Queens College
Academic Senate
Technology and Library Committee

Meeting Date: December 10, 2008

Attendance

Members: E. Fernández, S. Shin, C. Vickery, S. Walters, and A. Ratner.
Ex Officio: N. Husain, K. Lord, and R. Shaddy.
Guest: Michael Miller (Library)

Call To Order, Approval Of Agenda, & Approval Of Previous Minutes

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm in the Chief Librarian's conference room. The agenda items were agreed upon, and the minutes of October 29, 2008 were approved.

Announcements

S. Walters will be replacing E. Fernández on the committee while she is on sabbatical next semester.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The committee discussed an email from Vivek Upadhyay, a former student member of this committee, and now working in the Advising Center. It was agreed to invite him to give a brief presentation at our next meeting.

The committee discussed our mission. Are there other entities on campus that should be represented on our committee? Should the committee's involvement with Library matters be separated out into a separate committee?

M. Miller briefed the committee on the upcoming demise of the Docutek system for managing electronic reserve material. It will be replaced by a module of similar functionality in the version of Blackboard that is in the process of being rolled out. The staff of the reserve library will provide guidance and assistance to faculty as they migrate material to the new system. The new system will exploit the Tech Fee-funded multimedia workstations on Level 1 of the library, as well as the existing scanners available throughout the campus. The transition is being coordinated with the involvement of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Assistant to the Provost for Educational Technology. The committee observed that the reduction of paper copies is an added benefit to the cost savings ("green is good").

The committee voted to recommend Carole S. Rhodes (SEYS) for membership on the Tech Fee Task Force (TFTF).

K. Lord will ask the Provost to clarify who is currently serving on TFTF and what the composition of that committee is actually supposed to be.

The committee discussed the draft of our "Teaching Online at Queens College" guidelines report previously circulated by email. An updated version incorporating points discussed will be circulated by email, and the committee members agreed to finalize this report to the Senate by the end of this semester.

N. Husain reported that the Queens College web site is currently being totally revamped, including a change to a new Content Management System. The transition involves a considerable amount of reorganization and it is not clear exactly how soon the new site will be ready.

N. Husain requested that all service requests go through the Help Desk so that OCT can monitor cases in which the Help Desk is not working correctly. He noted that in addition to the normal Help Desk access point, there is a finer-grained facility available at service.qc.cuny.edu.

K. Lord reported on the transition from Blackboard 6 to Blackboard 8. To avoid duplication, spring 2008 courses will be transferred automatically to the new system, but not courses that are currently active. Faculty will need to migrate fall 2008 course to the new system manually. The Turnitin system currently in use will be replaced by equivalent functionality in the new system. The licence for Turnitin expires on December 25. Blackboard 8 has fairly severe constraints on the size of files that can be uploaded to it. This should not be a problem, however, because large files should be linked from Blackboard rather than copied to it. Faculty will be provided guidance on the procedure to follow.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm. S. Walters will act as the convenor for our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Vickery
Recording Secretary