

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, QUALITY OF LIFE AND DISABILITY ISSUES of the
ACADEMIC SENATE**

TO: Dr. Peter Bales, Chairperson, Academic Senate Steering Committee

FROM: Profs. Leah Anderst and Sebastian (Ben) Murolo, Co-Chairs, Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Committee on Environment Quality of Life and Disability Issues for September 2014-May 2015

DATE: June 8, 2015

Committee Members:

Prof. Leah Anderst, Co-Chair
Prof. Sebastian Murolo Co-Chair
Prof. Patricia Kinneary, Secretary
Prof. Sheila Beck, Member
Prof. Sara Danzi Engoron, Member
Prof. Jung Joon Lee, Member
Prof. Wei Lei, Member
Prof. Julia Rothenberg, Member
Prof. Weier Ye, Member

Aithne Bialo-Padin, Liaison to the Committee on Committees
Clara Wajngurt, Liaison to the Steering Committee
Vice-President William Faulkner, Liaison, President's Designee

Mr. Ben-Ami Freier, Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, Committee Liaison
Mr. Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety, Committee Liaison
Mr. Edward Locke, Office of Campus Safety, Committee Liaison
Ms. Isabel Hocesvar, R.N., Office of Health Services, Committee Liaison
Mr. Paul Tellers, Committee Liaison
Ms. Mary-Beth Shaw, Committee Liaison
Eber Blanco and Claudia Duran Garcia, Student Members

Number of Committee Meetings: The Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues met five times during the 2014-2015 academic year.

During 2014-2015, Vice President William Faulkner served as the President's Designee to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.

Space Allocation/Utilization/Facilities

Accessible Doors to Campus Buildings

Following discussion during the 2013-2014 academic year, the Health Services Center has been renovated with new pavement on its accessible entrance as well as new doors installed.

The committee discussed other accessible doors on campus that are occasionally non-functional due to overuse and increased wear and tear caused by much of the campus population making use of the automatic doors.

Mr. Ben-Ami Freier suggested that a special map of campus can be produced for students with Disabilities showing the locations of handicap accessible facilities as well as shortcuts.

Library Restrooms Accessibility:

The committee continued to discuss accessibility concerns with some stalls in the library bathrooms. The chair of the Library committee reached out to our committee in the fall of 2014 with this continuing concern. In spring 2015, VP Faulkner and Mr. Tellers shared the news that the college would use some funds initially earmarked for the QCC Art Gallery to renovate the library bathrooms so that they meet ADA requirements. The college has also received matching funds from CUNY to complete this work. These bathroom renovations are now in the design phase, and the project will begin shortly.

Parking Concerns

At our October 29th meeting, the committee discussed continuing parking concerns, and a discussion took place about the future possibility of a shuttle service connected to nearby train stations or to an off campus parking lot. There is a model of this now underway at Queens College, and VP Faulkner is in conversation with his counterpart at Queens College. Costs and feasibility of such a model have yet to be determined here at QCC. Eber Blanco, student representative to our committee, noted the problems for students who park on campus as well, especially as it relates to the visibility of parking spaces in lot six and to faculty having precedent in the student lots.

English Department Renovation and Faculty Space Allocation

During our final meeting of the year on May 21st 2015, the committee discussed the upcoming summer renovations to the main faculty offices in the English department and the different allocations and configurations of office spaces in departments across campus. Privacy, especially in conferencing with individual students and colleagues, is a concern for faculty in open plan office spaces, such as English, Foreign Languages, Academic Literacy, and Speech, and in smaller offices shared between two to four faculty members. The committee concluded that it will be important to continue to look into and spread awareness about privacy in shared work spaces across campus.

College Health and Environment Issues

Sustainability Resolution

On September 19, 2014, the committee co-chairs received from the Steering Committee, a Sustainability Resolution to discuss and vote on over the coming meetings. At our October 29th meeting, the committee discussed the resolution itself, the ways that the college might encourage and promote environmentally sustainable practices, as well as the college's progress on the Ten-Year Sustainability Plan, adopted in June 2010. At our November 26th meeting, the committee continued to discuss the resolution with several members sharing the ways that QCC already strives for environmental sustainability. The committee voted, 10-0, in favor of passing the Sustainability resolution.

Styrofoam

During the fall semester, our committee continued to discuss the use of Styrofoam in the food services facilities. In our first meeting of the spring 2015 semester, VP Faulkner reported that Metropolitan Foods, QCC's cafeteria supplier, agreed to discontinue usage of Styrofoam cups. Additional Styrofoam products such as plates and to-go containers, will also be eliminated in the future. New York City's mayor, Bill DiBlasio, has banned Styrofoam usage in the city, and according to the information from Metropolitan Foods, QCC will be in compliance with that ban.

Anti-Bullying Statement and Sub-Committee

A subcommittee of this committee on Anti-Bullying continued to meet over the course of this year, chaired by Clara Wajngurt. The subcommittee drafted an Anti-Bullying proposal, and at our October 29th meeting, discussion took place regarding whether the proposal should be focused on civility rather than anti-bullying. At our meeting of November 26th, it was reported that the subcommittee cannot propose an anti-bullying policy, as such policies must come from CUNY. The subcommittee presented a shorter anti-bullying statement at our March 11th meeting. This statement was discussed by the committee, and voted on. The committee unanimously voted in favor of the statement, which was subsequently passed by the faculty senate after a few amendments. The anti-bullying subcommittee will continue in the 2015-2016 academic year under Clara Wajngurt's chairship.

Safety and Security Issues

Annual Security Report

The annual security report was provided to the Committee at the October 29, 2014 meeting. Questions were previously raised as to why the reports had all zeros under the column, "Reported to NYPD" while there were indications of crimes on campus reported to QCC's Department of Public Safety. It was inferred that none of the criminal offenses were reported to the NYPD after their report to Public Safety. Ed Locke, the Director of Public Safety, clarified the report (described in the two paragraphs below) and further stated that all criminal offenses are reported to NYPD.

In accordance with the provisions of the Jeanne Clery Act, Queensborough Community College's Annual Security Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by Queensborough Community College; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters.

All major crimes are reported to the NYPD, to include sex offenses and aggravated assaults. The "reported to" category is how the crime is initially reported to a law enforcement agency by the victim. It does not refer to whether criminal reports are forwarded from the QCC Department of Public Safety to the NYPD. Most crimes are reported through our department and forwarded to NYPD as appropriate. However on a few occasions, persons go directly to the NYPD who then in turn report such occurrences to our department. Thus the "REPORTED TO: NYPD" category on the chart.

Another question was raised about allowing outside students on campus. Generally, CUNY policy limits outside students from coming onto campus. This is a CUNY template and changes to it are not permitted on our own volition.

Campus Security & Student ID Checks

On February 18, 2015, Professor Borrachero emailed the committee co-chairs to share with the committee an incident a student had reported to her involving students and a campus security ID check in the cafeteria of the Science building the day prior. The co-chairs communicated with Ed Locke, director of campus security, via email, and he provided some additional context about the ID check. During its subsequent meeting, the committee discussed the incident, QCC's open campus policy and security concerns, and suggestions were made to share with Ed Locke regarding making similar future ID checks.

Reports and Assessments Requested by the Committee

As part of this committee's stated charges, which include requesting and reviewing a variety of reports produced by offices throughout campus, committee members volunteered to request and review one or another report. Wei Lai reviewed a report produced by the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. Sara Danzi Engoron and Sheila Beck reviewed a number of reports from the Office of Budget, Finance, and Administration. Julia Rothenberg reviewed the Assessment of Affirmative Action, Pluralism, and Diversity Compliance. Jung Joon Lee reviewed the assessment of Marketing and Communications, and Weier Ye reviewed the annual security report provided by Ed Locke. For all of these reports and assessments, nothing was found by committee members to require discussion during committee meetings.

Recommendations for 2015-2016

The following are the members of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues for 2015-2016:

Prof. Leah Anderst, Co-Chair
Prof. Sebastian Murolo Co-Chair
Prof. Patricia Kinneary, Secretary
Prof. Sheila Beck, Member
Prof. Sara Danzi Engoron, Member
Prof. Dominic Hull, Member
Prof. Wei Lei, Member
Prof. Julia Rothenberg, Member
Prof. Weier Ye, Member

Prof. Clara Wajngurt, Liaison to the Steering Committee

Vice-President William Faulkner, Liaison, President's Designee

Mr. Ben-Ami Freier, Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, Committee Liaison

Mr. Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety, Committee Liaison

Mr. Edward Locke, Office of Campus Safety, Committee Liaison

Ms. Isabel Hocevar, R.N., Office of Health Services, Committee Liaison

Ms. Elizabeth Arcuri, Committee Liaison

Ms. Mary Beth Shaw, Title IX Officer, Committee Liaison

At our May 20, 2015 meeting, Profs. Leah Anderst and Sebastian Murolo were re-elected as Co-Chairs for 2015-2016 and Prof. Patricia Kinneary was re-elected Secretary.

Plans for the 2015-2016 academic year:

- to continue to consider issues of faculty space allocation and privacy
- to encourage the college to create a campus map for students with disabilities
- to develop ways to increase recycling and sustainability measures on the QCC campus
- to respond to the quality of life needs and queries of campus community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leah Anderst, Co-Chair
Sebastian Murolo, Co-Chair