

Memo: February 26, 2007

To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members

From: Howard Apsan

Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
Fashion Institute of Technology, January 30, 2007

Opening

The January NYCER meeting was held at The Fashion Institute of Technology on January 30, 2007. Joseph Arcoleo, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at FIT, served as host of the meeting, and Amy Roman of CUNY recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous NYCER meeting were approved by acclamation.

Joe opened the meeting by welcoming the NYCER members to FIT, after which, the members took a few moments to introduce themselves.

Audits

EPA audits are still being conducted at a number of NYCER institutions. CUNY's Bronx Community College and The Borough of Manhattan Community College are due to conduct EPA audits this spring. Daniel Davis, Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Audit Program at Barnard College, sent Barnard College's proposed audit schedule to the EPA, with the audit set to begin in February 2007.

Joanne Lischin, Deputy Compliance Officer at The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) coordinated an audit program initiative for all of the HHC hospitals. HHC has entered into a four year audit agreement with the EPA. In addition, HHC has developed an EMS program which is currently under review by HHC's consultants. Paul Zel, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, discussed EMS development at his facility and updated everyone on the status of the hospital's audit, including the reversal of several findings and a reduction of fines.

New York University (NYU) will complete its 3-year audit program and multimedia agreement in March 2007. NYU is expecting a follow-up visit from the EPA at the completion of the

agreement. Erik Talley, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Weill Cornell, mentioned plans to re-audit Weill facilities in the spring, two years after the original audit.

Updates in Brief

The CUNY-wide academic conference on “Energy and Environmental Sustainability: Science, Engineering, and Public Policy,” was held at the CUNY Graduate Center on December 8, 2006. The conference showcased CUNY’s efforts and research in sustainability and attracted more than 200 CUNY and non-CUNY faculty attendees and featured a presentation from keynote speaker, **Rohit T. Aggarwala, Director of Long Term Planning and Sustainability, in the New York City Mayor’s Office of Operations**. Participants enjoyed panel discussions as well as numerous poster presentations. NYCER members were well represented, and their participation was noted.

The SEHSA Spring 2007 Conference will be held on April 26 and 27, 2007 at The CUNY Graduate Center (365 5th Avenue between 34th & 35th Streets). Thursday’s activities will include a hands-on indoor air quality workshop and Friday will include a regulatory update from EPA region 2. All those interested in participating in the conference can do so at www.sehsa.org.

Presentation

The meeting continued with a presentation by **Nilda Mesa, Columbia University’s Director of Environmental Stewardship**, titled, “**Greening Columbia: Past, Present, and Future.**” Nilda’s presentation detailed her plans to minimize the environmental footprint of Columbia. These include LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards as a planning tool for construction, getting all buildings metered for energy consumption, setting up a sustainability advisory board, increasing campus recycling, creating a biodiesel program that will use cooking oil to power shuttle buses, conducting a transportation study to uncover barriers to public transportation use, and working with Friends of Morningside Park to start a composting program on campus. A brief question and answer period followed. We thank Nilda for her informative presentation and wished her much success in her efforts.

Upcoming Meetings

The March meeting of NYCER will be held on Monday, March 26th at the New School University, 55 West 13th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenue) in Manhattan, from 12 pm to 2 pm. The meeting will be held in the Teresa Lang Building, Student and Community Center, and will include a briefing by **Sandy Camacho, Deputy Chief Inspector, On Developments in the Lab Inspection Program and the Anticipated Changes to the New York City Fire Code**.

Barnard College has offered to host the July 2007 meeting. All those able to host any 2007 NYCER meetings should contact Sheryce Woolery at (212) 794-5630 or at sheryce.woolery@mail.cuny.edu.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.