



**Report of the President
to the
Academic Senate**

September 10, 2013

Welcome Back to the faculty, and thank you to all the HEOs and staff who have made the launch to the academic year so successful!

- Enrollment update: All our divisions across the campus collaborate to support student retention and success. Thanks to their efforts, over 16,000 students have enrolled this semester, including almost 3500 new freshmen and over 900 new transfer students.
- Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty colleagues—28 in all, more than half of them with the Departments of English and Mathematics/Computer Science. As of this semester, we have 426 full time faculty lines—including 366 classroom faculty, as well as librarians, counselors and CLTs. Also, we send our best wishes to faculty colleagues who retired since last year: Helene Dunkelblau, Nancy Laurel Petterson, Manette Berlinger, Stan Garfunkel, Shailaja Nagarkatte, Alex Flamholtz, Dave Mc Cauley, Dee Springer, and Wolston Brown.

The academic year has begun with many changes:

- **The Queensborough Academies:** Launched in 2009, through a collaboration of Academic and Student Affairs to provide strong advisement and support services for first time full time freshmen, and enriched by the passion and commitment of many faculty to engage in High Impact Practices, the Freshmen Academies have been assessed over the last four years. The formal assessment protocol has yielded data on student retention, performance and recommendations from the faculty and staff who worked with them. The result was our decision to build on success and leverage our resources to scale up the Queensborough Academies beginning this semester to serve all full time degree students, from admission to graduation. Other changes implemented have been to adjust the scope of five academies, to re-structure academic advisement using a caseload approach which leverages our extensive resources and technology, to strengthen our outreach and intervention strategies, and to expand the high impact practices, led by our faculty--- which will now offer seven pedagogical approaches to engage students as active learners. The effects of these changes will be measured by a revised academies assessment protocol. Related to these efforts, there will be continued support for faculty development, pedagogical research, and presentations by faculty on their research

outcomes. Our adjunct faculty colleagues are welcomed and encouraged to participate in all aspects of these programs.

- Two major advances have debuted this fall, demonstrating the use of technology to facilitate communication and promote engagement with students and faculty and staff. The first is our new **WEBSITE** for academic programs/careers/ advisement/articulation www.qcc.cuny.edu/academics, a team effort led by Dean Arthur Corradetti, with Brian Kerr, Raj Vaswani, Dave Moretti and Jason Ano. The other major initiative is **STARFISH**, a comprehensive system which includes a feature to allow timely input about students by faculty, tracks the interventions recommended, and provides feedback to faculty on the outcomes of their referrals. We are very proud that QCC received one of 19 national grants from the Gates Foundation to support this initiative, designed and implemented by another great team: Emil Parrinello, Raj Vaswani and Ed Molina, under the leadership of Vice President Sherri Newcomb.
- Along with the expansion of the Academies Model and the High Impact Practices, a number of changes have been, and will be implemented in our organizational structure. As you may know, Dean Michele Cuomo has relocated to Pennsylvania with Montgomery County CC. For the fall semester, the Office of Academic Affairs will be headed by VP Karen Steele, with Dean Denise Ward, Dean Artie Corradetti and Mr. Bruce Naples. In addition, Dr. JaneE Hindman will continue as Director of CETL and lead faculty development activities in support of the high impact practices. Dr. Margot Edlin continues as a faculty fellow, with responsibilities for CUE, our remediation review, and USIP. Professor Glenn Burdi will continue as a co-chair of our Periodic Review, and serve as a faculty fellow, coordinating adjunct appointments, the OAA budget and summer/winter scholarships. Dr. Brian Kerr, who oversees our Articulation and Educational Partnerships, will take a lead with the development of our website for academic programs, and serve as OAA's chief liaison to Student Affairs for the Queensborough Academies.
- At this time, a search is underway for a Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Vice President Rosemary Zins will chair the search committee, which will include Vice President Karen Steele, three academic department chairpersons (Dr. Joe Culkin, representing liberal arts and science, Professor Georgia McGill, for fine and performing arts, and Professor Stu Asser representing career programs). Also serving is Professor Alex Tarasko, representing the Faculty Executive Committee, Ms. Shirley Chen, from Finance and Administration (and AA rep), Ms. Gisela Rivera representing Student Affairs, and Mr. Brian Farr, from Information Technology. With the posting to close in the next few weeks, our target is to hold interviews in October with the search committee, which would forward two or three finalists to meet with senior administrators, the academic department chairpersons as a group, representatives from our governance bodies, and with the campus community at large, including students, possibly in a "town hall" format. My hope is to appoint a Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for the spring semester. At that time, Vice President Steele will take the leadership of a

new division for Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Effectiveness with Dean Arthur Corradetti, Dr. Ian Beckford, and the Office of Institutional Research. The scope of this new division will include our strategic planning process, annual departmental reports, the Assessment Institute, General Education Assessment with faculty, Program Review, the Periodic Review, Accreditation, Retention (including the Starfish Project) and the Academy Assessment Protocol.

- To support student degree completion (graduation), *merit scholarships* are awarded to new freshmen and to continuing students. Also, summer scholarships are awarded to students who are within three/four credits of completing one half of their degree program in one calendar year. This semester, the scholarship program will be expanded to include winter session awards to January 2013 freshmen within a 3/4 credit course of completing 30 credits by the end of the fall term. Almost \$285,000 has been raised through donations and enterprise to award scholarships this academic year.
- We have been asked to collaborate on the creation of a new high school in Queens. It would have a curricular emphasis on technology and computer software/applications, and the unique feature of a partnership with SAP which will support the curriculum through mentorships and opportunities for experiential learning. Faculty in our Engineering Technology and Business Departments will have an opportunity to participate in curriculum and staff development for the new high school, expected to be opened next fall.

As a community, we share values of opportunity, excellence, and accountability. We collaborate on the evaluation of outcomes (teaching and learning), and build on our strengths and resources. We also learn from data which might yield less than ideal outcomes - and remain open to change. I am proud of our collective curiosity and the willingness to innovate for improvement. This year, our priorities will focus on the re-launching of the Queensborough Academies, activities and services to support students' academic performance, retention and graduation, faculty development, and of course, assessment. Another goal for 2013-14 is to organize programs to support leadership development among faculty, staff and students. As president, my commitment is to continue our traditions of support for a strong and engaged faculty, a student-centered learning environment, and community partnerships for education/cultural enrichment. I thank the QCC community for its work in support of these tenets.