

**Minutes for Meeting of Committee on Environment Quality of Life, and Disability Issues.
March 11, 2015**

Present: Leah Anderst, Sebastian Murolo, Weier Ye, Sheila Beck, Mary Jane Shaw, Paul Tellers, Ben Freier, Mel Rodriguez, Wei Lai, Isabel Hocesvar, Bill Faulkner, Julia Rothenberg, Clara Wajngurt, Patricia Kinneary

- I. Minutes from November 16th, 2014 Committee Meeting Approved and Accepted
- II. A new students' club, Environmental Sustainability Club, will be starting this Spring and they are looking for Officers. Their current flyer was provided to committee members. This club is in keeping with the campus 10-year sustainability plan of integrating sustainable practices into CUNY's operations, curriculum, and research.
- III. Good news from VP Faulkner that:
 - all Styrofoam coffee cups will be eliminated and replaced with paper cups. This will take full effect after the current supply of Styrofoam cups are used up and it will happen without additional cost to the college. VP Faulkner is actively working with Metropolitan foods and plans to eliminate the remainder of Styrofoam products in the fall.
 - VP Faulkner reported that since the QCC Art Exhibit would not qualify for capital funding we were able to re-purpose the funding to provide ADA bathrooms. Upon review of the change, CUNY was able to add the available funding to double the budget to \$800,000. The funding has been secured and the design phase of the project is to start shortly. There is no definitive time frame as yet. All codes need to be met.
- IV. Short discussion took place regarding the bike racks and the need for shoveling snow around them. There are some faculty /students who were concerned that they could not secure their bicycles because of the snow. It was noted that it was a severe winter, hopefully the snow is gone, and the bike racks are currently cleared and accessible.
- V. Discussion took place regarding the Committee's request for and review of Reports and Assessments for AY14/15. The question was raised whether the Committee on the Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues should evaluate all of the reports from the various college services or if the Committee should evaluate only those reports that are relevant to this Committee. Sebastian Murolo will look over the reports that are available online and evaluate whether those reports are relevant to this Committee or not. We will further discuss this issue at the next Committee meeting.
- VI. The Committee discussed an email sent by Professor Borrachero regarding an incident that took place involving campus security and students. It was reported that campus security officers had blocked exit doors in the student cafeteria and asked all students to produce their student IDs. There reportedly had been an incident in the cafeteria on the previous day where some people, who were not students, had entered the cafeteria and caused a disturbance. Professor Borrachero questioned the officers' approach and felt it was excessive in relation to the justification of the security check. The Committee discussed the incident and agreed that since QCC has an open campus policy it is

important and necessary that security officers maintain safety on campus. The officers' actions are considered Standard Operating Procedures. Two suggestions were made: that security officers inform students of what they're doing and why especially in a situation where students may feel they are barred exit, and that emails be sent out to inform the college community informing them of random ID checks. Some members of the Committee suggested that it was not necessary to inform the campus of these checks and that doing so would actually decrease their effectiveness. An email response will be sent to Professor Borrachero informing of the Committees' suggestions to pass along to Ed Locke (who was unable to attend this meeting), of our discussion of the incident and the results of that discussion. It was also noted that the reaction to this incident may be informed by recent incidents in the news related to aggressive policing. Bill Faulkner noted that he would be speaking to Ed Locke and would share our suggestions with him.

- VII.** Discussion took place regarding whether or not setting a regular Committee meeting time would be a feasible solution to the sometimes complex pursuit of finding a convenient meeting time for most Committee members. Several Committee members stated that they needed to have more flexibility in scheduling Committee meetings since their weekly schedules were busy and most felt that they could not commit to a specific day and time. It was decided that the Committee would continue to work together to schedule a meeting time convenient for most members and we agreed that using scheduling doodles might make the task a little easier.
- VIII.** New Business; Clara Wajngurt attempted to have discussion regarding the Anti-Bullying statement, however, the Committee meeting ended quickly due to another scheduled event in the meeting room and discussion could not continue. Further discussion will take place at the next scheduled meeting.