# PROPOSAL for the QCC Academic Senate Consideration

Whereas; 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.*

Whereas; 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."*

Whereas, faculty need to communicate 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,

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.

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 "

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 June 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019:

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 permits members to opt out.
3. The "all faculty list" that permits members to opt out shall be moderated according to guidelines developed by a committee of three (College President or designee, Senate Steering Committee Chairperson or Designee, Chairperson of the Faculty Executive Committee or designee) who shall have authority to remove members of the list upon a second violation of the guidelines.
4. The guidelines that shall respect freedom of speech and academic freedom shall be submitted to the Academic Senate for its adoption no later than the Academic Senate meeting in May, 2019.
5. All faculty should have direct access to department email lists that shall be kept current by Department Chairpersons

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 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

==========================================

## Suggested QCC Guidelines for the use of QCC Computer Resources
The actual guidelines would be submitted by the May 2019 Senate meeting by the Moderation Panel (College President or designee, Senate Steering Committee Chairperson or Designee, Chairperson of the Faculty Executive Committee or designee)

The QCC Email System:
**<u>Must not be used in a manner that violate CUNY Policy,</u>**
**<u>Must not be used to attack individuals.</u>**

[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:*

i. *chain letters, virus hoaxes or other e-mail transmissions that potentially disrupt normal e-mail service;*

ii. *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;*

iii. *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*

iv. *downloading of large videos, films or similar media files for personal use*