

Academic Senate Committee on Computer Resources
Queensborough Community College
Fall 2016

To: Leah Anderst, chair of the Committee on the Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues

Issue: Response to memo on "hallway crowding between classes and fostering a culture of trust among students."

On November 15th, 2016, the committee on computer resources hosted a CLT forum to solicit responses regarding the environment committee's concerns about hallway safety and fostering trust between students and staff.

We circulated the memo from the environment committee and especially asked CLTs to focus on the possible options for mitigating these concerns. As the memo mentions:

"-Faculty work informally to become aware of the classes that precede and follow their own classes in order to communicate with other instructors regarding leaving doors open when students in the next class are present

-Create a locking mechanism for the podiums rather than the doors

-Instructors designate student ambassadors whose ID cards could open the doors to allow students to enter early."

VP Faulkner mentioned at the outset of our forum that a locking mechanism for podia was not a feasible option as the open design of the newer podia is not conducive to securing them, except at great expense.

As to the problem of students' access to rooms in the time between classes during peak hours, CLTs raised a number of concerns which I will attempt to summarize.

1. Anecdotally, a number of them spoke about incidents of theft, damage, and misbehavior (including play-fighting) among students who had been left in rooms unsupervised. It is difficult to say how frequently such events occur, but it is the opinion of some CLTs that they are not infrequent occurrences.
2. CLTs were in agreement that any and all lab classrooms should remain locked due to the hazardous materials in many of the labs, especially in Chemistry, Biology, and Engineering labs.
3. On the other hand, some seemed more open-minded about student access to rooms that only include podia. It was mentioned that cameras are already in place to monitor the podia rooms, although the cameras are not currently monitored in real time by staff.
4. CLTs expressed some skepticism about students feeling distrusted and the usefulness of more positive signage to promote good behavior in classrooms. They seemed to think that mentioning rules about lab room behavior in a syllabus would be more effective, along with more consistent enforcement from faculty of said rules.
5. Overall, the environment committee's other solutions of informal coordination and designating student ambassadors do not seem impossible in light of CLT input, so long as any plan for unlocking rooms during peak hours does not include laboratory classrooms.