

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues  
Wednesday, September 28, 2016, Conference Room H324, 12:00 – 1:30

Present: Leah Anderst, Peter Bales, Sheila Beck, Jack Black, Sara Danzi Engoron, Bill Faulkner, Jon Funk, Ben Freier, Dominic Hull, Wei Lai, Mel Rodriguez, Mary Jane Shaw, Clara Wajngurt, Weier Ye

1. The meeting began at 12:00 and the minutes from the previous meeting of May 4, 2016 were approved.
2. It was clarified that the anti-bullying subcommittee has been moved to the Steering Committee.
3. Sara Danzi Engoron was elected Secretary of the committee.
4. The annual report was reviewed. There were no additional comments.
5. Mary Jane Shaw, Title 9 Coordinator, visited the committee meeting to discuss the new executive order from the NYC Mayor's office. The order designates the use of "all gender" uniform signage on campus single occupancy restrooms. This will also include signage inside restrooms that supports the use by anyone who identifies with the gender designated on the door. While it technically does not include CUNY, CUNY Central will comply with the order and QCC will implement the recommendation. Mary Jane Shaw and Jo Pantaleo will conduct training for implementation as necessary.
6. The committee discussed the issue of hallway crowding. Students must wait outside locked "smart classrooms" until their professor arrives and unlocks the door. The committee discussed the reason for the locked rooms and possible alternatives. These included designating a student ambassador from the incoming class to be responsible, locking the podium instead of the classroom door, and programming student cards to provide access to registered students. The committee agreed that labs should remain locked until the professor arrives. It was concluded that faculty members should discuss implementing an informal policy within their departments to make logical and practical arrangements between faculty members that are using the same classroom back to back. Podiums and many hallways are already monitored by surveillance cameras. Bill Faulkner said that all classrooms should be "smart rooms" by next year. For access to the rooms there is also a difference in the mechanism for "old" ID swipes and newer ones. New ones are programmed remotely while old ones are programmed at the door and may need battery replacements from time to time.
7. Peter Bales, Chair of the Steering Committee, attended the meeting with a request from the FEC. He delivered a list of questions for the committee to answer. These included:
  1. Water Quality: What are the results of the testing of the water available through fountains on campus? How often is it tested?
  2. Parking Availability: Can there be better enforcement of parking regulations and imposing of penalties for any and all violators in an effort to insure that non-authorized vehicles parking on campus is minimized? Can there be use of single day passes displayed on dashboards of vehicles granted permission for good reason to park on a single day? This would minimize the appearance of unauthorized parking.

3. Parking Authorization: Can the purchase of parking tags be accomplished and facilitated through use of credit cards? Can the purchase of parking tags take place via online means with delivery by mail?

4. Security: Can we have a description of the measures in place or to be put into effect for the security of video recordings being made by any and all units of the College?

These items were discussed by members of the committee. Leah Anderst and Dominic Hull volunteered to compose a response to the FEC.

8. The committee asked Bill Faulkner about the new Atrium and any safety issues that might exist. He explained that the concrete was slippery when wet and this was being addressed. Currently there are large mats to cover problematic areas and secondly, there will be sand blasting to rough-up the surface and prevent future problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Danzi Engoron