

# Academic Senate Technology and Library Committee Queens College of CUNY

**Minutes of the Meeting:** March 21, 2007

## ATTENDANCE

**Members:** E. Fernández, A. Love, C. Vickery, and J. Bearak.

**Ex Officio:** N. Husain, K. Lord, and R. Shaddy.

**Guests:** Jason Tougaw and Hong Shaddy

## CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

E. Fernández called the meeting to order at 3:30 in the Chief Librarian's conference room.

Minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2007 were amended to delete the sentence, "Also, the new education technologist is being hired, and is expected to start work March 1." from K. Lord's report. The minutes were then approved as amended.

## REPORTS

**Husain:** The CUNY IT Steering Committee has issued a set of guidelines for listservs hosted by CUNY. The major point is that each list must be "owned" by a person affiliated with the university.

When sending email to a mailing list, non-CUNY addresses should be entered using BCC to avoid backlogs of outgoing mail caused by remote spam gateways identifying the mail as spam and forcing CUNY servers to hold the mail for resend attempts. Chairs will be informed about this recommendation.

**Lord:** The distinction between an *educational technologist* (a person who provides technical support for instruction-related activities) and an *instructional designer* (a person whose expertise is in the area of teaching methodologies) is shaping the search for a staff person in Educational Technology. The search is now focusing on skills in the latter area rather than the former.

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

Most of the meeting was devoted to presentations by J. Tougaw on the Writing Across the Curriculum program's blogging initiative and technology workshops, and by H. Shaddy on developments related to The College's web site.

There are currently ten courses involved in the blogging initiative. Examples include E. Fernández' use of blogs for journals of fieldwork, J. Tougaw's use of blogs for writing about dreams, and E. Smaldone's incorporation of MIDI files into blogs. E. Fernández and J. Tougaw have been running a series of Teaching With Technology workshops ([http://blogs.qc.cuny.edu/blogs/0906N\\_1281/032/](http://blogs.qc.cuny.edu/blogs/0906N_1281/032/)) involving ten QC faculty and ten John Bowne High School faculty. The last workshop of the series will be April 18.

J. Tougaw noted that so far the approach to the use of technology in education has been a rather hit or miss endeavor to date and that it is time to move on to evaluating what techniques are actually effective.

There was a discussion about relating blogs to classroom experience as well as the status of wikis, discussion forums, and podcasts as educational devices on campus, including their integration with (or lack thereof) with Blackboard.

The College is in the process of making it easier for departments and individuals to manage their own sites on the college's server. The new servers are named *linaca1* and *linaca2*, both of which operate as the public *qcpages* server. Access to web sites is integrated with Active Desktop. Free utilities for manually transferring files to/from the *linaca* servers are publicly available: *winscp* for Windows and *fugu* for Macintosh.

The Queens College home page is "owned" by the Office of Communications (Maria Terrone). It is being redesigned to interoperate with OCT's Content Management System (CMS) so that non-technical people can manage their own web sites. A consultant has been hired to implement this new system using Microsoft technologies, notably *Sharepoint*. Rollout is scheduled for February 2008.

J. Bearak noted that The College's technology initiatives are not addressing students' immediate needs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher Vickery  
Recording Secretary