

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: December 1, 2025

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway in Room 24. President Donna Ramer called the meeting to order at 2:50p.m.

Council Members Present: Bob Belfort (via Zoom), Victor Brener, Karen Cullen, Peter Fleischman, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Stu Parker, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward, Tamara Weinberg.

Guest Present: Membership Committee Co-chair Lynn Vairo

Council Member Absent: Judy Winn

I. General Administration: Donna Ramer

- The visit from LP², CUNY's lifelong learning program, and the College of Staten Island's lifelong learning program to learn more about our program has been postponed.
- Donna asked if any committee liaisons had anything to report with respect to their committees and asked all liaisons to communicate with their committees and report on any issues at the February 2026 Council meeting. On behalf of the Technology Committee Victor said that CCNY may replace the projectors in Rooms 27 and 15-17.

II. Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC): Bob Gottfried

- Bob Gottfried reported that the NEC held its initial organization meeting and elected Tamara Weinberg as Chair. The committee will search for candidates for open officer and member-at-large seats and propose dates for the meet-the-candidate-forums and elections.
- As required by Quest bylaws, Donna will send membership a notice in January informing everyone of open Council vacancies and whom to contact if interested in running.

III. Treasurer's Report: Peter Fleischman

- Peter reviewed his 12-1-25 Treasurer's Report. As of November 29, 2025, Quest collected \$142,145 for this year's tuition, which compares favorably with the \$143,550 in membership fees that Quest budgeted for the entire fiscal year. Quest's current balance of approximately \$1,000,000 is healthy and will come down as expenses are incurred and paid throughout the academic year.

IV. Membership: Ruth Ward

- Ruth reported that Quest will have 267 active members as of December 2 and has several prospective members in the pipeline. Donna reminded Council that annual membership fees

for any member joining Quest from now until the end of the current academic year will be \$275.

V. Marketing and Communications (M&C): Donna Ramer

- Donna advised that the Committee is working on the Quest advertising poster that M&C Chair Maureen Berman mentioned at the Fall Membership meeting.

VI. New Business: Donna Ramer

Donna introduced the question of whether Council should propose to the membership increasing the membership cap, currently set at 270.

- Bob Gottfried explained the history of the 2019 membership vote on raising the cap, when the cap was raised from 260 to 270. He also explained the process to increase the cap as set by the bylaws, specifically that if Council votes to raise the cap, the president facilitates Q&A sessions with the full membership so members can raise related issues; the Q&A session is followed a few days later by a vote of the full membership.
- Council's discussion on raising the cap covered several issues, including the impact on on-site attendance and possible space constraints in the lunchroom and classrooms, the pros and cons of having qualified prospective members in the pipeline, and the benefits of adding enthusiastic new members willing to contribute to Quest's classes and activities.

Donna then asked Council, if it were to propose increasing the cap, by how much the cap should be increased. Council discussed increases ranging from 280-290.

- Bob Gottfried made a motion, seconded by Ruth, that Council recommend to the membership that the membership cap, currently at 270, be raised to 285. After discussion, Council approved the motion 8-2.
- Donna and Bob will work on next steps for arranging notices, information sessions, and election procedures in accordance with Bylaws V(B) Membership Resolutions and IX Membership Limit. The Q&A sessions and vote of the full membership is tentatively scheduled for mid-February 2026.

The next Council meeting will be at 25 Broadway on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 2:45 p.m.

Donna adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cullen, Secretary

Documents distributed at meeting: Agenda, 12-1-25 Treasurer's Report, Copy of Quest Bylaws Article IX Membership Limit and V(B) Membership Resolutions.