

College Council on Community Policy

Meeting Minutes October 4, 2013

Members Present: Margaret Bruzelius, Carla Cooke, Ashavan Doyon, Brent Durbin, Beth Gillespie, Ralph Gould, Jr., Augusta Gronquist, Stacie Hagenbaugh (chair), Dalia Mehia, Lisa Nawrocki, Halley Ofner, Jennifer Pekol, Danielle Ramdath, Donna Safford, Laura Smiarowski, Elise Smith, Fraser Stables, Susan Stratton Sayre, Barbara Williams

Guest Present: Rebecca Shaw, Associate Dean of Students

The meeting began at 12:08 p.m. Chair Stacie Hagenbaugh opened up the meeting with a brief description of the Council and asked those present to introduce themselves to the group.

Stacie introduced Becky Shaw, who spoke about recent requests from some students to explore whether electronic cigarettes could be allowed in residential houses on campus. Some discussion followed about the idea and several questions arose, including what electronic cigarettes are and whether or not their use would be in compliance with the current smoking policy (which was an issue the Council dealt with about ten years ago). Becky reported that she contacted other directors of residential life within the COFHE schools, and no one is allowing the use of electronic cigarettes in residences. There was interest among those present to learn more, including regarding the wellness impact of electronic cigarette use. The matter will be investigated, including consultations with Wellness Director Emily Nagoski and College Physician Leslie Jaffe, and may be proposed as a topic for the January Lewis Leadership Program participants.

Halley Ofner, Chair of Staff Council and member of the Inauguration Steering Committee, gave a brief report on plans for the inauguration of President-Elect Kathleen McCartney later this month. Lisa Nawrocki asked whether, since she will be away the weekend of 10/19, the ceremonies will be available online; she was assured that there would be streaming video of the event.

Scott Graham provided information about campuses dealing with medical marijuana use, and said that “no one has a plan” for it, now that marijuana has been decriminalized in Massachusetts. At Smith there is no set policy. Because the federal government still considers marijuana illegal, any institutions where federal aid is part of the picture must

adhere to federal law. At this point incidents are being referred to Residence Life and handled internally. The Smith smoking policy relates only to substances legal under federal law.

Danielle Ramdath brought up the issue of dangerous crosswalks, in particular the one near the Smith parking garage, where she witnessed a car hitting a Smith employee. Campus Police responded immediately and the individual was not seriously injured. There is a solar glare problem when drivers are turning left onto West Street; Margaret Bruzelius suggested that moving the crosswalk to the other side of the parking garage driveway might alleviate a lot of the problem. Several members of the group related issues near their workplaces; Stacie requested that Scott follow up. Scott suggested checking with Gary Hartwell, Project Manager for the changes in crosswalk configuration and other traffic-slowing designs implemented on Elm Street over the past several years.

Beth Gillespie proposed that the Council apprise itself of the fossil fuel divestiture movement that is a hot issue among colleges nationwide. She believes the CCCP should be in the position of having some knowledge of what is going on in the academic community regarding fossil fuel divestment. Stacie reported that Kathy McCartney has written to the Smith community about this issue, and that it was one of the first things “that hit her desk.” Laura Smiarowski said that according to Kathy’s letter, CEEDS will be conducting workshops to educate the Smith community about this issue. [The letter can be found at www.smith.edu/president/speeches-writings/fossil-fuels-divest-smith-response.] Carla Cooke suggested that it would be a good idea to ask CEEDS to make a presentation at a meeting of the CCCP in connection with this educational process.

The meeting ended at 12:46 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, November 1, 2013, at noon (Campus Center 103/104)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carla Cooke