

The Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues

Progress Report to the Academic Senate on the Work of the Standing Committee, and Sub-Committee for Information and Educational Campaign (Campus “Restricted-Smoking” Policy)

1. Overview

The following members of the College community having been working to serve as the active membership of the Sub-Committee to the Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues to help implement the 6 month Information and Educational Campaign for the Campus Smoking Policy:

- Dean Arthur Perkins – Campus Facilities/Planning
- Prof. Michael Brozinsky – Math & Computer Sciences
- Ms. Isabel Hocevar (RN) – Health Services
- Mr. Carlos Herrera – Services for Students with Disabilities
- Prof. Georgina Colalillo – Nursing
- Dr. Laura Sabani – Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Prof. Andrea Salis – Physical Education & Dance
- Prof. Sandra Marcus – Library
- Mr. Roberto LoBianco – Student Government Secretary

2. The charge of the Sub-Committee

The charge of the Sub-Committee has been (as referenced by the President’s email of December 10th to the college community) to :

“... assist the administration in developing a six month smoking cessation program at the College, develop appropriate signage in the restricted areas on campus, including 25 feet from all entrances and doorways, including:

- The Science Building atrium/courtyard, outside the student cafeteria, **including the steps and the overhang**;
- The elevated plaza in front of the RFK Building/Gym;
- The Q27 bus stop shelter area;
- The area around loading docks and platforms, up to the campus property boundaries;
- The Holocaust Center’s elevated patio: “Sandy’s Terrace;”
- The entire perimeter around the Child Care Center, up to the campus property boundaries.

3. Joint activity of the Standing Committee and Sub-Committee

Dean Arthur Perkins, as chair of the Sub-Committee, has worked to liaise between its membership, and the membership of the Standing Committee. The Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues would like to report the following progress report to the Academic Senate on actions to-date:

Signage.

1. A proposal is being drafted for submission/ inclusion / consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting of the President's Cabinet, so that intentions, budget allocation and timeline issues can be shared. Highlights include:
 - a. Indications for smoking-restricted and no smoking areas will not be made visual by the use of painted lines.
 - b. Signage design and size has been discussed. Likely black lettering on brushed silver, with no smoking logo black and red.
 - c. Pricing of signs is underway.
 - d. Ordering of signs will occur in April; placement of signs will occur in May, before end of classes.
 - e. There will be 2 types of signs: "Smoke-Free Zone", and another indicating the 25' rule from building entrances.

2. The sub-committee, in accord with the Standing Committee, determined that the 25' rule should be extended to include the areas around the entire perimeters of all buildings.
 - a. A No Smoking Site Plan has been drafted by Dean Perkins indicating which type of sign would go where. The site plan will be disseminated in a later report.
 - b. Extending the 25' rule to include a 25' perimeter around every building leads to some new "Smoke-Free Zones" being identified. These new areas include the area of Spanish Steps which lead up to the Library, and the entire Upper Mall of the Student Union Building. Both of these areas are now added to the existing list of "Smoke-Free Zones".
 - c. The current draft layout of the No Smoking Site Plan illustrates how a 25' perimeter around each building interacts with all the other 25' perimeters; this now basically leaves only 4 "free" sites where smoking is NOT restricted. These "free" sites include: the Lower Mall area between Humanities and Library; the bridge leading to RFK/Gym; the Lower Lawn area uphill from the bus stop; and the Upper Lawn area in front of Oakland.
 - d. Standing ashtrays can be placed at points within those areas where smoking IS allowed.

Information/Educational Campaign.

1. Health Services, in conjunction with Student Government, are proceeding as indicated in an email to the President, members of his Cabinet, and the Committee, from Isabel Hocevar:

This is an update on Health Service's major role in its intensive Smoking Cessation campaign as part of Queensborough Community College's Restrictive Smoking Policy. From distributing free nicotine gum and patches to holding workshops and scheduling providers who can help counsel individuals on how to quit smoking. Health Services has increased its hours of nicotine distribution and counseling and are now available weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm.

In order to make information more accessible besides Tigermail, QCC Dialogue, digital signage, and announcements in ST-100 classes, Health Services has updated its webpage to include a Smoking Cessation

link that will be updated as new information and events become available. Right now, students, faculty and staff can check the website at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthServices> for events, workshops and other relevant health information. On this website, individuals can find important information and tips on how to quit smoking as well as outside references. Nicotine gum and patch distribution dates and times will be posted on this page as well. I am also in the process of writing an article for the next Communiqué release. We will continue to aid and support individuals on this endeavor and keep you and the community abreast of any new developments and challenges.

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) and Queensborough Community College Collaboration – Smoking Cessation Program

Currently, we have some great collaborations and smoking cessation events planned. Health Services has always worked closely with Dr. David Weisman from the Smoking Cessation Program at Elmhurst Hospital Center. This year, Elmhurst Hospital has agreed to expand its services as part of QCC's six month intensive smoking cessation program and the campus restricted smoking policy.

Dr. David Weisman has been on campus bimonthly since January assisting in Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) distribution and outreach. Participants will not only receive free nicotine patches or gum, but will also have access to the center's counseling services which include follow up counseling sessions face-to-face at the center or via phone. The smoking program at the hospital has a call center where participants can call during normal business hours Monday to Friday for support, or for after hours, participants can leave messages at the center and a representative will contact them. Dr. Weisman will continue to be on campus from 9:30 am to 2:30 am in the Humanities Quad (weather permitting, otherwise will be in the Science Lobby) on March 25, April 6, May 3, 18, June 3, 22 and July 8, 20. Dr. Weisman will also be present at the 50th Anniversary Freshman Academy for Health Related Sciences Wellness event in the Student Union from 10 am to 3 pm on April 16th.

For the first time, Rick Weisbrot, a licensed acupuncturist and massage therapist from Sport Time at Pro Health part of the LIJ Northshore System, will be offering his services on campus by appointment for smokers who wish to quit. For those who are interested in receiving Acupuncture therapy in an effort to quit smoking, Rick Weisbrot will have two sessions in Health Services. First one on March 25th from **4:00 pm to 6:00 pm** and the second on April 21st from **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**. **Registration is required for both sessions.** Please feel free to check out his website at rick@rickweisbrotacupuncture.com.

Health Services will continue to strive to encourage and support members of our community to quit smoking with an ultimate goal of a healthy smoke free campus.

2. Nursing faculty, in collaboration with Student Government, will be working on the process of disseminating information via email and digital signage about smoking cessation and other related activities, as the Campaign begins to advise the college community of the approach of the Smoking-Restricted Campus Policy's implementation by August.

Respectfully submitted,
The Senate Committee for Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues

Mr. Dion Pincus, Chair
Prof. Hayes Peter Mauro, Secretary
Prof. Alicia Sinclair, Member
Prof. Carol Soto, Member
Prof. Patricia Spradley, Member
Ms. Leen Feliciano, Member, Student Government
Ms. Esther Lee, Member, Student Club President

March 24, 2010