

Student Town Hall, Wednesday, March 29th at 6:30 PM in the Library (Room 1014)

Meeting Summary:

1. Update on the results of water testing

Michael Kopas, the new Senior Director of Facilities and Capital Planning was present to share the outcomes of the recent water testing on campus and answer questions. Below are the highlights of his comments on the issue.

- Water sampling began February 23rd. This is being completed by an independent environmental consultant. Over 1,500 samples have been taken from across campus, from every building.
- Samples are then sent to a lab for analysis. Results are sent back to the consultant and then Purchase for review. All lab reports are posted online accessible to everyone.
- Water was tested for lead, copper and coliform (bacteria).
- This process takes time. Only a certain number of samples can be taken per day so it has taken some time to get through all the locations on campus.
- There are no EPA standards for higher education so Purchase is using guidelines established for K-12 school districts.
- At the time of this discussion, we have received back approximately 70% of the samples.
- Less than 10% of the samples came back with lead levels above the EPA K-12 threshold of .015.
- When including coliform and copper, total raises to around 10%.
- Coliform is a bacteria family that includes many varieties with the vast majority being harmless. The most well-known and concerning variety is E.Coli. ***None of the samples came back positive for E.Coli***
- Coliform testing is sensitive and can be prone to false positives. Any touch by a human can cause a positive reading. Because of this, the EPA recommends a second test to confirm any initial positive result. To date, all results from follow up testing came back negative for coliform.
- The initial priority is to make sure that every residence on campus has a source of drinking water within the EPA guidelines. Protocol is as follows for units that come back with levels above the EPA action level:
 - Kitchen sinks that come back with high levels will have a filter installed. During the time between receiving the results and a filter being installed, the residents of the effected unit will receive bottled water from the More Store. The filter will be installed within 24-72 hours. To date, all have been installed within 24 hours.
 - Bathroom sinks will have a sign posted stating that the water is not potable. It is important to understand that the EPA states washing and bathing is allowed with lead levels above the EPA action level for consumption. Lead is not absorbed through the skin.
 - Water fountains will be taken off line.
- Next steps: We are working with an environmental engineer to determine what next steps are necessary and recommended. The environmental engineer came highly recommended by the "Westchester Joint Water Works." These could include operations and maintenance improvements, infrastructure upgrades, etc. The engineer is currently evaluating the results and becoming familiar with the campus infrastructure.

2. The Presidents Diversity Task Force Report Discussion

The following members from the Task Force on Diversity hiring and retention were present to share their work as a task force and answer questions regarding their recommendations and diversity at Purchase College in general.

Steve Lambert
Dawn Gibson-Brehon
Krystal Perkins
Ricardo Espinales
Shinelle Espaillat
Antony Ware
Daisy Torres-Baez

Task Force Report link- <https://collaborate.purchase.edu/PCS/Shared%20Documents/Presidents-TaskForce-on-Diversity-02-14-17.pdf>

3. Tobacco Free Initiative

Matthew Kraus, the Director of Wellness, facilitated a discussion of the Tobacco Free policy and its implementation on campus. The following are the highlights of his presentation at the Student Town Hall meeting.

a. What is going on around the country?

As of January 2, 2017, there are now at least 1,757 100% smoke free campus sites nationwide. Of these, 1,468 are also 100% tobacco-free.

This number has grown from the 586 campuses with 100% smoke free campus policies of which we were aware of in October 2011 and 446 campuses in October 2010.

This number is expected to continue to climb rapidly as a result of the growing social norm supporting smoke free environments, and support from within the academic community for such policies for campus health and well-being.

b. Why are Campuses Going Smoke free and/or Tobacco-Free?

- NY Law in 1995 (Under the 1995 law, smoking was outlawed in public places like theaters and offices.) ALL NYC
- Think NYC restaurants smoke free in 2003

The number of campuses going smoke free and tobacco-free jumped by leaps and bounds since 2009. The uptick is due in part to the efforts of the American College Health Association (ACHA) which adopted a Position Statement on Tobacco in September 2009 (updated in November 2011) and the social norm change about when and where people smoke as a result of city- and state-wide smoke free laws. In fact:

- The majority of the U.S. population does not smoke.
- 49.1% of the U.S. population is protected by a 100% smoke free Workplace, Restaurant, AND Bar law.
- Most local and state laws do not include college campuses, although some states do include state schools in their smoke free workplace laws.

c. SUNY RESPONSE

- In June 2012, the SUNY Trustees voted to support legislation to make all of their campuses tobacco free. Proposed New York State legislation would require all state run SUNY campuses to be tobacco free on their property.
- The initiative to be Tobacco Free is a SUNY-wide effort to provide as safe and as healthy of an environment as possible for all SUNY campus communities. As of October 2016, within SUNY over 70% of campuses are in some phase of implementation.

d. This Tobacco Free initiative effects many areas and groups of people at Purchase.

- Current Students
- Prospective Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Guest Performers
- Visitors to the Campus
- Patrons of the Performing Arts Center
- Contractors
- Vendors
- Facilities and Grounds Workers

e. TIMELINES FOR TOBACCO FREE AT PURCHASE

- Currently on campus tobacco is allowed in the designated areas only (list of receptacles).
- Starting with the 4/19 Tobacco Free Plaza Event, the Plaza will become Tobacco Free, and any receptacles on the Plaza will be removed
- The whole campus will be going Tobacco Free June 2018.

f. Who will benefit

When at CCN for Smokeout on 11/7 over 150 students pledged to take a 1 day stand against Tobacco use.

- a. Clearly there are some people who do not want to quit and we respect their decision.
- b. There are many people who do not smoke tobacco.
- c. There are many people who are on the fence about quitting, and this Smoke Free initiative may be just the incentive they need.

g. Sanctions

The current rule about smoking Tobacco is to smoke in the designated areas on campus. They no longer use the rule about being within a certain distance from the entrance to residence halls.

Recommended Standards associated with the Tobacco Free Policy:

Recommended Standard 1st Offense: Official Notification

Recommended Standard 2nd Offense: Disciplinary Reprimand

Recommended Standard 3rd Offense: Residence Probation for one semester and a substance education class.

Recommended Standard 4th Offense: Disciplinary Probation for one year and a substance assessment and compliance with terms of the assessment.