

Minutes for Meeting of Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues
November 18th, 2009

Present: Dion Pincus (chair), Pete Mauro (secretary), Alicia Sinclair, Mel Rodriguez

1. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2009 Meeting

Minutes approved

2. Review of Campus Smoking Policy survey results

It was agreed that the number of respondents to the Survey constituted a sufficient representation of the community. In general, results indicated that respondents favor some restrictions on smoking on campus but do not favor a total ban.

3. Deliberation on Recommendations to Academic Senate

a. Committee's determination regarding policy: the Committee discussed several possibilities for the implementation of a new smoking policy on campus.

b. Intent of policy: the Committee agreed that given the results of the Survey, a complete ban is not viable, but some restrictions may be put into place.

c. Scope of policy: ALL members of the community will be included in the policy including campus visitors.

d. Specifics of policy and scope: It was agreed that smoking should be banned near entrances and exits of all campus buildings. In addition, there should be no smoking at all in the courtyard of the Science Building, near the Childcare Center, on the elevated plaza in front of the gym, under the shelter at the bus stop, and all loading docks. It was also agreed that viable locations for smoking include the main quadrangle near the security kiosk.

e. Enforcement of policy: the policy should not be enforced by a sole agent, i.e., Office of Public Safety and Security. Rather, it should be enforced by the college community as a whole.

f. Timeline for implementation: an information campaign should be initiated in January 2010 and extend through the Spring 2010 semester. This would involve efforts on the part of Health Services and Student Government. This campaign should end July 2010. Actual implementation of the new policy would then begin in August 2010. The policy would have a two semester "pilot" run, after which time a new survey will be circulated in order to gauge public opinion regarding the viability of the new policy.

g. Resources required: extensive signage and an aggressive e-mail campaign, as well as a possible education campaign on the effects of smoking.

h. Coordination of implementation: Coordination of implementation of the information campaign should be undertaken by an ad hoc task force appointed by the Faculty Senate/Office of the President. The task force would consist of members chosen from Student Government, Health Services, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Finance & Administration.

4. Checklist

The Committee reviewed a checklist of concerns regarding implementation of any campus smoking policy. The following conclusions were reached: the campus will not be totally smoke-free; the new policy would apply to all members of the community including campus guests; no penalties would be incurred by those found in violation of the new policy; the new policy would be enforced by members of the college community at large; no adjudication processes are deemed necessary in relation to the new policy; and no new “dedicated spaces” for smoking have yet been established.

5. Upcoming charge

Materials pertaining to the Committee’s upcoming charge on parking services are forthcoming from FEC.

6. New Business

a. Mel Rodriguez reiterated CUNY’s protocol on manifest cases of H1N1. He explained that if a case of Swine Flu comes up among faculty, staff, or students, it should be immediately reported to Health Services. If it occurs after hours, it should be reported immediately to Security.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayes Peter Mauro, Secretary