

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Environment, Disability, and Quality of Life Issues
Wednesday, December 12, 2018, Room M255, 12:10 – 1:30

Present: Punita Bhansali, Sara Danzi Engoron (Chair), Edward Davis (late), Noelia Diaz, Bill Faulkner, Ben Freier, Jon Funk, Patricia Kinneary, Tony Monahan, Eladia Raya, Mel Rodriguez, John Triolo, Clara Wajngurt, Anny Mariano, Ronald Chan, Gisela Rivera, Michael Betancur

1. The meeting began at 12:20 pm
2. Sara Danzi introduced student members Anny Mariano and Ronald Chan, along with Michael Betancur from Student Government and Gisela Rivera, Director of Student Activities.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting of September 26, 2018 were approved.
4. The committee reviewed several items that were listed on the Annual Report from 2017-2018. The issue of Styrofoam containers has been closed as they are not used anymore on campus. Fire doors in some hallways (specifically Science and MA building) remain closed and make it difficult for physically disabled individuals to open the door. Mr. Faulkner said the doors are tied into the fire alarm system. He will look into whether changes have been made to provide better access via automated doors in heavy traffic areas.

There was a discussion about the distinction between maintenance and health and safety concerns and how an issue (such as a leaking ceiling) is addressed. If there is a health and safety concern, the report goes to William Faulkner, Mel Rodriguez and Clara Wajngurt. Mr. Rodriguez will immediately assess the concern.
5. Prof. Danzi shared fact-finding information about CUNY child care centers. This included the current status of child care centers in CUNY.
 - a. There are child care centers at all community colleges except Guttman and QCC, at 10 of the 11 senior colleges (City College does not) and the graduate center and law school. Nassau Community College also has one. All of the child care centers are pre-K and are free or at minimal cost to parents. The QCC website states that Early Learn NYC offers child care services but it was noted that they are not in this zip code.
 - b. The committee discussed having a student survey to assess interest.
 - c. Potential sites for a child care center were discussed. The new acquisition of the Jewish Center was noted as it may free up space currently utilized. The space for such a facility was of concern.
 - d. The child care center would need to be located on the first floor and would require NYC Department of Health certification.
 - e. Other CUNY centers have funding from the city and state.
 - f. Next steps involve pursuing the initiative with the Academic Senate for a vote on the idea of opening a child care center on the QCC campus for children of students. The Senate may have to establish a policy. The committee decided that it would be prudent to look at child care centers at the other community colleges. The committee also agreed that the center would be open to the children of students only. The committee would like to get QCC President's approval for the idea.

- g. The idea was discussed and several members agreed to participate in the new initiative. This includes Professors Danzi, Bhansali, Diaz and student Michael Betancur.
- 6. Bathroom Signage update: The committee previously agreed on the size of the new sign appropriate. The committee suggested placing the sign on the outside of the door, so that those using the restroom will feel welcome to do so. Mr. Faulkner indicated that this was approved and 4 x 4 signs will be placed on the outside of the restroom doors.
- 7. Prof. Danzi asked for volunteers for serve as secretary of the committee. Edward Davis was nominated before he arrived late to the meeting. The committee voted and approved the nomination. When Mr. Davis arrived, he graciously accepted the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Danzi Engoron, Chairperson