

Campus Life Committee of the Manhattan College Senate
October 11, 2019
Meeting Notes

A meeting of the Campus Life Committee of the Manhattan College Senate was called on October 11, 2019 in the Raymond W. Kelly Student Commons, Room 3B. Those in attendance were: Sonny Ago, Student Life (Chair), Rabea Ali (Student), Rachel Bianculi (student), Marilyn Carter (Commuter Student Outreach & Services), Fiona Delaney (Student Life), Amy Handfield (Library), Peggy McKiernan (Library).

The discussion included the following:

Updates

Commuter Student Emergency Protocols. A separate subcommittee, including Commuter Student Outreach & Services, Public Safety, Business Office, Gourmet Dining, Library Services, Residence Life, Student Life, and Student Engagement was convened to identify needs and best practices to address emergency strategies for commuter students. This subcommittee is in the process of researching what other colleges/universities are doing. Once research is complete the subcommittee will expand to include Marketing and Communications, Facilities, General Counsel, etc. to implement these protocols.

Leo Common Area. The new Leo common area is just about complete and ready to be opened to the public. Four study rooms are included in this new space and a designated room for Women in Engineering (SWE). However, the concern is that there is no designated space for commuter students. Once opened, all students are encouraged to utilize the space – not just Engineering students.

JasperConnect. A tutorial video for JasperConnect has been finalized and will be uploaded to the College's website shortly.

Gender Inclusive Facilities

New gender inclusive spaces are in the process of being created in Kelly Commons. The single stall restrooms on the 3rd floor will soon be gender neutral. Signs have been ordered and will be installed soon. Dividers in both Fitness Center locker rooms will also be installed to create private changing areas. The Director of Fitness and Wellness is currently researching products to purchase.

Revisiting the Smoking Policy

Concerns about the current smoking policy were addressed - specifically, few people actually know where the designated smoking areas are and, overall, it has been difficult to enforce the policy in light of an increase in e-cigarette use and vaping. The Campus Life Committee discussed whether or not the smoking policy should be revisited in the hopes of establishing a smoke free campus.

Posting Policy

The Campus Life Committee discussed concerns regarding posting fliers in public spaces, specifically, how this impacts the aesthetic quality of the campus. A current policy exists through Student Engagement. By way of enforcement, students, faculty and administrative offices were reminded of this policy and, working with Sodexo, all materials in violation of this policy have been removed on a regular basis. In addition, the Campus Life Committee discussed ways where violation of the posting policy can be prevented in the future. Discussions will take place with ITS to explore the feasibility of installing electronic/digital signage. This will not only improve the aesthetic quality of the campus, but will also help in promoting concerns for the environment.

New business

The Campus Life Committee discussed new programmatic ways to bridge the gap between commuter and resident students that will hopefully emerge as Manhattan College traditions.