

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues
Wednesday, September 26, 2018, Room M255, 12:10 – 1:30

Present: Punita Bhansali, Sara Danzi Engoron (Chair), Noelia Diaz, Mel Rodriguez, Jon Funk, Tony Monahan, Edward Davis, Patricia Kinneary, Bill Faulkner, John Triolo

1. The meeting began at 12:20 pm
2. Sara Danzi introduced Dr. Punita Bhansali, faculty member from the Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, and new liaison for the Steering Committee.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting of May 16, 2018 were approved.
4. Sara Danzi reviewed the charges for the EQLD Committee from the Steering Committee.
5. Bill Faulkner provided an update on recent water testing. Water testing was completed in the summer of 2017. The testing company tests water at various and random locations in each building early in the morning. All of the water passed testing at that time. The testing company recommended that is not necessary to repeat water testing each year, but it should be done when water is restored after a major disruption. In the winter of 2018, the city shut down water on Enfield Place without notifying QCC and there was an unexpected disruption of water in the Medical Arts Building. Water testing was repeated in the Medical Arts Building. Water fountains all passed testing limits but there were reports of discolored water at one fountain. That fountain had an increase in copper levels and the fountain was closed. The plumbing in that fountain is currently undergoing replacement. Mr. Faulkner indicated that communication is an important part of maintaining facilities. If something needs correcting, it should be reported as soon as possible.
6. Bathroom Signage update: William Faulkner brought a mockup of the future sign The mock up is approximately twice as large as the existing sign with the same language. The committee agreed that the size of the new sign is appropriate. It was suggested that we should reconsider the placement of the sign. Currently, it is on the back of the restroom doors. It is only observed, if at all, when individuals are leaving the restroom. The suggestion was made to place the sign on the outside of the door, so that those using the restroom will feel welcome to do so. Mr. Faulkner will inquire about the proposed change of location and discuss with the committee at the next meeting.
7. Mr. Faulkner provided highlights of the changes in the newly renovated main parking lot. There was an email sent out to the campus community with this information as well. There are nine additional spaces with approximately an extra foot of space in each one. Better drainage for water was accomplished between the rows.
8. The committee discussed priorities for the new year, including some unfinished business from last year. We discussed recycling and hallway crowding and fire doors, issues from previous meetings. Dr. Danzi will follow up on the issue of fire doors in the Science Building. Doors may either be left open, or we can provide automatic doors to enable better flow in the hallways, especially for those in wheelchairs.

9. It was noted that almost all of the CUNY campuses have child care centers so that students can utilize either very low cost or free child care in order to continue their education. QCC does not currently have a child care center. The committee has decided to do some fact finding about pursuing this for QCC and will report back on next steps.

10. The Chair asked for nominations for secretary of the committee. There were no volunteers at this time and it was suggested that we revisit this at the next meeting when more members are present. Only six out of nine voting members were present.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Danzi Engoron, Chairperson