

Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York

MINUTES
of the November 9, 2010
Academic Senate

Interim President Diane Call called the third regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 3:15 p.m.

I. Attendance:

The complete Senate roster is available at
http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Governance/AcademicSenate/academic_senate_roster.asp

As determined from the attendance taken by the i-clickers at the meeting, there were thirteen absentees.

Albanese, Georgeanne	Cesarano, Michael	Dunkleblau, Helene	Irigoyen, Pedro
Jue, Chung,	Reesman, Linda	Isaac Hernandez	Alina Gulfra
Urciuoli, Jannette	Valentino, James	Visoni, Gilmar	Zinger, Lana
Zins, Rosemary			

II. Consideration of minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting:

- A **motion** was **made, seconded, and approved** to approve the October 12, 2010 minutes with amendments to content related to advisement and registration of new students [line 64], and outcome of vote on the ban on smoking [line 364], after a brief recess to allow senators to obtain replacement batteries for non-functioning clickers. There were fifty-six positive votes and two abstention from Senators –Student Government Executive, Leilani Blira-Koessler and Haishen Yao. (*Attachment A*)

III. Communications from:

Interim President Call: Interim President Call welcomed everyone to the third scheduled Academic Senate meeting of the Academic year and asked for reconciliation of the votes for the ban on smoking. [The October 12, 2010 minutes has since been updated on the website to reflect that there one an additional verbal vote in favor of the ban was communicated to the Steering Committee, bringing the total positive votes to twenty-six].

- Interim President Call referred to her written report (*Attachment B of the November 9, 2010 Agenda*).
- Interim President Call began by announcing that CUNY First has been launched, and that Queensborough is privileged to be recognized as a vanguard college. Additionally, the College is in what's regarded as a 'Lights-off" period and several training sessions are in progress. On Wednesday November 17, 2010, the college will begin to register students into the system. An appreciable number of personnel from other campuses are involved in the transition process.

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- Interim President Call indicated that Vice President Newcomb is the campus executive for CUNY First and VP Newcomb was invited to address the Senate.
- VP Newcomb reiterated that training is on the way and the process was progressing as scheduled, and at some point the training would be evaluated to identify areas that needed to be strengthened. The Vice President also affirmed that Tiger Tracks was still accessible.
- Parliamentarian Dr. Phil Pecorino commented that he participated in a session in the Registrar department, and while they were reviewing the rosters, it was noted that faculty did not have access to the students' advisors, and that he thought it was imperative that faculty have the ability to reach out to students' advisors whenever necessary.
- Senator Ann Tullio responded that it was never a custom to have advisors loaded onto the system and indicated that over the course of a two-year process various teams will be involved in making decisions about how to utilize the software.
- Interim President Call thanked Dr. Pecorino for sharing his observations and recommendations, and shared that it will take time to incorporate all the services that existed at Queensborough. Interim President Call also affirmed she had confidence that all will go well, because the College has a brilliant IT staff on board.
- Interim President Call reported that on November 22, 2010, the Board will consider at its fall meeting a recommendation by the Academic Senate Committee on Academic Policy, Program and Research to eliminate the College Proficiency (CPE) effective immediately, and that there is no plan to replace the exam at this time. The examination will no longer be used as a requirement for graduation, or for entrance to the senior colleges.
- Interim President Call urged everyone to review the e-mail sent by Mr. Quinton Gonjon concerning CUNY IT Security Policy, which is a series of recommendations regarding the danger of having certain sensitive information unprotected. The Senate was advised to have any data being transported off campus be encrypted to avoid any security breach.
- Interim President Call informed that Senate that there is a task force working on the QCC Five Year Technology Plan to identify the major themes that will direct the proposal for the Technology plan. Interim President Call acknowledged that she is appreciative of the work that is being done by the task force, and that by the end academic year the proposal will be presented. This process, the Interim President asserted has to do with the philosophical and the technical approach that QCC prioritize in the technology arena.

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- Interim President Call informed the Senate of a new concept to establish a CUNY Community College IRB which is expected to be piloted in spring 2011. This group will be comprised of two representatives from each of the six, and soon to be seven Community Colleges which will form the Community College IRB. All proposals for human subjects research will be processed through the CUNY IRB. Some have expressed reservations about their proposals being scrutinized by the Senior colleges and the fairness that will be extended. The two representatives from our campus will be Dr. Regina Rochford, from the Department of Basic Skills, and Dr. Regina Sullivan from the Department of Biological, Sciences and Geology. An evaluation will be conducted by the University by Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Small to determine if this is a more efficient and timely way to process the proposals for human subject research.

- Interim President Call pointed attention to the upcoming program and events:
 - Marching to the Freedom Dream, an extraordinary photographic chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march from Selma to Montgomery by Dan Budnick, a Life magazine photojournalist that will be on display through January 30th at the QCC Art Gallery. The exhibit is being featured on the College website.

 - Queensborough's Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center is featured in an exhibit by The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in the West 4th street station of the NYC subway. The photographs of our Center, designed by Charles Thanhauser of TEK.

 - Fall Presidential Lecture Series, scheduled for November 10, at 4:00PM in M-136 will present Mr. Hank Sheinkopf, political consultant and President of Sheinkopf Communications, speaking on "What is new in American Elections." Interim President Call thanked all who serve on the Presidential Lecture Committee – Dr. Traver, Dr. Mark Van Ells, and Dr. Karimi--Interim President Call invited all faculty, staff and students to attend.

- Interim President Call in addressing the status of the Budget, indicated that there is no additional information available, except that the University is working with the Governor elect in the hope that some adjustments will be made. The CUNY Board of Trustees Committee on Fiscal Affairs will recommend a 5% tuition increase for spring 2011 at the November Board meeting. There is a probability that there will be an increase in the fall, which could be challenging for the full-students. The University will plea for a more reasonable tuition increase which will close a \$1, 000,000 revenue gap which will help the college meet their obligations.

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IV. Senate Steering Committee:

- Interim President Call indicated that the University has a freeze in effect, but that it will not affect faculty positions at this point, but may affect part-time positions that many rely on to deliver student services.
- Chair Tai referred to her written report (Attachment C of the October 12, 2010 Agenda)
- Chair Tai began by bringing greetings from the University Faculty Senate to extend their gratitude to members of the Committee on Curriculum, together with Department Chairs, and members of the Faculty Executive Committee who conducted an analysis on various aspects of the Curriculum of the New Community College and provided their recommendations.
- Chair Tai indicated that there were two distinct items of importance in her report:
 - Firstly, Chair Tai presented a current draft of the resolution on the Compact to be addressed by the University Faculty Senate at the next UFS Plenary on November 16, 2010. This revised resolution represents the UFS Executive Committee's response to several items raised at last plenary about giving the Board of Trustees jurisdiction over tuition. In current budget crisis, the UFS Executive Committee believes that some contribution from students might be necessary..
 - Secondly, Chair Tai indicated that governance bodies of the College need to become more involved than they have been in consultation regarding the budget. The suggestions put forward were a) the establishing of a subcommittee of the CAPC Committee organizing a budget advisory committee to review numbers and make advisory comments b) formally constitute a Budget Advisory Committee as a subcommittee of the Academic senate. With various committee constituents, such as the FEC, and Committee of Chairs.
- Chair Tai invited comments.
- Dr. Pecorino responded that rather than moving to the above stated Committee of the Senate, an alternative plan could be the creation of a Special Committee with the constituencies that were outlined and after a 2-year period conduct a review of how well it served that purpose.
- Chair Tai thanked everyone for their comments.
- Interim President Call reminded everyone that the University Faculty Senate (UFS) minutes are contained in *Attachment – D*, along with information about policies adopted by the Board of

219 Trustees, as well as information about the November 2, 2010
220 meeting public hearing on November 15, 2010

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223 • Interim President call requested that the Senate resume vote on
224 adoption of the October Minutes, once all clickers were restored
225 to proper functioning.[See outcomes above].

226 **V. Monthly Reports of Standing Committees of the Academic Senate**

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228 • **Committee on Committees** - (Attachment E) – Accepted as Presented
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230 • **Committee on Curriculum** - (Attachment F) -- **RESOLUTION**

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232 Senator Aranzazu Borrachero presented the resolution for a new
233 course in the Department of Social Sciences.
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235 **I. New Course**

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237 **DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SCIENCES (1 Transfer Course)**

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239 **1. SS-197 Philosophy and Religion Liberal Arts and Sciences Transfer Course**

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241 This course provides a means for the Department of Social Sciences to award Liberal
242 Arts and Sciences transfer credit to philosophy and religion courses taken at another
243 college which do not match specific QCC courses. Credits will be awarded based on the
244 credits earned at the sending college and conditional upon approval by the academic
245 department.

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247 Rationale: This course would allow Queensborough to award transfer credit to
248 philosophy and religion courses taken at other colleges when a course is not a match in
249 content, but when the level and complexity of work for the course is at least comparable
250 to the level and complexity of similar courses in the relevant discipline at
251 Queensborough.

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259 • A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the new Course in the Department of
260 Social Sciences (Attachment –F of the November 9, 2010 Agenda). There were fifty-five positive
261 votes and one negative vote from Senator Haishen Yao.

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264 **VI. Annual Reports of Academic Senate Standing and Special Committees**

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266 • **Committee on Vendor Services** (Revised: Attachment G) Accepted as Presented

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268 Chair Tai informed the Senate that a revision was made
269 to the Committee on Vendor services to reflect Dr. Karini
270 was originally elected chair of this committee, but

271 compelled to resign when he was elected Chair of the
272 Department of Chemistry

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274 Old Business

275 Senator Stephanie Sandson, President of the Student
276 Government requested permission to address the
277 Senate. Her statement was as follows:
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279 I would like to thank you Dr. Call for giving me the opportunity to address the Academic Senate
280 today. After last month's Academic Senate Meeting, the Executive Board and I have had many
281 conversations regarding the vote on the smoking ban.

282 We would like to clarify exactly what we meant to communicate, and finish our statement on this
283 issue. From the perspective of many senators, the ban on smoking as it was proposed to the
284 senate last month was unanticipated. There wasn't time for any senator to survey their
285 constituency on the matter or to research the topic properly before voting on the community's
286 behalf. The debate and vote were emotionally charged, and in our opinion was rushed and could
287 not be accurate or representative. We did not have the feedback of the constituency that we are
288 charged to be representatives for, and therefore we feel that we have shortchanged the student
289 body.

290 What we as a Student Government wanted to convey to this body, before we were interrupted in
291 mid thought last month, was the fact that a policy or recommendation on a subject this emotional
292 needs time to sink in before a vote is held. We are currently in the process of discussing this
293 issue and expect that the Student Senate will also make a formal recommendation on this matter.
294 A matter this controversial requires objective assessment and proper debate. For a proper debate
295 to be held, all parties must be equipped with a level playing field. The professor presented an
296 emotional series of facts, but no one was readily prepared to present a comprehensive counter
297 argument.

298 We need to convey to this body, that we as a group are not in favor or against smoking we would
299 just like to make an informed decision. A postponement should have been made, so as to allow
300 every representative in this room, a chance to reflect on this issue and vote accordingly and in the
301 best interest of their constituency. How can this body pass a policy that does not take into
302 consideration an implementation plan? If faculty, staff and students must smoke off campus,
303 aren't we creating a situation where we are condemning the surrounding community to smoke
304 and cigarette butts? Are we placing ashtrays at the exits of the campus? Will the college
305 community be forced to walk through clouds of smoke upon the exit from the campus? Will
306 students be late for class? Will smokers start to illegally find places to smoke on campus,
307 bathrooms or rooftops? What will be the consequences to smokers caught breaking the ban?
308 Who will enforce this policy when we only have a limited number of public safety officers?
309 How do other CUNY colleges with similar campuses deal with this issue? What will be the
310 consequences? With all due respect, we do not think this debate has seen its end. Thank you.

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312 **VII. New Business**

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- Interim President Call's response:
 - "I have considered several issues raised by Senate members and other individuals which relate to the process followed at that October 12, 2010 meeting to present, consider and vote on the motion for a
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320 complete ban of smoking tobacco on the campus. As interim
321 President, I have chosen not to change the current restricted
322 smoking policy, as instituted by former President Marti in December
323 of 2009.

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325 The basis for Dr. Marti's action was his regard for the Academic
326 Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability
327 Issues report (attached), based on work by its members over several
328 months, including extensive research of the issues, examination of
329 existing policies within and outside CUNY, surveys of faculty, staff
330 and students, and strategies for an awareness and education
331 program to precede implementation of a restricted smoking policy fall
332 2010, to continue through this academic year, with a review of the
333 policy by its end. This report and related recommendations were
334 presented for consideration by the Academic Senate at its December
335 8, 2009 meeting. A vote was taken and recorded as *not approved*
336 with 32 in favor, 13 opposed and 4 abstentions.

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338 I note and respect strongly differing opinions on a smoking policy
339 held by colleagues on the faculty and staff as well as students. I also
340 note the University is formulating a proposal which may call for a
341 complete ban of all tobacco products on all CUNY campuses by Fall
342 2012. With that action pending, our current restricted smoking policy
343 will be reviewed after the spring 2011 semester, per the
344 recommendation of the Academic Senate Committee on
345 Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.”

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347 Chair Tai then rose to register a formal protest to President Call's
348 statement, indicating that, as the Academic Senate is the policy-
349 making body of the college, the vote to support a full ban of smoking
350 on campus should be considered ratified college policy.

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353 The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM

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357 Respectfully Submitted,

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359 Barbara Blake-Campbell, RN, PhD.(Secretary)
360 Steering Committee of the Academic Senate.