

Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York

MINUTES
of the December 8, 2015
Academic Senate

President Diane Call called the fourth regularly scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate to order at **3:25 P.M.**

I. Attendance:

62 votes were recorded at the time attendance was taken; 65 members of the Academic Senate cast votes during the meeting.

Absentees: Isabella Lizzul, Georgina Colalillo, Joel Kuszai, Shele Bannon, Joan Dupre, Charles Neuman, Simran Kaur, Eileen White, Lana Zinger, Ann Tullio, Richard Tayson, Jodi-Ann Grant, Shriromani Sukhwa, and Asif Mobin.

II. Consideration of minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting of the Academic Senate:

A motion was made, seconded, and adopted 61-0-0 to approve the November 10, 2015 minutes as presented (see *Attachment A of the November 10, 2015 Agenda*).

III. Communications from President Call

President Call referred to her written report (*Attachment B of the December 8, 2015 Agenda*.) For the full report, visit: http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/December_2015/Attachment-B-Presidents-Report-Dec2015.pdf

The President indicated that in a current climate of anxiety, acts of kindness would be valued by students and colleagues. She reminded faculty that counseling services were available to students who might need them, and that Employee Support services were also available to faculty and staff. She urged faculty to look out for one another and students during a period of significant stress. President Call also indicated that a number Queensborough Community College faculty would be honored that evening at the Salute to Scholars Reception being held at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum. Among them would also be Professors Emily Tai and Paris Svoronos, for their work in mentoring Phi Theta Kappa Students, particularly Queensborough's four recent Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship winners.

IV. Senate Steering Committee Report

Chair Dr. Peter Bales referred to the written report (*Attachment C of the December 8, 2015 Agenda*). For the full report, visit: http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/governance/academicSenate/docs/ay2015-16/December_2015/Attachment-C-SteeringCommittee-Report-Dec2015.pdf

Dr. Bales responded to Dr. Clingan's query regarding whether the statement regarding Bullying on Campus had been sent to the Chancellor, and Dr. Bales replied that he believed it had been dispatched on November 28.

V. Monthly Reports of the Committees of the Academic Senate

Committee on Course and Standing (Attachment F)—RESOLUTION

56 Dr. Pecorino introduced the following resolution on behalf of the Committee on Course and Standing,
57 arguing that the practice indicated in the resolution had long been standard process, but had not been
58 codified:
59

60 **Preamble:**

61 The QCC Grade Appeal Process, although described in the College Catalogue/website, does not seem to
62 have ever been formally approved by the Academic Senate or any other Queensborough governance
63 body. The Academic Senate Steering Committee, in consultation with the Faculty Executive Committee,
64 requested that the following procedural change be considered by the Academic Senate Committee on
65 Course and Standing. That Committee did so and approved of the process as described below.
66

67 PROPOSED POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

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69 WHEREAS, CUNY leaves it to each unit to have a process for grade appeals and the changing of a
70 grade given by a member of the faculty; and
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72 WHEREAS, at QCC there has been a process in place as described in the College Catalogue/website;
73 and
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75 WHEREAS, that process now in place does not specify that both the student and faculty member
76 involved be informed of the formation of a grade appeal committee, or of their right to submit
77 testimony and documents to that committee and to be informed of the outcome of the grade
78 review process; and
79

80 WHEREAS, under the current process a student may have a grade changed by departmental grade
81 appeal committee and the instructor might not be informed nor given opportunity to present
82 relevant information to the departmental committee; and
83

84 WHEREAS, faculty deserve to be informed and to present their case for the grade they have assigned;
85 and
86

87 WHEREAS, both faculty and students deserve to learn of the outcome of this process; now, therefore, be
88 it
89

90 RESOLVED, That it shall be the policy of Queensborough Community College of the City University of
91 New York to have a Grade Appeal Process as follows:
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93
94 **Rationale:**
95 Students with questions about a grade should first discuss the reasons for the grade with the course
96 instructor. If their concerns are not resolved, then students are advised to consult with the chairperson of
97 the department. A formal request for an appeal of a course grade can be submitted in writing along with
98 copies of all relevant coursework to the departmental chairperson. A committee of three faculty members
99 (other than the course instructor) will review the student's work and make a determination about the
100 appropriate grade. The decision of the departmental appeals committee is final. The committee must ask
101 for and receive and consider all relevant information from both the student and the instructor. The final
102 decision must be communicated to both the student and the instructor.
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104 For Information Purposes: below is the current wording of the Grade Appeal Process

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106 Students with questions about a grade should first discuss the reasons for the grade with the course
107 instructor. If their concerns are not resolved, then students are advised to consult the chairperson of the
108 department. A formal request for an appeal of the course grade can be submitted in writing, along with
109 copies of all relevant coursework, to the departmental chairperson. A committee of three faculty
110 members (other than the course instructor) will review the student's work and make a determination about
111 the appropriate grade. The decision of the departmental appeals committee is final.

112 A motion was **made, seconded, and unanimously approved** to pass the resolution from the Committee
113 on Course and Standing.

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115 **Committee on Curriculum—RESOLUTION (Attachment G)**

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117 **1. Course Revision**

118 *DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY (Pre-requisite change)*

119
120 **FROM:**

121 BI-461 General Microbiology
122 4 credits. 2 lectures plus a mandatory 4 hour laboratory per week.
123 Pre-requisite: ~~BI-202 or BI-302~~

124
125 **TO:**

126 BI-461 General Microbiology
127 Pre-requisite: BI-201

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129 **Rationale:**

130 The change in the pre-requisite for the course is to make it compatible with the Public Health
131 Program.

132
133 A motion was **made, seconded, and approved** 63-0-0 to pass the BI-461 Course Revisions.

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135 **2. New course**

136 *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES*

137 PHIL-148 Public Health Ethics

138 3 class hours; 3 credits

139 Prerequisite: BE-122 (or 226), or satisfactory score on the CUNY/ACT Assessment Test.

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141 **Course Description:**

142 A consideration of the ethical implications of modern health research and practice. Topics include
143 professional versus universal ethics, the rights of current and future generations, Public Health
144 measures, truth and information in science, and public health policy.

145
146 **Rationale:**

147 Needed as part of an articulation agreement with Senior CUNY Colleges as part of the Public
148 Health Degree Program.

149
150 Departmental approval:

151 As of 11/16/2015, a majority of FT faculty members had approved the new course proposal,
152 PHIL148. The Social Sciences dept. curriculum committee approved it on 11-12-15

153
154 A motion was **made, seconded, and unanimously approved** to pass the PHIL-148 Course
155 Revisions.

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158 **VI. Old Business**

159 **1. A Letter to Governor Cuomo (Attachment H) was offered as follows by Dr. Bales on**
160 **behalf of the Steering Committee:**

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Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College of the City University of New York requests that you support New York State Senate Bill 218A (<http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2015/s281a>) and New York State Assembly Bill 5370A (<http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2015/A5370A>), legislation endorsing Maintenance of Effort funding for the City University of New York.

Our students represent the best and brightest of New York City's next generation: 42% of CUNY's students are the first in their families to attend college, and from households earning less than \$30,000 a year. The Maintenance of Effort Bill would provide funding for campuses to pay for heat, electricity, and other operating costs that would otherwise siphon off critical resources needed for educational services.

CUNY faculty, staff and administrators are an extraordinarily talented, deeply committed group of scholars and educators. It is devotion to our students and our belief in CUNY's historic mission that brings us to work every day, despite the challenges that diminished funding can often impose. We therefore urge you to join us in supporting our City University, by signing the Maintenance of Effort Bill.

Sincerely yours,

The Queensborough Community College Academic Senate

Dr. Bales indicated that it would have been better if all nineteen CUNY faculty/Shared governance bodies had endorsed similar letters. President Call indicated that the letter had her endorsement.

A motion was **made, seconded, and unanimously approved** to send the letter to Governor Cuomo.

2. **Dr. Belle Birchfield**, at President Call's invitation, reported on the progress of the B-Tech Curriculum, which apparently had instituted a felicitous curricular change through collaborative work with the secondary school faculty, that will involve students taking a Chemistry course before they take a college level laboratory science course.
3. **Resolution on creating a subcommittee of the Steering Committee to Address Hunger Issues Within The College Community**

A lengthy discussion on the original resolution opened with Dr. Bales indicating that a Subcommittee was being formed to respond to considerable concern over the food insecurity issue, expressed at a well-attended meeting on December 2, 2015.

**Resolution on creating a subcommittee of the steering committee
to address hunger issues within the College community**

WHEREAS, There are a significant number of members of the College community who are interested in pursuing the possibility of establishing a food pantry or program at this college; and

WHEREAS, There is support for moving forward with action on the part of the Academic Senate Steering Committee, Faculty Executive Committee, and Student Government Association, to address the possible need; now, therefore, be it

215 RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate create a sub-committee
216 with members from the various constituencies to examine the need for a program to address
217 hunger issues within the college community and, if needed, prepare a plan for how to
218 implement and sustain a program and submit it to the Academic Senate for the March, 2016
219 meeting

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221 Dr. Clingan then offered a substitute resolution, as follows:

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223 **Resolution to address hunger issues within the College community**

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226 WHEREAS, There are many members of the Queensborough community concerned about
227 hunger on campus who want to establish a food pantry or other program at the College; and
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229 WHEREAS, There is support for moving forward with action on the part of the Academic Senate
230 Steering Committee, Faculty Executive Committee, and Student Government Association, to
231 address the possible need; now, therefore, be it

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233 RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate acknowledges the willingness of the Newman Center to
234 establish a food center, encourages it, and that members of the community should direct people
235 in need to it as soon as it is up and running.

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238 Dr. Pecorino queried the purpose of the substitute motion and Dr. Clingan responded that it
239 represented a more efficient response to the problem; Dr. Jacobowitz indicated that it wasn't
240 clear that the Newman Center could respond adequately to the problem, given its responsibility to
241 the local diocese; Dr. Visoni indicated that Father Anthony Rosado had offered a viable solution
242 at the 12/2 meeting of food distribution through the Newman Center, and that the formation of a
243 Committee would impose an unnecessary delay. Dr. Traver indicated that food insecurity was a
244 systemic problem that could not be "solved" but might be addressed in a variety of constructive
245 ways, including a possible sandwich distribution, and other localized interventions; Dr. Rodgers
246 wondered if the Newman Center and the creation of a Food Insecurity Sub-Committee were
247 necessarily mutually exclusive options; which was a position supported by several other senators
248 (Drs. Culkin, Lieberman; Trujillo). A number of Senators expressed reservations, including Chair
249 McGill, who indicated that there was not clarity about the finding of the meeting on 12/2;
250 President Call who indicated that the extent of the food insecurity issue had not yet been fully
251 assessed; Professor Tarasko wondered if the students actually were interested in this issue, and
252 was assured by Student Association President Ricky Panyoti that they were. It was therefore
253 decided to amend both the original resolution, and Dr. Clingan's substitute resolution, by
254 combining them into the following resolution:

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256 **Resolution to address hunger issues within the College community**

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258 WHEREAS, There are many members of the College community concerned about
259 hunger on campus who want to establish a food pantry or program at the College; and
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261 WHEREAS, There is support for moving forward with action on the part of the Academic
262 Senate Steering Committee, Faculty Executive Committee, and Student Government
263 Association, to address the possible need; now, therefore, be it

264
265 RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee of the Academic Senate create a
266 subcommittee with members from the various constituencies to examine the need for a
267 program to address hunger issues within the college community and, if needed, prepare
268 a plan for how to implement and sustain a program and submit it to the Academic Senate
269 for the March, 2016 meeting.

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271 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate acknowledges the willingness of the
272 Newman Center to establish a food center, encourages it, and that members of the
273 community should direct people in need to it as soon as it is up and running.
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275 The question was called, and then the Resolution passed 41-7-4. No votes: Paul Marchese,
276 Stuart Asser, Kathleen Villani, Michel Hodge, Richard Yuster, Ricky Panayoty, Emil Parrinello.
277 Abstentions: Rosemary Zins, Anne Marie Menendez, Barbara Blake-Campbell, Alexandra
278 Tarasko. Did not vote: Monica Trujillo, Belle Birchfield, Reuvain Zahavy, Andrew Nguyen, Lin
279 Maan, Kelly Ford, Tawde Mangala, Edward Volchok, Julian Stark, George Muchita, Mariya Karisa
280 Picache, Tulasha Thapa, Maryam Hira.
281

282 **VII. New Business**

283 Dr. Steele provided an update on the General Education Assessment Task Force, informing the
284 Senate that a questionnaire would shortly be sent to faculty, and requesting participation.
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286 The meeting was adjourned at 4:39PM
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288 Respectfully Submitted,
289 Emily S. Tai and
290 Joel Kuszai
291 Vice-Chair, Steering Committee of the Academic Senate
292 Secretary, Steering Committee of the Academic Senate
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