

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018, Room S424, 12:10 – 1:30

Present: Michael Betancur, Sheila Beck, Jack Black, Sara Danzi Engoron, Edward Davis, Bill Faulkner, Jon Funk, Carlos Herrera, Isabel Hocevar, Dominic Hull, Patricia Kinneary, Joel Kuszai, Tony Monahan, Phil Pecorino, Mel Rodriguez, Weier Ye, Clara Wajngurt

1. The meeting began at 12:20 and the minutes from the previous meeting of November 29, 2017 were approved.

2. Several guests were invited to the meeting to discuss the ongoing parking issue. Guests included Phil Pecorino from the Faculty Executive Committee, Joel Kuszai from the Academic Senate Steering Committee, and Michael Betancur from the Student Government Association. Bill Faulkner, Vice President for Finance and Administration is a standing member of the committee. The Chair, Dominic Hull, described the history of the committee's attempts to find solutions to the parking problem. The topic was then open for discussion.

Phil Pecorino appreciated the collaborative effort to work on the parking problem. It was noted that Bill Faulkner has responded favorably to all suggestions. Improvements have been made wherever possible. Plans are in place to renovate the main parking lot (#1) over the summer of 2018 and engineers will provide input to rearrange parking spaces to maximize coverage. A new protocol is in place for a trial run in to reduce congestion at the Kenilworth entrance to faculty parking and student lot #6. During prime time parking, faculty and staff should approach the lot from Enfield Place instead of Kenilworth where student cars line up waiting for parking spots to open.

Jack Black added that frequent visitors to the school are accommodated when requested and this requires some spots to be saved each morning. The idea of QCC shuttles from the LIRR or other trains was discussed again, but costs to students would be prohibitive. A suggestion was made to promote using city transportation for faculty and students whenever possible to "go green." There is no money for a multilevel parking structure and city administrators are trying to discourage individual car use.

A suggestion was made to allow all day parking once the parking fee is paid. Currently if the car leaves the lot and returns the same day, the fee has to be paid again.

Michael Betancur, the Student Government Association representative, shared ideas that the SGA is considering including surveying community residents to seek approval for increasing allowable parking time on the streets. A suggestion was made to discuss this with community leaders who deal with parking before going door to door as a safer and more effective approach. Bill Faulkner suggested speaking to VP Rosemary Zins who is a member of the community board. Ride sharing among students exists but safety is a concern.

Another suggestion was to increase the number of bike racks, which may encourage biking in better weather. The discussion concluded with encouraging words for future progress in whatever ways they are possible.

3. Isabel Hocevar was a guest at the meeting to discuss the hazardous conditions outside the Office of Health Services on Kenilworth Ave. Construction is causing safety concerns for visitors and employees using the facility. Bill Faulkner said the issue would be addressed.

4. The use of leaf blowers on campus was brought up for discussion. The leaf blowers are gas-powered and considered bad for both the environment and the users. Municipalities are moving toward the use

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of electric leaf blowers. This reduces any fumes and may be less noisy. Rechargeable leaf blowers may be more feasible than electric ones due to the size of the campus. This will be considered.

5. The current bathroom signage was briefly discussed. The signs, which support inclusion in bathroom use by individuals who identify with that gender designation, are extremely small. Bill Faulkner will follow up look into replacing signs with larger ones.

6. The next meeting of the committee will be in early to mid May. At that time, elections for Chair and Secretary of the committee will be held. Anyone interested in volunteering for either position should contact Dominic Hull, as he will be leaving the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Danzi Engoron