



BMCC Campus Facilities & Security Committee

MINUTES

September 7th, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

- **Brief Committee Member and Other Participants Introductions**
 - **AVP Jorge Yafar, Administration and Planning**
 - Trained as an architect
 - Chairs this meeting and invites members of his reporting departments as needed to provide information
 - **Louis Chan, Office of Public Affairs, Staff**
 - Digital Marketing Coordinator, Social Media Manager, Photographer
 - BMCC Alumnus
 - **Igor Zaitsev, Science Department, Faculty**
 - 20 years teaching at BMCC
 - Has been on committee in prior years
 - **Christine Jacknick, Academic Literacy and Linguistics Department, Faculty**
 - 14 years teaching at BMCC
 - Previously served on the Student Affairs Committee
 - Joined in part to help facilitate items bought up previously in the Student Affairs Committee, like menstruation product dispensers
 - **Deep Sukhadwala, Student**
 - Student Representative from the Student Government Association
 - 4th Semester Business Administration Student



- **Brief Introductions (continued)**
 - **Kathleen Dreyer, Library, Staff**
 - Chief Librarian
 - **Erin Sweeney, Administration and Planning, Staff**
 - Office Assistant
 - Takes minutes for the meetings
 - Previously worked a plumber for ten years

- **Overview of Campus Facilities and Security Committee's Function**
 - Provide suggestions to College Council
 - Committee members share concerns, conditions, and suggestions for improvements

- **Overview of Standard Meeting Agenda in the Past**
 - Previous meetings have featured an overview by relevant departments of ongoing capital projects, in house improvements, and public safety issues
 - Next meeting department leaders will be invited to share
 - Judy Cheung, University Assistant Architect
 - Helps design and manage projects
 - Assists allocating College space based on need
 - Michael Korn, Director of Public Safety, or Adan Rivera, Deputy Director of Public Safety
 - Eric Lugo, Chief Administrative Superintendent, or Joshua Mitchell, Deputy Chief Superintendent
 - Michael Spath, Environmental, Health, and Safety Officer
 - Feedback on renovations and other projects, such as the classroom upgrades, have been sought
 - Includes asking committee members the best way seek feedback from other faculty, students, and staff



- **Discussion of Member-Driven Objectives for Committee**
 - Christine Jacknick thinks the classroom renovations are beautiful, but she is curious if the screens installed in them are on all the time, because she regularly sees them on when the room is unoccupied
 - Jorge Yafar stated he believes the screens go to sleep, but in an effort to prevent calls for tech support and have them ready for instruction, they may stay on an extended period of time. He will follow up with IRT for more information
 - Jorge Yafar wanted to know if the sliding whiteboards installed in renovated classrooms were effective
 - Christine Jacknick shared the issue she finds with them, is despite being new, they appear dirty. She is curious where are the materials to clean them are
 - Jorge Yafar replied that cleaning materials are supplied in every room with a whiteboard, but that unfortunately they often go missing
 - Igor Zaitsev expressed frustration of going to classrooms with whiteboards and there being no markers available
 - Igor Zaitsev brought up that he had difficulty logging on in one of the classrooms and when he called the Help Desk for assistance, around 12 pm on a weekend, no one answered the phone and he was unable to use the computer during class
 - Jorge Yafar said he would share Zaitsev's experience with IRT
 - Kathleen Dreyer inquired if the Library's staff bathroom would be receiving the menstruation product dispensers
 - In response Jorge Yafar shared the status of the installation plan
 - Phase 1 of the installation will in be in every gender-neutral bathroom
 - No staff bathroom will be converted in a public bathroom
 - A complicating factor to installation is the CUNY provided dispensers stick out seven inches from the wall, a dimension which was not initially communicated



- **Discussion of Member-Driven Objectives for Committee (continued)**
 - The protrusion can compromise ADA access within the bathrooms, so additional consideration needs to be given to determine their installation sites
 - The 2016 upgrade of the restrooms on Main Campus was in part to establish ADA compliance throughout those facilities
 - Locations external to bathrooms are also being considered
- Christine Jacknick asked for a timeline of the installation of the menstruation product dispensers
 - Jorge Yafar said to date four have been installed, and four more have had their location determined. Judy Cheung is in the process of identifying additional locations for installation
- Christine Jacknick suggested that locations that are not internal to bathrooms be strongly considered for the menstruation product dispensers, specifically non-stigmatizing locations that offer some privacy. She suggested the walls outside bathrooms
- Christine Jacknick advocated for using the term “menstruation products” as the more inclusive term to use versus other gendered ones. There was general consensus that that was appropriate
- Christine Jacknick brought up the issue of access to sinks not in bathrooms and ideally non-metering sinks. Her primary concern was for lactating community members to have access to a sink to clean their pumping related items in a sanitary environment. She noted that many offices used to have sinks within them and while that was odd, it did offer utility to people
- Christine Jacknick also shared frustration with the means of accessing the lactation rooms, specifically the reservation system (especially in comparison to other institutions with online, automatic reservations), and often having to go to security to gain access to the room. She stated the more difficult it is to access this resource; the more people will give up on it
- Christine Jacknick inquired about providing more gender-neutral restrooms throughout Campus. She highlighted that this is primarily a change of signage, not of function



- **Discussion of Member-Driven Objectives for Committee (continued)**
 - Jorge Yafar responded that demand for these restrooms needs to be validated
 - Jacknick asked how could you validate the need for these facilities without being intrusive or insensitive. She proposed that providing them would be in the best interests of the College to demonstrate itself as an inclusive, welcoming institution, and validating the demand beforehand is potentially beside the point
 - Igor Zaitsev suggested the organizations serving the LGBTQ community could possibly provide an estimate of use
 - Jorge Yafar reminded participants that anyone is allowed to use the single-sex facility of their choice and on the exterior of restrooms through Campus signage is posted to that effect, as according to NY City Executive Order No. 16 of 2016
 - Some people mentioned they have either not seen this signage in front of some facilities, or have seen it posted in the interior. Yafar responded that both those situations merit a work order to have the correct signage present
 - Christine Jacknick stated that she would be onboard to find out potential usage if that's what's need to facilitate the increase in gender-neutral bathrooms available. However, she suggests beforehand, two multi-fixture single-sex restrooms be converted to gender-neutral ones as a trial
 - Kathleen Dreyer was curious about the gender-neutral bathroom in the Library since so far only single occupant bathrooms were converted to gender-neutral bathrooms, and the Library's bathroom has two fixtures
 - There has been confusion on if more than one person can use the restroom at the same time, and some community members presenting the facility still as a single-sex bathroom
 - Jorge Yafar stated that during the renovation of the Main Campus restrooms, since the original total number of fixtures is inadequate for the College's occupancy, there was an aversion to remove any fixtures



- **Discussion of Member-Driven Objectives for Committee (continued)**
 - Igor Zaitsev shared he has noticed a few non-functional clocks around Campus
 - Jorge Yafar said he would let Buildings and Grounds know

- **Brief Update about Capital and In-House Projects**
 - Capital Projects
 - Capital Projects are managed by CUNY Central Office, typically through DASNY
 - Library Renovation
 - RESO A funding for a comprehensive renovation of the Library
 - \$6.5 million allocation; requested approximately 2/5 years ago
 - Finally, project is coming to fruition
 - Plans include consolidating the book shelving area, increasing space for students and faculty
 - Kathleen Dreyer asked if the funding for the Library included the Quiet Study Space, especially because UMLA does not seem well suited for that space
 - Jorge Yafar answered funding for the Quiet Space is not including in the grant. He also added that community members need to shift away from thinking of spaces owned exclusively by a single department or program, all space is shared space
 - Main Campus Cooling Tower Project
 - Successfully completed in time for cooling season
 - \$13 million project
 - Main Campus Ramp Pavers
 - Continuing issues with pavers have been communicated to CUNY/DASNY, who oversaw their initial installation, and who are charged with finding a solution



- **Brief Update about Capital and In-House Projects (continued)**
 - Fire Alarm System
 - Current system is operational, but benefits from being upgrade so future repairs and upgrades can happen easily
 - Installation will be disruptive because it has to happen everywhere on Campus
 - Increased Initiative to Apply for City and State Grants
 - Preapproval for three projects totaling approximately \$3 million
 - Lecture Hall Upgrades
 - Outdoor Areas at Main Campus
 - Nursing Department
 - Committee encouraged to suggest upgrades for the next round of grants and capital program projects
 - Keeping in mind the College's commitment to finish the projects it has already taken on first
 - In-House Projects
 - Classroom upgrades
 - Energy reduction, including through installation of LED light fixtures
 - Digital Wayfinding Signs on Main Campus
 - Plan is to feature relevant photographs, floorplans, directories and notifications
 - Enabling community members to reach out to people without printing paper
 - Igor Zaitsev asked for an update on the UVC lighting program
 - Jorge Yafar replied there have no problems with the system
 - The program consists on stand-alone units, common area units (concealed within high occupancy areas), and system-wide units installed within the HVAC system (accessible only to Engineering)



- **Public Safety**
 - Director Michael Korn shared he looks forward to hearing the committee's thoughts and feedback on how his department can serve the BMCC community

- **Scheduling the October and May Meetings**
 - The meeting that would be on October 5th needs to be scheduled
 - Erin Sweeney will send a Doodle poll to the members of the committee to determine the best time to hold the meeting
 - It was decided to hold off on scheduling the May meeting