

Minutes for Meeting of Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues. November 26th, 2014

Present: Leah Anderst, Sebastian Murolo, Julia Rothenberg, Jung Joon Lee, Sheila Beck, Weier Ye, Mel Rodriguez, Paul Tellers, Sara Danzi-Engoron, Clara Wajngurt, Patricia Kinneary, Claudia Duran Garcia, Wei Lai

I. Approval of Minutes of October 29th, 2014 Meeting Minutes Approved

II. Library Bathrooms and Accessibility Concerns: It was reported, via Helmut Loeffler, chair of the Library Committee, that improving accessibility to the library bathrooms to students with disabilities has become a priority. Money is available to make these improvements and this project will be starting soon. However, Paul Tellers reported that discussions are taking place as to whether the number of bathroom fixtures will have to be reduced or if the bathroom itself should be enlarged, which could potentially be a problem.

The Medical Arts building has a new bathroom accessible to students with disabilities and the Science building bathroom has been renovated and is now accessible to students with disabilities. The Science building bathroom will be open to students in January.

The Committee is not certain if this problem pertains to other bathrooms on campus or not. However, there are no reported complaints of inaccessibility to bathrooms in other buildings that the Committee is aware of.

III. Sustainability Resolution - Continued Discussion and Voting. Discussion continued regarding the Sustainability Resolution. Student representative, Claudia Duran Garcia, reported that a student Environmental Sustainability Club is being created and of the possibility of creating a student Sustainability Committee. Students are involved in internships with the Queens Botanical Garden, who are planning to come to QCC campus to propose a composting program.

Mel Rodriguez, Co-chair of Environmental Health and Safety, spoke of his department's outreach to students to involve them in campus sustainability. He mentioned the Service Learning Recycling Program and of having a table at the Earth Fair to encourage student participation.

Mr. Rodriguez also reported that the QCC custodial group uses green cleaning products and they consciously avoid using more toxic products.

Discussion took place regarding the Styrofoam coffee cups used on QCC campus. The Committee will follow up with Mr. Bill Faulkner who will investigate whether these cups are environmentally friendly.

The members of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues are in agreement that QCC is committed to having an environmentally sustainable campus. The Resolution was put to a vote and the Committee members voted 10 to 0 in favor of passing the Resolution.

IV. Anti-Bullying Sub-committee - Clara Wajngurt: Clara Wajngurt reported that Phil Pecorino, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, in discussion with the Vice Chancellor for legal affairs, Mr. Schaeffer, has established that QCC cannot have an anti-bullying policy on campus. QCC cannot make policy. Policy must come from CUNY. However, Peter Bales, Chair, Steering Committee of the Academic Senate suggested that an Anti-Bullying Statement can be created and placed in the college catalogue. The statement would address faculty to faculty bullying. Clara Wajngurt provided a copy of the Anti-Bullying Statement and reported that the Statement will soon be presented to the Anti-Bullying Committee.

It was also stated that if a hostile act should occur, and there are questions about it, the case would go before the FEC. In fact, the FEC is already undertaking this process.

It was also suggested that perhaps the anti-bullying statement will evolve into a civility statement.

V. Our Charges: Reports and Assessments Requesting for AY 14/15: Discussion took place regarding the charge of the Committee of Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues to request and review reports and assessments from various offices/committees. Members of the Committee were assigned to the charged reports and assessments and they will move forward with collecting the necessary data over the course of the 2014/2015 semester.

VI. New Business: Discussion took place regarding the need for shuttle and bus service from the college to LIRR station and the Flushing train station. This model is under way at Queens College. It was suggested that there are car pool programs on the QCC website for faculty and maybe students could look into a car pool program for themselves.

VII. Meeting adjourned.