

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues
Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Room S424, 12:10 – 1:30

Present: Edward Davis, Sara Danzi Engoron, Bill Faulkner, Ben Freier, Jon Funk, Isabel Hocesvar, Dominic Hull, Patricia Kinneary, Wei Lai, Tony Monahan, Sherri Newcomb, Mel Rodriguez, John Triolo, Clara Wajngurt, Weier Ye

1. The meeting began at 12:20 and the minutes from the previous meeting of May 10, 2017 were approved.
2. Dominic circulated the Activities Form 2017-2018 for our Senate Committee. It was noted that the list of committee members needs to be updated on the document. Dominic will update the list with current committee members.
3. The committee reviewed the specific charges from the Steering Committee for the new academic year, which are listed on page 2 of the document and on our meeting agenda. They include:
 - Continue to discuss parking and transportation solutions
 - Advocate for larger inclusion bathroom signage
 - Continue to consider the best ways to address campus safety concerns
 - Advocate for a campus environment that communicates openness and trust to the student body
4. Discussion began with the first item on the list: Continue to discuss parking and transportation. The committee also referred to an email received from the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) regarding the parking issue. The FEC sent along several proposals to consider for resolving some of the parking issues and they were each discussed by this committee.

Responses are indicated below:

a/b. A higher fee for reserved parking for those individuals working Monday thru Friday all day was suggested.

The committee agreed that reserving spots for individuals would actually lead to fewer spots available for general parking and would only serve to make the problem worse.

c. It was suggested that lot #2 (between Science and Humanities) be reserved for faculty and staff, Monday thru Thursday from 7am to 2pm. After 2pm the lot would be open to anyone.

Lot #2 is a pay lot for anyone to use. Students use the lot as can anyone who is willing to pay for parking at \$2 per day. The committee has considered this option, as well as converting the lot to exclusive faculty and staff parking. However, leaving students with even less parking will only solve one problem and create another. Currently, anyone can use the lot if there are spots available. In addition, it was noted that taking lot #2 away from students would be contradictory to our 4th charge from the Steering committee, specifically to “advocate for a campus environment that communicates openness and trust to the student body.” The committee considered other options as well, including renting available parking space elsewhere for faculty and staff and using a shuttle bus to campus. The feasibility of securing parking space and the additional cost make this unlikely to work.

d. A reduced parking rate for adjuncts was suggested since they are not here as many hours.

The committee pointed out that the pay lot is available at \$2 per day and this may be a cheaper alternative than paying for annual parking. Many adjuncts have evening classes when more pay parking is available (Lot #1 in addition to #2 and #6).

e. It was suggested that vehicles from B&G that are not needed during the day be relocated so they don't use parking spaces that could be used by others.

This has been the policy and whenever possible, those vehicles are located in other areas around campus. College vans are kept on grassy areas and Bill Faulkner indicated that they will continue to monitor and enforce the situation.

f. The FEC requested that the College retains an engineer to review and assess the current parking resources for improvements.

The College is currently working with engineers to redo lot #1. The increased fee for parking will help to offset this cost. The lot will be resurfaced and all potential ways to add parking spots will be considered. This will include all of the suggestions from the FEC on this issue. Dominic Hull will respond to the FEC with our comments.

5. The committee briefly discussed the Clery Report. The document was made available to everyone in an email. The committee members will review the report before the next meeting and it will be discussed then.

6. Bathroom gender notification signs are up in all bathrooms on campus, but the committee was concerned that the signs are too small. Bill Faulkner agreed to look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Danzi Engoron