

**Queensborough Community College  
Committee on Academic Freedom**

DATE: Spring 2011  
TO: Faculty Executive Committee  
FROM: Committee on Academic Freedom  
SUBJECT: Faculty Comments to the Press

On March 9<sup>th</sup> of last year, Ruth Griggs, the former Director of Marketing, forwarded a message by email to the QCC Community. In it she stated:

*“ Periodically, I like to remind the College community of the policy of the College that any and all inquiries or requests for statements from members of the press or unexpected campus visits from members of the press (i.e. a reporter from a newspaper, magazine, television or radio station, etc.) be immediately forwarded to this office – the Office of Marketing and Communications - to my attention or to the attention of Alice Doyle, Assistant Director of Public Relations. “*

We believe that the policy as stated in the March 9, 2010 email of Ruth Grigg’s is a potential violation of faculty academic freedom, especially if faculty members make it clear that they are speaking for themselves and that their viewpoints do not represent and should not be construed to represent that of Queensborough Community College – perhaps that should be the official policy, that any statements to the press be prefaced with such a comment. We do not find evidence of such a policy as adopted by the Academic Senate for the College. The Academic Senate has affirmed the College Policy on academic freedom three times, most recently within the last three years, and in this affirmation the idea that faculty may speak freely after indicating that they are not speaking for CUNY or QCC was included.