

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee
August 24, 2006
V.P. Administration Conference Room,
221 Administration Bldg.
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Attending: Bill Dethlefs, Chair; Mary Woodward, Vice Chair; Malcolm Bowman, Gil Hanson, Kristen Nyitray, and Paul Siegel.

Excused: Bob Aller, Catherine Horgan, Mary Hotaling, Robert Hunter, Catherine Murphy-Vetter, John Murray, Debbie Nappi-Gonzalez, John Robinson, Dorothy Shannon Schiff, F. Jason Torre, Ramona Walls.

Staff: No staff attended due to a campus emergency.

Minutes

I. Introductions – All

II. Review of the Minutes – Bill Dethlefs

The minutes from the June 15th meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Status Reports

- a. Environmental Master Plan – B. Chernow
 - i. Discussion deferred to the next meeting.
- b. Old Kings Highway Historical Marker – J. Fogarty
 - i. Discussion deferred to the next meeting.
- c. University Smoking Ban Proposal – Final Review – B. Dethlefs
 - i. The proposal to ban all smoking on campus will need to be presented during the Sept. 11, meeting of the University Senate for a vote. If a formal presentation is needed the focus will be on public health instead of personal rights.
 - ii. Because of the inconsistencies with the current policy, such as the difference in smoking radii at building entrances (15ft versus 50 ft), the proposed policy will make one standard campus-wide as an equity issue.
 - iii. Because of the permanent status of residents in the Veterans Home their smoking lounge(s) will be recommended for an exemption to the proposal.
- d. Leadership Succession – New Chair Election in September – B. Dethlefs
 - i. The new term starts in September and with it will be an election of a new chair. All elected members will be eligible to serve as chair.

- ii. Newly elected members will also be joining the committee at the September meeting.

IV. New Issues:

- a. Use of Brookhaven Town ‘Kettle Hole Park’ as a sump for road runoff- G. Hanson
There is a glacial kettle hole just south of Health Sciences Center Drive. It is part of a Brookhaven Town park that offers limited access to the general public. Because of the design of the nearby campus road the kettle hole has become a de facto recharge basin for the university. A redesign is needed to divert storm drainage away from the parkland. Additional discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
- b. Bus routes/stops on campus/SAC to South P-lot- M. Bowman
There are two types of bus routes through campus. A ‘local’ bus makes several stops around the core of the campus and can take up to 45 minutes to make a single circuit. An ‘express’ bus was created to have limited stops and to move passengers quickly from the areas adjacent to the Student Activities Center to the South P Lot. Malcolm Bowman indicated the express must still stop at designated stop signs and can pick up passengers, particularly those at Tabler Quad. Discussion will be followed during the next meeting with Terrence Harrigan to explore adding additional stops to the ‘express’ bus. Otherwise, a passenger could wait as long as ½ hour for the next ‘local’ bus. It was recommended that student commuter groups be consulted to determine if they are also experiencing similar difficulties.
- c. Feedback on New Traffic Roundabout- M. Bowman
The roundabout that was built at the intersection of Circle Drive and Marburger Road is now open. Yield signs have been posted for oncoming traffic, but some drivers have been observed not stopping. It was not known if any accidents have happened since this intersection was modified.
- d. Status and Purpose of Road Cut: Gyrodyne/Stony Brook Road – M. Bowman
A road cut has been made on the Gyrodyne parcel from the central building area to Stony Brook Road. It was not clear if this road cut was part of the original proposal that was being considered for a over/underpass at Stony Brook Road, with an extension to where it would join with South Drive. A request was made for advance notification of similar earthmoving to determine if rare or endangered plants could be transplanted. Additional discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
- e. 2005-2006 Annual Report – B. Dethlefs
The annual report is now due by the University Senate. Bill Dethlefs will work with Mary Woodward on the initial draft. Malcolm Bowman and Gil Hanson indicated they will help review the document.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Friends of the Ashley Schiff Park Preserve (FASPP) – M. Woodward
 - 1. Jane MacArthur, the Advancement Officer that is helping with the fundraising for the FASPP will be developing a letter with Mary Woodward to bring the Friends up to date on current developments.
 - 2. A student scholarship recipient has been selected for this year. Her name is Sushma Teegala. She is researching the remnants of American Chestnut trees located in the preserve. The American Chestnut has suffered severely from the regional spread of disease.
 - 3. Mary Woodward indicated interest in recruiting a student to assist with the walking tours and other aspects of FASPP. It was suggested that any of the participating faculty could offer an independent study or research for credit or even an internship to a student. If credit hours are offered the student would need to provide three hours of their time for each credit hour they receive.

- b. ‘Little Acre Woods’ – P. Siegel

Cost estimates for identified landscape plants are still needed. Ideally once the plants are purchased the planting will be linked with Earthstock, which is the campus’s celebration of Earth Day. This would be done to save the cost of labor with the plantings. Earthstock has been scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007. Additional discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

VI. Next Meeting – All

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2006 from 3 – 5 pm. It will be held in 221 Admin. Bldg.

VII. Adjourn – Bill Dethlefs

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

VIII. Preliminary Agenda for September 18.

- a. Introductions - All
- b. Review of the Minutes – Bill Dethlefs
- c. Election of New Chair/Vice Chair
- d. Status Report
 - i. Environmental Master Plan – B. Chernow
 - ii. Old Kings Highway Historical Marker – J. Fogarty
 - iii. University Smoking Ban Proposal – Outcome – B. Dethlefs
- e. New Issues:
 - i. Proposal to Change University Senate Charge to CEC (Attachment A) – Malcolm Bowman
 - ii. Use of Brookhaven Town ‘Kettle Hole Park’ as a sump for road runoff- G. Hanson
 - iii. Bus routes/stops on campus/SAC to South P-lot- M. Bowman
 - iv. Feedback on New Traffic Roundabout- M. Bowman
 - v. Status and Purpose of Road Cut: Gyrodyne/Stony Brook Road – M. Bowman

- f. Subcommittee Reports
 - i. Friends of the Ashley Schiff Park Preserve – M. Woodward
 - ii. ‘Little Acre Woods’ - All
- g. Other - All
- h. Next Meeting - All
- i. Adjourn – Bill Dethlefs

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2005/2006

Charge: It shall examine all aspects of the campus environment, including but not limited to safety, security, facilities planning, state of facilities, and general appearance of the campus. It will consult with and advise the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services.

Attachment A

Stony Brook University
University Senate
Campus Environment Committee
September 18, 2006

Proposed Change in University Senate Charge

Proposal:

It shall examine all aspects of campus environments, including all of Stony Brook University's physical assets, its branch campuses, and all future acquisitions. It includes, but is not limited to, environmental conservation, protection and enhancement of natural areas, including woodlands, lakes, streams, historic trails and biological preserves; enhancement of safety of pedestrians and cyclists, environmental and public health concerns, traffic congestion and parking problems, promotion of efficient public transportation; security issues, facilities planning, state of facilities; energy conservation, recycling, waste management and the general appearance of the campuses. It will consult with and advise the Vice President for Administration, the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services and their staff.

Current charge:

It shall examine all aspects of the campus environment, including but not limited to safety, security, facilities planning, state of facilities, and general appearance of the campus. It will consult with and advise the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services.