

Date: August 26, 2024

From: The QCC Chapter of the Professional Staff Congress, The QCC Faculty Executive Committee, and the QCC Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences

To: The QCC Academic Senate

Subject: Statement upon the death of Dr. Clara Wajngurt for adoption by the Academic Senate

The Academic Senate of Queensborough Community College of the City University of New York notes the passing of Dr. Clara Wajngurt.

Queensborough Community College is all the poorer with the absence of Clara Wajngurt from our community. Professor Clara Wajngurt received her bachelor's degree in mathematics and psychology from City College of New York/CUNY, her MA degree from Belfer Graduate School of Science and her PH.D degree from CUNY Graduate School in Algebraic Number Theory, subsequent thereto, becoming a member of the Queensborough Community College.

Over decades Clara served our students, our faculty and staff and even our administration and even colleagues across the university with her service and in particular through the Professional Staff Congress as well. She was passionate in helping others. She was supportive to her students. She was tremendously dedicated to working to prevent bullying and secure a safe and healthy workplace for all. She had served on numerous committees within her academic department and with the Academic Senate and with the College. She worked most visibly and persistently on the problem of Bullying at QCC and within CUNY. Clara Wajngurt served in her quiet way in various leadership positions giving guidance in accreditation, articulation, strategic planning, and affirmative action. Her experience as a grants officer was instrumental in getting grants in STEM and in developing an after-school science program for high school students.

Clara was identified through her unceasing efforts in service to all in our community to record and follow up on every sort of problem that any encountered with anything that would impact the health and safety of individuals and the community at large. She was known as the “go-to” person for filing a complaint or request.

Clara believed that when colleagues work together as a team they all move forward and with strong leadership and collaboration all work more effectively with one another and show appreciation for one another. Clara, friendly and respectful toward all, was appreciated for her talents and her willingness to help others, always willing to assist if she could do so. She took on difficult tasks without complaint and did not expect acknowledgment for what she did and for which she deserved much in return. Reluctant to ever criticize another, she was quick to forgive what slights may have come her way.

As the community grieves for the loss of Clara condolences are extended to her family. The estimate of the meaning of the loss of her presence will increase over time as her absence becomes increasingly sorely felt.