

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

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

TO: Dr. Emily Tai, Chairperson, Academic Senate Steering Committee

FROM: Mangala Tawde and Elizabeth Bartels, 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 2013-- May 2014

DATE: September 16, 2014

Committee Members:

Prof. Mangala Tawde, Co-Chair
Prof. Elizabeth Bartels, Co-Chair
Prof. Julia Carroll, Member
Prof. Galatia Iakovou, Member
Prof. NamJong Moh, Member

Prof. Matt Lau, 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

Number of Committee Meetings: The Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues met four times during the 2013-2014 academic year.

During 2013-2014, 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

Health Services Ramp

It was brought to the attention of the committee that the Health Services Ramp needs to be repaved and have a railing installed. A discussion concerning this issue took place at our December 9, 2013 meeting. Mr. Paul Tellers, Facilities Planning Director, reported to the Committee that the ramp will be repaved and a railing installed in spring 2014. It was also noted by Mr. Tellers that two other approaches to Health Services exist, including an approach on the other side of the Health Services building that is flat and also accessible by vehicle.

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

Faculty Parking

In an effort to address frustration expressed by members of the Queensborough faculty and staff community, administration representatives Ed Locke, Paul Tellers, and Marc Carpentier discussed past efforts to expand parking at our October 2, 2013 meeting. The representatives explained that suggestions offered were researched in the past and proven unworkable. For example, a swipe system would create traffic backlog and there it would not be economically feasible to create a two-story lot. Another suggestion was the creation of spaces through angled spaces but this was diagrammed previously and shown to not expand the number of spaces.

Library Restrooms Accessibility:

It was brought to committee's attention that some of the stalls in Men's restrooms in QCC library are not accessible by handicapped students/staff due to insufficient clearing. Mr. Tellers informed that the issues will be looked into and suitable arrangements will be made.

College Health and Environment Issues

During 2013-2014, Mr. Mel Rodriguez, served as liaison to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.

Antibacterial Soaps

A concern was expressed about the safety of the use of antibacterial soaps on campus. Mr. Rodriguez reported at our March 5, 2014 meeting that the soaps being used in all soap dispensers on campus are non-antibacterial i.e. they do not contain chemicals such as Triclosan. The Hand-sanitizer stations do not contain antibacterial products like Triclosan in the hand-sanitizers as they contain mostly ethyl alcohol.

Styrofoam

In regard to concerns expressed by the QCC community on the usage of Styrofoam on campus, VP Faulkner reported that issue of Styrofoam use comes under the purview of Sustainability council and the council has "Elimination of Styrofoam" as one of its mission in its 10-year Campus Sustainability Plan. VP Faulkner also mentioned that he will talk to Metropolitan Foods about replacement of Styrofoam cups in campus cafeteria with non-hazardous non-Styrofoam cups.

Recycling

Mr. Rodriguez explained that custodians do separate regular waste from recycled waste materials. He indicated that this is why the trash bags are clear so that custodians can identify materials that are misplaced in their respective trash receptacles.

Bullying Policy

In fall 2013, Dr. Philip Pecorino requested that the Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues forward to the Academic Senate a proposal to address college bullying on campus. Dr. Pecorino's request was made in light of the recent revisions of the CUNY policy on workplace violence which excluded "psychological violence" from its definition. In spring 2013, Committee members voted to create an anti-bullying sub-committee for the 2013-2014 academic year. This sub-committee was charged with researching and potentially creating a resolution for the QCC Academic Senate suggesting approaches to address bullying in various forms within the QCC committee. Two out-going Committee members, Dr. Matt Lau and Dr. Joan Peterson, headed the sub-committee.

Dr. Lau presented at our March 5, 2014, a draft of the Anti-Bullying Policy for presentation to the Academic Senate that had been worked on by the Subcommittee. The draft was in need of revision by the Subcommittee. The Committee voted at our May 19, 2014 to continue the Anti-Bullying Sub-Committee in the 2014-2015 academic year.

The QCC Tobacco-Free Policy: Senate Resolution, QCC Implementation Plan, and Campus Resources

There were no problems reported with the Tobacco-Free Policy implementation at the Queensborough Campus reported to the Committee during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Recommendations for 2013-2014

The following are the members of the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues for 2013-2014:

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

Prof. Matt Lau, 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

At our May 19, 2014 meeting, Profs. Leah Anderst and Sebastian Murolo were elected Co-Chairs for 2014-2015 and Prof. Patricia Kinniary was elected Secretary.

Recommendations to Prof. Anderst and Prof. Murolo for year 2014-2015 would be—

- to continue to support and assist the work of the newly formed Sub-Committee on Anti-Bullying,
- to develop ways to increase recycling and sustainability measures on the QCC campus
- respond to the quality of life needs and queries of campus community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Bartels, Co-Chair
Mangala Tawde, Co-Chair