

**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:** Elizabeth Bartels and Matthew Lau, Co-Chairpersons, 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 2012-- May 2013

**DATE:** September 13, 2013

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**Committee Members:**

Prof. Elizabeth Bartels, Co-Chair  
Prof. Matthew Lau, Co-Chair  
Lect. Aithne Bialo-Padin, Member  
Prof. Galatia Iakovou, Member  
Prof. NamJong Moh, Member  
Prof. Joan Peterson, Member

Mr. Dion Pincus, Liaison to the Steering Committee  
Vice-President Sherri Newcomb, 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

**Number of Committee Meetings:** The Committee on Environment, Quality of Life and Disability Issues met four times during the 2012-2013 academic year.

## **Space Allocation/Utilization/Facilities**

During 2012-2013, Vice-President of Administration and Finance Sherri Newcomb served as the President's Designee to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.

### **College Projects**

#### **Scheduling Pattern**

The College continued to maximize the use of existing space to meet rising enrollment and a growing faculty and staff.

In particular, during 2012-2013 the college prepared to implement a new scheduling pattern for courses and space allocation. Under the new plan, scheduling will be streamlined to allow for better allocation of classroom space during both peak and non-peak hours in the week.

Co-chairs Bartels and Lau met with Vice-President Newcomb to discuss the new grid during the spring semester of 2013. She provided them with examples of how the new grid would be used by faculty and students.

The plan is set to take effect in fall 2013.

#### **Student Printing**

Vice President Sherri Newcomb shared with the Committee the College's plan to limit Queensborough students' printing allotment on library printers to 300 pages per semester. This plan entails the implementation of new library technology which utilizes student id cards for printer access. Vice President Newcomb reported that the reaction to the new technology from library staff, CLTs, and students was positive to date.

The Committee was in agreement with the student printing allotment plan.

## **Campus Safety and Security**

### **Annual Security Report**

During 2012-2013, Mr. Ed Locke, Director of Public Safety, served as liaison to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.

In fall 2013, Co-chairs Bartels and Lau met with Mr. Locke to discuss faculty concerns on how crimes on campus are reported to local law enforcement. The meeting was scheduled in response to Dr. Phil Pecorino's concern on how crimes are reported to the NYPD. It had appeared to Dr. Pecorino that in the Annual Security Report that some major crimes were not been reported to the NYPD by Public Safety. Mr. Locke explained in our meeting how the CUNY-wide standard terminology in the report had given rise to the misunderstanding. The phrase "reported to" was the source of the confusion. Mr. Locke clarified the matter in an email to Co-chairs Bartels and Lau. Quoting Mr. Locke's email,

**All major crimes are reported to the NYPD, as were the noted sex offenses and aggravated assaults. The "reported to" category is how the crime is initially reported to a law enforcement agency by the victim. It does not refer to our department reporting the crime to the NYPD. Almost all crimes are reported through our department and forwarded to NYPD as appropriate. However on a few occasions, persons go directly to the NYPD who then in turn report such occurrences to our department. Thus the "REPORTED TO: NYPD" category on the chart. (8/22/2013).**

The Committee accepted and appreciated Mr. Locke's explanation.

At a follow-up meeting with Mr. Locke in November 2012, Mr. Locke and Co-chairs Bartels and Lau discussed the idea of suggesting to CUNY central that the terminology on the CUNY crime statistics be updated to avoid future misunderstandings.

### Book Solicitors

In spring 2013, Committee member Dr. Joan Petersen expressed concern regarding book solicitors on campus. She stated in a (4/2/2013) email communication, "I am personally very opposed to this [book solicitors]-I would rather donate the books than have someone make a profit off of a book I didn't pay for. It seems these visits are becoming more frequent – in the week before the [spring] break I was visited separate times."

In response, Vice President Newcomb suggested at our May 2013 committee meeting that faculty call campus security in such cases.

## College Health and Environment Issues

During 2012-2013, Mr. Mel Rodriguez, served as liaison to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues. Mr. Rodriguez is the Director of Environmental Health and Safety at QCC.

### Campus Recycling

In spring 2013, Co-Chairs Dr. Lau and Dr. Bartels met with Mel Rodriguez and Dexter Williams, Senior Custodial Supervisor, to discuss faculty concerns expressed in QCC community email during late fall 2012. There was concern that recyclables were not being separated from regular trash by the custodial staff. An email communication (11/21/12) in QCC Community Dialogue by Dr. Eugene Harris initiated the discussion, "[T]he word I've heard from B&G is everything is dumped in the same place ultimately despite blue recycle bins as well as paper bins around campus."

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Williams explained that the custodians sort out recycling materials from the regular trash. It was explained that this was why there are clear plastic trash bags. The meeting discussants agreed that more recycling bins around campus would be helpful, as well as more public awareness on campus recycling efforts.

In an email on QCC community email, Joseph Cartolano, Chief Administrative Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, further addressed the issue:

**The custodial staff empties the paper recycle bins from offices and corridors into a 4 yard dumpster located outside each building. The 4 yard dumpsters are emptied every week. We recycle more than 140 cubic yards of office paper, newspaper, magazines, books and**

**cardboard every week. The 4 yard dumpsters are picked up on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The bottles and plastics are collected in clear plastic bags daily and put out for pick up. The NYC Department of Sanitation picks up the plastic bottles on Friday evening. We also have at least one 30 yard dumpster on campus at all times used to gather metal materials for recycling (we recycle hundreds of tons of metal annually). Composting of organic materials collected on campus is done behind lot 6. After the compost process is complete we use the material on the grass and plant material thru- out the campus. (11/21/2012)**

### 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 will be 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 member, Drs. Matt Lau Joan Peterson, agreed to head the sub-committee.

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

During fall 2012, the CUNY Tobacco-Free Policy went into effect at QCC. At present, the plan appears to be successful. CUNY's Mental Health and Wellness Services Department distributed an email survey to the CUNY-wide community in February 2013 regarding the policy's effectiveness. The results of this survey are pending publication.

Sherri Newcomb reported at the May 2013 Committee meeting that there was nearly universal compliance and no enforcement problems on the Queensborough campus.

### **Recommendations for 2013-2014**

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

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

Prof. Matt Lau, Liaison to the Steering Committee  
Vice-President Sherri Newcomb, 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 15, 2013 meeting, Drs. Mangala Tawde and Elizabeth Bartels were elected Co-Chairs for 2013-2014.

Recommendations to Drs. Tawde and Bartels for 2013-2014 would be to continue to monitor the tobacco cessation plan on the QCC campus, to support and assist the work of the newly formed Sub-Committee on Anti-Bullying, and to develop ways to increase recycling and sustainability measures on the QCC campus.