

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York
COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AND ARCHIVAL RESOURCES
of the ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT for 2011 – 2012

To: Dr. Emily Tai, Chairperson, Steering Committee, Academic Senate

From: Dr. Isabella Lizzul, Chairperson of the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources

Date: July 2012

Subject: Annual Report of The Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources 2011 / 2012.

Committee Members:

Susan Agin (Managing and Artistic Director of The Queensborough Performing Arts Center)

Julia Carroll (Department of Basic Educational Skills)

Lorraine M. Cupelli (Department of Nursing)

Arthur Flug (Director, Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives)

John Gilleaudeau (Department of Social Sciences)

Isabella Lizzul (Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance)

Zivah Perel (English Department)

Faustino Quintanilla (Director of QCC Art Gallery)

Jeffrey L. Schwartz (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Technology)

Rosemary Zins (Vice President for Institutional Advancement)

Committee Officers: Isabella Lizzul, Chairperson
Jeffrey L. Schwartz, Secretary

Committee Meetings:

May. 15, 2012

Apr. 24, 2012

Mar. 27, 2012

Feb.29, 2012

Oct. 31, 2011

Narrative Summary of Committee Work

The Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources (CAR) ended the academic year with the election of chairperson, Isabella Lizzul and secretary, Jeffrey L. Schwartz.

At the first meeting of the new academic year, members were given previous reports and minutes of the Committee on Cultural and Archival Resources to apprise them of the prior work, accomplishments and actions of the CAR Committee. Members were asked to reflect on the previous committee progress and begin to think of innovative ways in which to carry out the mission of the cultural and archival resources as a pedagogy resource within the curriculum and in the classroom, and to identify strategies by which to communicate with other faculty members to encourage utilization of the cultural resources and to make the Cultural Connection.

Videotaped interviews of faculty who had utilized the Holocaust Center, Art Gallery and QPAC were produced during the fall and winter sessions. The goal was to produce a brief blended video, which would be easily accessible and viewable to all faculty with the goal of encouraging use by faculty of these cultural resources. The links can be found on the respective testimonial pages of the Holocaust Center, the Art Gallery and QPAC. Susan Agin, Arthur Flug, and Faustino Quintanilla provided John Gilleaudeau a list of faculty who had utilized QPAC, the Holocaust Center and the Art Gallery as a cultural pedagogical resource. John scheduled and videotaped interviews at QPAC, the Holocaust Center, and the Art Gallery.

NEH GRANT PROPOSAL

Vice President Zins discussed how the NEA Grant Goal is to raise \$200,000 by June 30th and possibly \$240,000. She went on to add that QCC is one of 6 community colleges regarded as national resources and that QCC is an example of how the humanities can be incorporated into curriculum as well as the community at large.

Vice President Zins reminded us that our committee had only received one application for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which was from Dr. Sarah Danielsson in the History Department, who specializes in Modern Europe and Genocide. We did not have an overwhelmingly large response to the call for proposals. She emphasized that it was our committee's responsibility to review the application, and that it was an administrative process. All present agreed, and the motion was passed.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Descriptions of how cultural connections are being made continue to be impressive and moving. Director Agin and Dr. Lizzul collaborated so that the

massage therapy students worked with the visiting Russian ballet company. They plan to repeat this in the future.

Joining the collaboration was Dr. Lana Zinger and her health education students, involving a nutrition component. The Business Department's Prof. Ben Murolo examined budgets for QPAC shows. Prof. Cupelli continues to work with Dr. Flug to have beginning nursing students interview Holocaust survivors to provide the students with a cultural, ethnic, and end-of-life perspective on patients that they might not get otherwise. Prof. Cupelli's descriptions were so moving that Vice President Zins asked her to speak at the Fund Board meeting.

Interviews of Holocaust survivors were conducted at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center, Director Flug stated that these interviews had been recorded and are on YouTube. (The link for one such video follow:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0bt_AwZRI)

CULTURAL CONNECTION VIDEOS

The ongoing project to produce teacher testimonials on behalf of each of our Cultural Institutions has reached the first phase of completion.

Prof. John Gilleaudeau reported: "To wit, a cluster of testimonials has been filmed, edited and placed on each Institution's website.

Thanks must be extended to Directors Susan Agin of QPAC and Arthur Flug of the Kupferberg Holocaust Center for allocating precious homepage space for links to their respective testimonial pages. The link to a similar page for the Art Gallery is somewhat less conspicuously displayed on their website; however, this may be corrected soon as the Art Gallery site is due for some significant structural revision in the near future.

Each of the aforementioned pages can be accessed via the following links:

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/khrca/testimonials.asp>

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/qpac/testimonials.asp>

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/artgallery/testimonials.asp>

The second phase of this project will involve adding more testimonials to the pages as established. Two videos have already been filmed and need only to be edited and posted on the QPAC page. About a dozen other instructors have assented to participate in filming that will commence in the Fall Semester.

Another goal of the second phase is to use the testimonial pages to parlay interest among our faculty to incorporate the Cultural Resources into their

pedagogy. Measures that may be taken to this end include: providing links to the pages during Orientation of new instructors, sending the links via faculty-wide email, and asking Department Chairpersons to incorporate some reference to the pages and the Resources they promote during initial faculty meetings.”

Prof. Perel said that we should be sure to have links from these web pages to the suggested syllabi that were created a few years ago.

We now need to work on promotion and marketing. Director Kotkin confirmed that the Director of Marketing is in charge of the Web Committee. CAR Committee members also suggested that these websites and videos be shown at department meetings and at orientation. Prof. Lizzul confirmed that President Call is amenable to talking about Making the Cultural Connection at orientation.

Once these websites are up and running, Prof. Gilleaudeau suggested that we conduct a survey about their effectiveness.

CULTURAL CONNECTION SEMINARS

Dr. Tarafdar brought up the possibility of having seminars next semester to encourage professors to Make the Cultural Connection. The committee thought it would be best to have two sessions, with possible encores of each. The first session, which would probably be held in late September, would be an introduction to CAR with three panelists who have already successfully made the Cultural Connection. Attendees would remain in touch with Dr. Tarafdar between the first session and the second session, which would most likely be held in October. This second session would be the “working phase,” a brainstorming session where attendees would plan their ideas for how they will Make the Cultural Connection.

These sessions can be promoted in the pamphlet that is handed out at orientation and at the Welcome Meeting at the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester. The title “Making the Cultural Connection Incorporating QPAC, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, and QCC Art Gallery” was discussed. Schedules for the upcoming exhibits and events of the QPAC, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, and QCC Art Gallery should also be given out so professors will know what they might be able to incorporate into their lessons. Director Tarafdar also requested brief descriptions and pictures for the pamphlet and seminar.

Prof. Perel asked if Making the Cultural Connection is technically a “high-impact” strategy because high-impact strategies are strongly encouraged for all professors. Director Tarafdar pointed out that “high-impact” is not just a QCC term – it is an official term used by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). **Dr. Tarafdar will send a copy of the list of the AAC&U’s high-impact strategies for us to discuss at the next meeting.** If

we can find items on that list that are related to Cultural Connections then the motivation to Make the Cultural Connection will be clear.

Current Disposition of all items acted on by the Committee, by the College, or by the Academic Senate

Dr. Tarafdar discussed how Cultural Connection projects are high-impact learning experiences for students. She plans to have a CETL-coordinated panel in the fall to discuss these and other Cultural Connection projects.

Dr. Tarafdar suggested that there be a series of workshops for those professors who wish to make the Cultural Connection in their classes.

The CAR committee will further explore the possibility of creating a workshop series with Dr. Meg Tarafdar, Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Our committee will inquire about the possibility of including a reminder to faculty at the Convocation of the College to utilize the Art Gallery, QPAC and the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center. We will contact President Call to explore the feasibility of this.

CULTURAL CONNECTION VIDEOS

Prof. Gilleaudeau informed the committee that the websites are up for the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives and for the Art Gallery.

CULTURAL CONNECTION AS DIVERSITY/GLOBAL LEARNING

Director Tarafdar and Prof. Lizzul forwarded the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) packet on High-Impact Educational Practices. According to Chart A of this packet, Cultural Connections can definitely be counted as a high-impact strategy, so Prof. Carroll asked if it can stand on its own as something we can encourage the faculty to include in their courses? Vice President Zins pointed out that “Cultural Connection”, unlike “High-Impact,” is not a term that is recognized nationally, so it would be difficult to compare any data that is collected for retention improvement to any other efforts. However, included in Part 1 of the packet is the following:

Diversity/Global Learning

Many colleges and universities now emphasize courses and programs that help students explore cultures, life experiences, and worldviews different from their own. These studies — which may address U.S. diversity, world cultures, or both — often explore “difficult differences” such as racial, ethnic, and gender inequality, or continuing struggles around the globe for human rights, freedom, and power. Frequently

intercultural studies are augmented by experiential learning in the community and/or by study abroad.

While we can continue to encourage the faculty to Make the Cultural Connection as part of Service Learning, we can also encourage the faculty to Make the Cultural Connection as part of Diversity/Global Learning, which QCC does not currently have. Not only is Diversity/Global Learning a nationally recognized high-impact strategy, but it is also a source of grants for which QCC has not yet been able to apply.

Prof. Carroll, Prof. Lizzull, and Director Tarafdar met with Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Michelle Cuomo to discuss the possible inclusion of Diversity/Global Learning as another category of high-impact strategies at QCC that could involve the Holocaust Center, Gallery and QPAC.

Dean Cuomo expressed support and agreed to discuss this with Vice President Karen Steele to encourage Making the Cultural Connection, with its high-impact strategies of Service Learning and Diversity/Global Learning, a priority. We anticipate that President Call will address this at the Fall 2012 Welcome Meeting.

New Committee Members

Julia Carroll, Lorraine M. Cupelli, Isabella Lizzul, Eileen White, Jeffrey L. Schwartz, John Gilleaudeau

New Chairperson and Secretary

The current chairperson, Isabella Lizzul and current secretary, Jeffrey L. Schwartz were unanimously voted for and will continue within their positions.

Appreciation: Thank you to the committee members for all their hard work and a productive year. We would also like to thank Dr. Meg Tarafdar, Associate Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETAL), Ms. Jo Pantello, QCC ExCEL Service-Learning Project Director and Director of the Basic Skills Learning Center, and Ms. Cristina DiMeo, Project Coordinator of the Office of Service Learning, Prof. John Gilleaudeau and video archivist Mr. Phil Roncoroni.