

Minutes - Social Concerns Committee for Tuesday, October 3

In attendance: Alton Frabetti, Ramona Walls, Leone Brown, Scott Zotto, Sarah Knapp

1) Brief greetings and introductions

2) Discussion of the smoking ban. A different resolution was offered that essentially asked to reinforce the existing ban, in order to give it a chance.

Ramona mentioned that the Smoking Ban proposal arose from the disparity between the West Campus and East Campus (Hospital). The ban was sketched out, and Alton agreed to email it later for corrections:

Given that many smokers are actually unaware of the existing rules, the Social Concerns Committee suggests the following resolution in regards to smoking on campus:

1) The installation of signs (that indicate that smoking is not allowed within 15' of building)

by prominent doorways of major buildings. These signs will also indicate fines for littering,

since cigarette butts are heretofore considered litter

2) Fines for the relocation of cigarette disposal trays/units directly on such units.

Signs on the same cigarette disposal trays/units that inform smokers the consequences of relocating the disposal unit.

3) More initiatives to educate the population to the existing rules. The Social Concerns Committee suggests the use of the Campus Web Site and campus newspapers.

4) Enforcement

5) The continued ban on the sale of all tobacco products on campus

Finally, once these changes are in place, an evaluation should be conducted in six months as to the efficacy of these changes. The above resolution is in fact a deepened implementation of the existing rules.

It is unjust to claim that the existing rules do not function when in fact they have not been properly implemented.

3) Fundraising for J building residents affected by the fire. The committee agreed that it would be a symbolic gesture to add to the amount Alton raised during his fundraising efforts at the Chapin Barbecue late September. The approximate amount of \$150 will be augmented so as to give each of the 22 residents \$50. Alton agreed to ask the Treasurer as to which allocation of finances would be appropriate for the proposal during the general senate meeting

4) Noise complaints of Schomburg residents - regarding the noise generated by the new bus route in specific apartments. Alton had sent an email to James OConnor but had not received a response. Scott mentioned that there is currently a staff turnaround with the Bus people and to be in general patient. Alton agreed to follow up with an assessment as to the overall effect on other Schomburg residents by contacting the building coordinators there and asking for their help.

5) Sarah outlined the parking problems around the SAC where illegal drivers were taking up graduate parking spaces. The committee agreed to ask the police about what steps may be taken for enforcement, however Ramona noted that many campuses do not have parking even nearly as adequate as that of Stony Brook University, and that the real focus should be away from cars to other modes of transportation as well as the use of P Lot.

6) Traffic safety, in particular near the Chapin apartments, was discussed. Scott said that he will be able to contact Dean Stein for an update.

7) Lindy's Taxi was known for sexual harassment of female users last year and a boycott ensued. Alton agreed to ask the Chief of Police if they have received complaints, and to report this at the next committee meeting.

8) a brief discussion ensued about a client-server culture. Alton argued that in general students are not treated in a good service fashion. Ramona noted that the real problem seems to be on the technological side. This was tabled for future discussion.

9) environmental issues - the committee wishes to promote a green campus. Since many issues came up regarding transportation, the committee decided to focus especially on transportation in the next meeting, including bus issues, bicycle use promotion, taxi cab follow-up, parking, and traffic safety.

The meeting was then adjourned.