronic communications are too important for the maintenance and protection of academic freedom to be left entirely to*” institutional technology offices. “*Faculty members must participate, preferably through representative institutions of shared governance, in the formulation and implementation of policies governing electronic-communications technologies.*” and
3. There has never been any argument presented as to barring college faculty from communicating with all colleagues in another academic department on university academic business, and
4. Prohibiting faculty from communicating with all other faculty at the College is not supported by any CUNY policy, and
5. The current denial of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” makes faculty communicating with all other faculty more difficult but not impossible, and
6. The opt out feature of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” allows any faculty member to avoid receiving communications from other colleagues intended for the entire faculty, and

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7. Faculty may opt out of the “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” or delete items arriving in the email account from such a list or send items from any source in the College directly into a folder or a deleted folder,
8. Barring all faculty from the use of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” due to possible misuse of such a list by a very few is not warranted by the principles of mutual respect, freedom of speech, and not punishing innocents for misdeeds of others, and
9. Barring all faculty from the use of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” due to possible misuse of such a list by a very few is not a mature response, respectful of individuals, and given other responses are available and should be attempted first before denying access to non-“offenders”,
10. Not offering an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” due to fear of misuse or the objections of a few in effect places all faculty in the opt out condition because a very few want that and in effect agrees with those who take the position that “Because I do not want this, then no one should have it”, and
11. This proposal is for a trial period of five months during which any feared disruptions of college business or disturbance to the climate of the College by the use of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” can be observed and evaluated by all members of the Senate who will vote on its continuation, alteration, or termination, and
12. Should there be observation of any feared disruptions of college business or disturbance to the climate of the College by the use of an “all faculty dialogue opt-out list” attempts can be made by members of the FEC to address the source and educate the actors involved as to the community expectations using moral suasion and invoking the CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of Computer Resources to remove the privilege should the policy be violated.