

CSCC Recommendation on Proposed Policy on Pets September 26, 2018

Background and Charge:

In November 2017, CSCC was charged “to gather campus input on whether TCNJ is in need of a policy on pets, and if so the issues and/or concerns that such a policy should address.” CSCC created and circulated a Qualtrics survey to the entire campus community in Spring 2018. The feedback from the survey fulfilled the first part of the charge, in which CSCC was instructed to “seek testimony from the campus community through electronic communication.”

Survey Findings:

A total of 1809 members of the campus community responded to the Qualtrics survey. Of the 1546 respondents that answered a question in the survey that asked them to select their campus affiliation, the breakdown was $n=1,158$ students, $n=160$ faculty, $n=209$ staff, $n=19$ administrators. The bulk of the respondents were students (75%).

Overall, 53% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “TCNJ needs a policy to regulate pets on campus,” while 26% agreed or strongly agreed, and 21% neither agreed nor disagreed. These numbers track the sentiment among undergraduate students, who were the bulk of survey respondents. The vast majority of undergraduate students disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “TCNJ needs a policy to regulate pets on campus,” 18% agreed or strongly agreed, and 20% neither agreed nor disagreed. Opinion among faculty and staff was more evenly distributed, with a plurality (45% faculty, 47% staff) agreeing or strongly agreeing with the need for a policy, and 32% each of faculty and staff disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

We also observed high response rates by all three campus groups to the open-ended survey question that allowed respondents to share comments with the committee, with over 800 conveying qualitative responses. An analysis of these responses reveal that most commenters were in favor of pets being permitted outdoors on campus, but there were concerns expressed by others regarding allergies, phobias and waste.

Final Recommendation:

The CSCC concludes that these data do *not* provide a mandate for developing a policy on pets.