

Overview and Status Report of Smoking-Restricted Campus Policy:
Queensborough Community College

A Response to the CUNY Tobacco Policy Advisory Committee's Open Letter

In response to CUNY Chancellor Goldstein's request for input into the review by the CUNY Tobacco Policy Advisory Committee of the current University smoking policy, the following overview and status report on Queensborough Community College's own "Smoking-Restricted Campus Policy" is respectfully presented for consideration.

1. Historical Overview

During FY 08-09, dialogue across the college community concerning the issue of second-hand smoke led to a call for exploration into the viability of establishing a campus policy on smoking. Purview for the task was relegated to Governance, with the college's Academic Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disabilities Issues taking the lead.

The 08-09 senate committee's charge could not be completed by the end of the fiscal year. But by the start of the Fall 2009 semester, the issue of smoking on campus, as well as exposure of non-smokers to second-hand smoke, gained increasing velocity through numerous animated discussions held through the QCC Online Community Dialogue, as well as other email and interpersonal venues.

Having inherited the charge of exploring options by which the needs and rights of smokers and non-smokers might be best reconciled, the members of the 09-10 Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disabilities Issues felt it was incumbent upon them to not only fulfill the examination of the issues and concerns of smoking on campus, but to submit for the consideration of the body of the Academic Senate a list of thoughtful and appropriate recommendations and rationale for their consideration.

Certainly profiting from the groundwork laid by the prior year's Senate Committee members, the 09-10 Senate Committee – in collaboration with the President's Designee to the Committee, as well as the director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and on Environment – met and communicated frequently over the Fall 2009 semester in order to complete its research, assess its findings, and determine appropriate recommendations for a course of action on the matter in as timely a fashion as possible.

2. The Approach of the Senate Committee

Apparent to the 2009-2010 Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disabilities Issues from the very outset was that a diverse campus community, comprised of over 16,000 students, faculty, and administrative and support staff, must characteristically exhibit diversity of opinion on matters which invite or suggest consideration of a campus-wide policy.

To that end, as the governance arm of the College charged with reviewing this matter, the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues sought to ensure that its objectivity in analyzing the

content of relevant documents, assessing its findings, and making recommendations remained balanced by, and married to, a healthy respect for the inclusion and consideration of the diversity of opinion across the many “stakeholders” – non-smokers and smokers alike – upon whom crafting any policy recommendation(s) for review by the Academic Senate (and, ultimately, the Office of the President) would impact.

3. Activities Conducted to Inform the Committee’s Recommendations

Prior to submitting a set of final recommendations to the full body of the Academic Senate for approval at its last session of the Fall 2009 semester, the following activities were conducted by the Committee:

- Formally met four times: on 9/17/2009, 10/7/2009, 10/21/2009, and 11/18/2009;
- Reviewed the 2008-2009 Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disabilities Issues’ Annual Report to the Senate (**Appendix 1: pgs. 6-13**);
- Reviewed a draft of Borough of Manhattan Community College’s and Kingsborough Community College’s “Smoking Policy”, as well as resultant achievements and/or problems (**Appendix 2: pgs. 14-15**);
- Reviewed CUNY Policy 4.6 on the prohibition of smoking inside facilities owned, leased or operated by the University (**Appendix 3: pg. 16**);
- Reviewed campus concerns/postings from QCC Community Dialogue emails;
- Reviewed documented concerns surrounding implementation of a smoking policy, i.e., extent of a policy (complete ban, partial restrictions, dedicated space), applicability of policy to faculty/staff/students/visitors, enforcement of policy/disciplinary actions, adjudication of disputes arising from policy, and practicality of establishing dedicated spaces (within **Appendix 1: pgs. 6-13**);
- Reviewed Smoking Policy Planning Handbooks from (collaborative) AK, MO, KA, NC and CA community colleges (**Appendix 4: pgs. 17-19**);
- Reviewed published Abstract: Texas Public Health, 2005, Student Smoking Behaviors (**Appendix 5: pg. 20**);
- Reviewed Northern Michigan University: 2008, Smoking Survey and Results (**Appendix 6: pgs. 21-27**);
- Reviewed Indiana University – Perdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Campus Smoking Survey (**Appendix 7: pg. 28**);
- Reviewed University of Minnesota Campus 2008 Smoking Survey and Results (**Appendix 8: pgs. 29-43**);
- Reviewed Rogue Community College: Smoking Survey and Results (**Appendix 9: pgs. 44-52**);
- Reviewed Newberry College’s Tobacco Prevention Policy/Guidebook, and Faculty, Staff and Student Pre- and Post-Survey Instruments (**Appendix 10: pgs. 53-61**);
- Reviewed the American College Health Association’s October 2009 recommendations on policies addressing tobacco use at colleges and universities (**Appendix 11: pgs. 62-64**);
- Delivered a Progress Report to the Academic Senate on the Issue of Developing a Campus Smoking Policy for its November 10th, 2009 session (**Appendix 12: pgs. 65-66**); and
- Conducted and assessed results from an online Smoking Policy Survey, distributed via email/Tigermail to Students, Faculty, and Administrative and Support Staff, so that a more representative sample of opinion from across all constituencies could be taken, and the more than 16,000 “stakeholders” on campus could be offered an opportunity for participatory

inclusion in the decision-making process as the Committee measured its potential policy recommendations (**Appendix 13: pgs. 67-69**).

The discussions/deliberations at the four meetings of the Committee focused on integrating aspects of relevant and appropriate information from all the above resources, as well as the contributions from students and student government, to determine the content and scope of recommendations to be submitted to the full body of the Academic Senate for consideration.

4. Conclusion/Recommendations of the Committee

As a result of the Committee's activities researching similar institutions' policies, surveying the campus' constituencies regarding the nature and scope of their concerns, and presenting interim reports to the body of the Academic Senate, the following set of final recommendations – completed in November 2009, complete with attachments to document and support the Committee's rationale – was submitted to the Academic Senate Steering Committee for initial review, after which the entire document was then placed on the agenda for the Academic Senate's December 2009 session for discussion and a vote to approve/disapprove:

Whereas, there has been raised, through the venues of the QCC Community Dialogue, as well as other email and personal exchanges, both prior and current concerns surrounding the issue of exposure of non-smokers to second hand smoke, as well as smoking in general on campus, particularly regarding, but not exclusive to, a) second-hand smoke exposure generated by smokers congregating by entrance and exit doorways of buildings, or below or adjacent to building windows and vents; and b) second-hand smoke entering through classroom and office windows of buildings which encase common areas where smokers congregate, i.e., the Science Building's encasement of the open courtyard outside the student cafeteria;

Whereas, a study of the issues and concerns involving smoking on campus, the impact of second-hand smoke on non-smokers, and the freedoms of smokers, as well as recommendations for reconciliation/resolution of these issues and concerns, has been given as a charge by the Academic Senate Steering Committee to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues;

Whereas, the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues feels it has adequately completed its evidentiary review, inclusive of: a) documents and planning handbooks generated by this campus, other CUNY campuses, the University, and/or other colleges and universities, which identified areas of success and limitations surrounding establishing a campus smoking policy; b) survey data gathered over 10 days, sampling the opinions of 1,053 students, faculty, and administrative and support staff members on the question of the desirability of establishing a campus smoking policy; and c) campus concerns surrounding the mechanics of implementing such a policy, i.e., the extent of a policy (complete ban, partial restrictions, dedicated space), the applicability of policy to faculty / staff / students / visitors, the enforcement of policy/disciplinary actions, the adjudication of disputes arising from policy, and the feasibility of establishing dedicated spaces;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues makes the following recommendations concerning a QCC Campus Policy on Smoking for review and approval by the members of the Academic Senate, and thereafter, the Office of the President:

Recommendations

1. Committee's recommendations regarding the Creation of a New Campus Smoking Policy.
 - a. It is the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues that CUNY Policy 4.6, SMOKING BAN (BTM,1994,09-29,005,_A), and the current Smoking Policy of the University, approved by the Council of Presidents at its meeting of 7 May 1990, which prohibited smoking in over ninety percent of the space in campus buildings—including classrooms, auditoriums, elevators, hallways, restrooms, and other common areas—shall remain in effect;
 - b. It is the further recommendation of the Committee that recommendation 1a (above) be augmented in its application to the QCC campus and that **a new Campus Smoking Policy be implemented, and Queensborough Community College be newly established as a "Smoking-Restricted Campus"**.
2. Committee's recommendations regarding the Intent of a Campus Smoking Policy.
 - a. It is the recommendation of the Committee that **the intent of this proposed policy be to restrict, rather than ban smoking on campus** and, in this way, reconcile the rights of smokers with the impact of second-hand smoke on the rights of non-smokers;
 - b. It is the further recommendation of the Committee that the implementation of a QCC "Smoking-Restricted" Campus Smoking Policy be **preceded by a robust information and educational campaign**, so as to make the college community aware of any coming changes and restrictions, and to make available to the college community relevant informational resources—including ongoing smoking cessation opportunities—**6 months prior to the implementation of the proposed Campus Smoking Policy.**
3. Committee's recommendations regarding the Scope of a Campus Smoking Policy.
 - a. It is the recommendation of the Committee that the **Scope of this proposed policy be fully applicable to all persons in the employ and/or on the grounds of the campus**, including students, faculty, administrative and support staff members, and visitors;

- b. It is the further recommendation of the Committee that the proposed Campus Smoking Policy **define a “Smoking-Restricted Campus” as one in which smoking would not be prohibited on the entire grounds, but which would identify “Restricted” areas on campus where no smoking would be allowed.**
4. Committee’s recommendations regarding Identification of “Smoking-Restricted” areas on campus where no smoking would be allowed.
 - a. It is the recommendation of the Committee that the **“Restricted” areas on campus** where no smoking would be allowed include:
 - An area of **25 feet from all entrances, exits and other doorways** leading to or from buildings; **and additionally,**
 - i. The Science Building atrium/courtyard, outside the student cafeteria;
 - ii. The elevated plaza in front of the RFK Building/gym;
 - iii. The Q27 bus stop shelter area;
 - iv. The area around loading docks and platforms, up to the campus property boundaries;
 - v. The Holocaust Center’s elevated patio: “Sandy’s Terrace”;
 - vi. The entire perimeter around the Child Care Center, up to the campus property boundaries.
 - b. It is the further recommendation of the Committee that **evident and plentiful signage be placed at all of the areas identified in 4a (above)**, clearly indicating their “Smoking-Restricted” status; and that all **digital signage and LCD scrolls across the campus be programmed to advertise the proposed policy** as well as the “Smoking-Restricted” areas.
5. Committee’s recommendations regarding Enforcement of a Campus Smoking Policy.
 - a. It is the recommendation of the Committee that **“enforcement” – the monitoring of compliance with this proposed policy – be a self-regulation mechanism, the responsibility of all members of the college community**, rather than any one designated agent such as the Office of Public Safety and Security;
 - b. Based on a review of “enforcement” practices for similar policies implemented at similar institutions, attempts at installing disciplinary actions for non-compliance – and with them, the concomitant need for adjudication procedures for disputes arising from disciplinary actions – have proven impractical, functioning less as a safeguard of deterrence and more as an administrative morass; and so it is the further recommendation of the Committee that **establishing disciplinary procedures for non-compliance with this proposed policy be rejected**

in favor of the members of the college community taking it upon themselves to collectively and collaboratively support the policy and thoughtfully and respectfully manage it;

- c. It is the final recommendation of the Committee that 5b (above) be accomplished through **consistency in delivery and frequency of communication efforts, by and across members of the college community** – including the Office of the President, his cabinet and deans, academic department chairs, department heads and supervisors, the Offices of Student Activities and Student Government, the Office of Public Safety and Security Campus Security, and students, faculty, and administrative and support staff members –to inform one another, early and often, of the changes this policy brings, and to respectfully encourage one another to stay compliant.

6. Committee’s recommendations regarding Implementation Timeline for a Campus Smoking Policy.

- a. As it is the recommendation of the Committee in section 2b of this report that a Campus Smoking Policy be preceded by **a robust information and educational campaign 6 months prior to implementation**, the Committee further recommends that:
 - i. **An information and educational campaign** – comprised of such elements as distributing **email and digital signage** announcements to the college community; making **announcements** at student, faculty, and administrative and support staff orientations, convocations, and other oral or written forums; readying the design, purchasing and placement of **signage indicating the “25-foot rule” and “Smoking-Restricted” areas on campus**; and conducting **smoking cessation activities and opportunities**, led by Health Services and in collaboration with Student Activities and appropriate or interested academic departments – be conducted for a 6-month period, **from January 2010 to July 2010**;
 - ii. The proposed **Campus Smoking Policy and its restrictions be fully implemented in August 2010.**

7. Committee’s recommendations regarding Coordination of Implementation of a Campus Smoking Policy.

- a. It is the recommendation of the Committee that **coordination for the implementation of the information and educational campaign**, leading up to the implementation of the proposed campus smoking policy, be overseen by an **ad-hoc Task Force**, with members chosen to serve as approved by the Office of the President;
- b. It is the further recommendation of the Committee that this **ad-hoc Task Force be comprised of members of the faculty, administrative and support staff, the student body, and administration**, and that these designees be chosen to best effect the coordination of efforts and resources across the Offices of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Finance and Administration;

- c. It is the final recommendation of the Committee that the **Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues members will be available and act in an advisory capacity** to the members of the ad-hoc Task Force, as requested.

8. Committee’s recommendations regarding Evaluation of a Campus Smoking Policy.

- The Committee deliberated with full awareness that the breadth of the recommendations as set forth in sections 1 – 7 of this report may fall short for some, and seem too cumbersome for others; and so it is the recommendation of the Committee that a **post-survey on the effectiveness of and satisfaction with the proposed policy be distributed after 2 semesters of full implementation**, at which time the Committee will re-visit its original recommendations and assess whether any amendments are appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dion Pincus, Committee Chair, HEO
Hayes Peter Mauro, Committee Secretary, Faculty
Alicia Sinclair, Committee Member, Faculty
Carol Soto, Committee Member, Faculty
Patricia Spradley, Committee Member, Faculty
Leen Feliciano, Committee Member, Student
Esther Lee, Committee Member, Student

Advisory to the Committee:

Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety liaison
Diane Call, Acting Provost/Sr. VP, President’s Designee to the Committee

11/19/09

The lengthy list of attached documentation to the Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues’ final recommendations can be accessed via the Committee’s 2009 “Documents” webpage (specifically, pgs. 6 – 70), found at the following URL on the QCC Governance website:

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Governance/AcademicSenate/CEQD/docs/November09--Final-Report-on-Recommendations-to-Senate--Committee-on-Environment.pdf>

5. Outcome of December 2009 Session Of the Academic Senate

At the Academic Senate meeting on December 8, 2009, the final recommendations by the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues' to the Academic Senate regarding the issue of a campus smoking policy was introduced.

The vote by the Senate to approve the Committee's recommendations was 32 in favor, 13 opposed, and 4 abstentions. Due to the vote being placed as the last item on the Senate's agenda, a significant number of voting members had to leave before the vote was taken. Of the 49 voting members who remained, the 32 who affirmed the recommendations did not constitute a large enough number out of the entirety of the Senate membership to approve the recommendation. In light of the circumstances, Dr. Eduardo Marti, as President of the College, chose to exercise his authority to institute a smoking-restricted policy for the college.

6. Actions Directed by Presidential Order

Following the December 8, 2009 session of the Academic Senate, President Marti, in an email to the college community, directed the following:

- That the Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues create a **sub-committee** (rather than form an "ad-hoc Task Force") 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:
 - a. The Science Building atrium/courtyard, outside the student cafeteria, **including the steps and the overhang**;
 - b. The elevated plaza in front of the RFK Building/Gym;
 - c. The Q27 bus stop shelter area;
 - d. The area around loading docks and platforms, up to the campus property boundaries;
 - e. The Holocaust Center's elevated patio: "Sandy's Terrace"; and
 - f. The entire perimeter around the Child Care Center, up to the campus property boundaries.
- That the Committee's recommendation that "enforcement be a self-regulation mechanism, the responsibility of *all* members of the College community" be accepted.
- That the Committee's recommendation that a robust information and educational campaign commence by January 25, 2010, be accepted; and that the sub-committee of the Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues meet with Acting Provost/Sr. Vice President Diane Call and Vice President Ellen Hartigan and their staffs to design the informational and educational campaign, e-mail and digital signage announcements, the announcements to be used at student, faculty and administrative and support staff meetings, design signage indicating the 25 foot rule and "smoking area restricted" and determine appropriate placement of such signage.

- That the Committee’s recommendation that the Office of Health Services conduct a six month intensive smoking cessation program, be accepted.
- That the campus smoking-restricted policy be fully implemented by August 2010.

**7. Status Report on Activities Conducted
Between January 1 and August 30, 2010**

January 2010 to March 2010:

- A sub-committee of the Standing Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues was formed, comprised of members of the faculty, administrative and support staff, and students.
- The sub-committee, chaired by the Dean for Campus Facilities, Planning, Design and Construction, met several times, both with the members of the standing committee, and on their own.
- A plan was formulated to review the layout of campus facilities, relative to the “25-foot rule” and proposed “Smoke-Free Zones”, to design appropriate signage, assess costs, and determine optimal placement.
- Led by the Office of Health Services, smoking cessation activities including the distribution of nicotine patches and gum, as well as invitations to schedule appointments with a licensed acupuncturist and massage therapist in a collaborative effort with Long Island Jewish Hospital, were implemented on campus on a bi-weekly basis; and information dissemination on smoking cessation resources was conducted on an ongoing basis.

April 2010 to July 2010

- Following the departure from the college of President Marti , who assumed a new position at the University as Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, Provost/Sr. Vice President Diane Bova Call assumes the responsibilities of chief executive as Interim President of the College. The campus’ smoking-restricted policy now becomes Interim President Call’s policy.
- Members of the college community were invited to attend a free webinar entitled “Creating a Smoke-Free Campus: Lessons Learned”.
- The Office of Health Services updated its webpage to include a Smoking Cessation link (<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthServices/smokingCessation.asp>) that is updated as new health information, workshops, and other relevant events become available.

- Signage indicating “No Smoking Within 25 Feet of Building” and “Smoke Free Zone” was purchased, delivered and mounted in appropriate areas, per the sub-committee’s plan.

August 2010

- Email was and will continue to be sent out on a bi-weekly basis (until November 2010) to all members of faculty and administrative and support staff alerting them to the new signage and informing them that the smoking-restricted campus policy is officially in effect as of August 26, 2010 – aligned with start of Fall classes.
- Tigermail (student email) was distributed both before the start of classes, and during the first week of classes to all students alerting them to the new signage and informing them that the smoking-restricted campus policy is officially in effect as of August 26, 2010.
- Sandwich board signs were created and strategically placed in areas on campus designated as “Smoke-Free Zones”.
- Three separate digital signs informing the college community about the college’s new smoking-restricted policy were created and uploaded into the rotation of the campus’ digital signage queue.
- Information about the campus’ smoking-restricted policy was disseminated to students at New Student / Freshman Academy orientations, and will also be reinforced by Counseling faculty during Fall 2010 as part of students’ ST-100 classes (Introduction to College Life).
- Any signage which was defaced was promptly replaced.

8. Synopsis of Reactions of the College Community to the Implementation of the Campus’ Smoking-Restricted Policy

Although preparations for signage and dissemination, and smoking cessation activities were being conducted during the summer months of 2010, the campus’ smoking-restricted policy has only “officially” been in effect since August 26, 2010.

Further, the email distributed by CUNY Chancellor Goldstein directed members of the CUNY community to a website with an open letter from the CUNY Tobacco Policy Advisory Committee for the solicitation of comments about its policy proposals.

Therefore, much of the commentary from the college community on the issue of a University smoking policy was sent directly to the University website, without the QCC Senate Standing Committee on

Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues ever having had an opportunity to review or assess specific reactions to the implementation of its policy on campus.

However, there have been a number of informal comments and reactions submitted by members of the QCC community, via email, to the Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.

The following is the Committee’s first attempt to categorize, both quantitatively and qualitatively, by constituency, the general tenor of the email commentary the Committee received over August 2010 and thus share a rough, preliminary “snapshot” of reactions to the new smoking-restricted policy:

Student Reactions:

Quantitative Students have not, as of yet, had an opportunity to express their reactions to the policy. At the end of the Fall 2010 semester, the Committee of Environment, Quality of Life, and Disabilities Issues will endeavor to conduct a formative assessment of students’ reactions via a brief, online survey.

Qualitative Likewise, students have not yet “weighed in” anecdotally on the policy. However, there are two anecdotes which **have** been recorded concerning students’ reactions to the policy since August 2010:

1) *“It was demonstrated throughout the month of August that the vast majority of students were completely reasonable and willingly compliant about being reminded of the new policy, so long as they felt they were not being confronted with hostility or spoken-down to.”*

2) *“The vandalized no-smoking signs on roughly 10 entry doors have been replaced and the new sandwich boards are in place on the Spanish Steps, Science courtyard and RFK/Gym terrace. Permanent metal ‘smoke-free zone’ signs will be installed in those same 3 areas in the next few weeks and I think we could remove the sandwich boards at that time. “*

Faculty Reactions:

<u>Quantitative</u>	Wholly approve of the policy	28%
	Approve of the policy, but with concerns	45%
	Disapprove of the policy; needs significant changes	18%
	Wholly disapprove with the policy	9%

Qualitative 1) *“Smoke is already conspicuous in its absence. “*

2) *"There are many cigarette holders (don't know the correct term, but they serve as ashtrays) outside of entrances to many buildings, specifically Medical Arts, from the parking lot. Will they be moved to the correct distance as noted?"*

3) *"In view of the recommendation of the committee that there be a post survey (after 2 semesters) of the effectiveness and satisfaction with the smoking restricted policy, I believe it would be helpful if there would be (perhaps there is already and I missed it) mechanisms such as dedicated email and suggestion boxes whereby members of the college community can report infractions, their scope and their locations."*

4) *"In my estimation the policy is not strict enough. Other campuses have small areas that are the only places where smokers can smoke rather than just restricting them from certain areas. Also, who will enforce this current policy if students smoke in the courtyard area around the cafeteria or around building entrances in inclement weather?"*

5) *"I don't mind smoking bans in buildings, but would mind very much if smoking were banned outside. If that were to become the policy, I would not hesitate to walk off campus to grab a smoke. I'll wager that many students would do the same, creating time management problems for their arriving to classes on time. That's the last thing we need."*

"When I smoke, I do my best to be considerate of those around me. As the college steps up its stop-smoking campaigns, I would hope that smokers will not be subjected to harassment by non-smokers who imagine themselves health saviors. Such tactics make dedicated smokers simply dig in their heels, a result that would be counterproductive. Furthermore, since workplace harassment is defined as "the act of systematic and/or continued unwanted and annoying actions of one party or a group...A systematic pattern of harassment by an employee against another worker may subject the employer to a lawsuit for failure to protect the worker."

6) *"I would like to see a smoke-free campus and programs to help faculty and students stop smoking. There are too many students wandering around campus outdoors smoking."*

Administrative and Support Staff Reactions:

<u>Quantitative</u>	Wholly approve of the policy	50%
	Approve of the policy, but with concerns	50%
	Disapprove of the policy; needs significant changes	0%
	Wholly disapprove with the policy	0%
<u>Qualitative</u>	<i>"The university, as well as QCC, should remember that ALL of its employees have rights and one individual's rights should not outweigh another's. To that end, to inconvenience</i>	

one for the convenience of another will not promote the unity one desires in the workplace. We all have habits that others may not approve of but does that give them the right to govern those habits? If the University was a smoke free environment when we were hired, there would be no argument. It wasn't. If a person chooses to smoke, I have no say so, just like if they choose to drink, I have no say so—that is their personal right. If they wish to make it a smoke free environment, what allowances will be made for those who do smoke?"

"Up until recently, I personally did not find smoking on campus to be offensive or dangerous. However, with the recent influx of students from across the globe, smoking is prevalent everywhere on campus. In fact, where in the past one could circumvent the smoke you can no longer do that. When school is in session there are no "safe zones" for non-smokers. I believe the new "smoke-free" area signs will help."

Respectfully submitted for consideration to the
CUNY Tobacco Policy Advisory Committee,

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

Dion Pincus, Committee Chair, HEO
Hayes Peter Mauro, Committee Secretary, Faculty
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Carol Soto, Committee Member, Faculty
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Leen Feliciano, Committee Member, Student
Esther Lee, Committee Member, Student

Advisory to the Committee:

Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety liaison
Arthur Perkins, Dean for Campus Facilities, Planning, Design and Construction
(President's Designee to the Committee)

August 31, 2010