

Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues
Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2009. 11:50 am – 1:00 pm

Present: Dion Pincus, Pete Mauro

Absent: Carol Soto, Alicia Sinclair, Patricia Spradley

Minutes

Item 1. Election of Officers.

Item tabled due to lack of quorum. Dion Pincus and Pete Mauro appointed temporary co-Chairs and Pete Mauro appointed temporary Secretary.

Item 2. Establishment of Meeting Schedule.

Item tabled due to lack of quorum.

Item 3. Review of Charge from Senate Steering Committee

Charge #1: fulfilled at final meeting last year (May 2009)

Charge #2: acting co-Chairs appointed today

Charge #3: acting Secretary appointed today

Item 4. Review of 2008-09 Annual Report to the Senate.

Unresolved issues:

2nd hand smoke: the Committee suggested that “polite” messages informing people of the dangers of smoking could be uploaded to all public digital screens around campus. Further, the digital screens may also be used to ask smokers to stand away from the immediate entrance ways into and out of campus buildings. Student involvement/ input on this issue was deemed helpful in terms of awareness and enforcement. It was suggested that smoking constitutes a “personal habit” rather than an aberrant behavior, and as such should not be formally legislated to or policed. Therefore, more informal methods would be preferable as a basis for establishing a campus-wide policy on smoking.

Bathroom access: an e-mail will be sent to Jim Fox of Campus Planning asking for the status of handicapped access to bathrooms L-110, G-204, and G-205. If these facilities are not found to be in compliance in terms of accessibility, the question should be raised of plans to have them modified so as to ensure compliance.

Item 4a. New plantings/ ecosystem

The Committee recommends that the MillionTrees plantings remain in ground due to the undue hardship in labor and costs for removal. However, the Committee will research the NYC Parks Department’s “Greenbelt Native Plant Center”, as suggested by Bio faculty, for further information on indigenous

plantings. It was also suggested that faculty members could write a grant for funds for new, indigenous plantings in the future. It was further suggested that it would be beneficial for faculty members in the Sciences to be involved in future acquisitions and plantings.

Item 5. Sub-committee assignments.

Dion Pincus: Sustainability and Health & Environmental Issues

Pete Mauro: Campus Safety & Security

Other positions still available for other members of the Committee

Item 6. New or emerging issues for Committee.

Item tabled due to lack of quorum.

Item 7. Methodology for information gathering.

Item discussed with respect to Dion and Pete's sub-committee assignments.

Again, other sub-committee positions remain open.

Item 8. Submission of minutes for Committee Review.

All minutes from meetings should be sent to Committee members and copied to concerned administrators within one week of meetings.

The meeting was concluded at 1:00 pm.

APPROVED: 10/7/09