

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues
Wednesday December 16, 2015, 1-2:15pm - Library 3rd Floor

Present: Leah Anderst, Sebastian (Ben) Murolo, Dominic Hull, Weier Ye, Sheila Beck, Sara Danzi Engoron, Wei Lai, Julia Rothenberg, Clara Wajngurt, Isabel Hocevar, Bill Faulkner, Lt. Jack Black, Ben Freier, Mel Rodriguez

- I. The minutes of the previous meeting on November 18, 2015 were approved
- II. Lieutenant Jack Black, attending the meeting in place of Ed Locke, provided some background on and answered committee questions related to the most recent Clery Report. The Clery report, which all colleges and universities are required to produce and make available each year, provides numbers of crimes and certain other incidents reported to campus safety or to other offices on campus. Incidents off campus may also be included in the report if two or more members of the QCC community are involved. Lieutenant Black is our campus's Clery compliance officer.

The committee asked Lieutenant Black about the final page of the report which provides, in table format, numbers of reported and confirmed incidents. Committee members noted an increase in stalking incidents from 2013 and 2014. Lieutenant Black explained that this increase is likely due to a few things: the requirement to report stalking began in 2013; increased title IX training across the campus since then has made more students, faculty, and staff aware of reporting procedures; and increased use of social media among our community, students in particular, is resulting in more instances of stalking.

A committee member asked what stalking entails, and Lieutenant Black explained that it may begin when one student makes advances upon another student, is told that those advances are unwelcomed but continues making advances. Lieutenant Black also explained that the numbers in this report do not necessarily indicate criminal activities that have resulted in arrests. These are reported incidents that are investigated by public safety and determined to be founded reports.

A committee member inquired about the boundaries of our public safety jurisdiction, and Lieutenant Black explained that it's roughly two blocks beyond the perimeter of campus. Those boundaries become complicated by our proximity to two local public high schools. Public safety also seeks information from the local police precinct when creating the Clery report each year so that it can be determined whether any incidents reported to them should be included in our campus's report.

Related to stalking, Lieutenant Black encouraged us not to ask students to share their personal cell phone numbers or personal email addresses among the classes. Having this information can lead to students contacting each other in ways that may not be welcomed. He suggested that we rely on tigermail as well as blackboard if we want our students to stay in touch with each other outside of the classroom.

Copies of the complete Clery report are available on the website of campus safety as well as in hard copy at their office in the library building,

- III. Anti-bullying subcommittee and survey: Clara Wajngurt spoke to the committee regarding whether and how the anti-bullying subcommittee should proceed now that the Anti-bullying statement has been approved by the faculty senate and will be included in an updated version of the college catalogue.

The subcommittee created a survey that could be distributed to faculty and staff of the college via email. The survey asks faculty and staff to respond to questions related to bullying on campus and procedures for addressing incidents of bullying. The committee reviewed the survey and had some concerns with it. One member returned to the problem of defining bullying how without providing a definition, which our college cannot do, the survey is asking responders to comment on something without clearly explaining it. It was concluded that if a survey is to be sent to the college community, it should be created with the support of more groups than just the subcommittee or this senate committee, especially groups well versed in best practices for generating useable survey data.

Following this, the committee discussed the existing ways a staff member could attempt to report bullying. The present process may fall under the rubrics of workplace violence or affirmative action and involves going to one's supervisor and then to the office of Human Resources. A faculty or staff member could also get in touch with the PSC-CUNY, but the subcommittee would like to have a procedure in place on our own campus. Students facing bullying contact Brian Kerr or Michael Hodge.

The committee concluded that we will not move ahead with the survey, but that a closer look at the results of the COACH survey may provide information related to bullying on our campus.

- IV. New Business: Before the meeting adjourned, we briefly discussed roof access on the 5th floor of Humanities where a committee member recently reported seeing a student. Lt. Black explained that the doors to the roof are fire doors, so they cannot be locked. The community must be able to access the roof in an emergency, but if staff or faculty see a student going to the roof in a non-emergency situation, they can contact campus security.

- V. The meeting was adjourned.